



## Prof. Stefaan De Smedt

Director Ghent Research Group on Nanomedicines

Faculty of Pharmacy, Ghent University, Belgium  
[www.drugdelivery.be](http://www.drugdelivery.be)

Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Controlled Release

Stefaan De Smedt graduated from Ghent University (Belgium) in 1995 and joined the pharmaceutical development group of Janssen Research Foundation. In 1999 he became Professor in Physical Pharmacy and Biopharmacy at Ghent University where he initiated research on advanced delivery of biologics/nanomedicines and founded the Ghent Research Group on Nanomedicines. The research focus in his lab is on the delivery of bio-therapeutics, mainly nucleic acids, for future therapies of lung and ocular diseases and cancer (through mRNA vaccination and cell therapies). He served as Dean of his faculty (2010 and 2014). From 2014 till 2022 he has been a member of the Board of Directors of Ghent University and the Academic Hospital of UGent. He has been a Guest Professor at various universities in Belgium and China. Since 2004 Stefaan De Smedt serves as the European Editor of the Journal of Controlled Release; since 2023 he leads the JCR as Editor-in-Chief. He is a Distinguished Visiting Scientist of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a member of the Flemish Royal Academy of Medicine, the European Academy of Sciences and the Académie Nationale de Pharmacie de France. He is included in the Clarivate Analytics list of Highly Cited Researchers.

For his research on drug delivery he received the Controlled Release Society (CRS) Young Investigator Award 2006 and the APV Research Award 2010 for Outstanding Research Achievements in Pharmaceutical Sciences. In 2021 he received the Samyang Award in Honor of Sung Wan Kim from CRS. Stefaan De Smedt is the scientific founder of Memobead Technologies (2006), a spin-off from Ghent University, and co-founder of Trince, a UGent spin-off (2021) with a focus on in vitro transfection technologies for the purpose of cell therapies.

**Mission statement.** Last July, at the annual CRS conference in Bologna, I delivered a lecture entitled ‘Forty years Journal of Controlled Release: ‘Quality is not an act, it is a habit’. I explained what follows: *‘One motivation to take a role in JCR is that I am convinced that each scientific discipline needs a strong journal, with firm standards and high expectations, not to disappoint scientists but to encourage them to work on projects which matter and to go that extra mile. I strongly believe that ‘setting the bar high’ prepares for a strong future in our field. Another motivation why I take part in JCR is that ‘I want to belong to a community’ as I truly enjoy the friendship and professional ambition of the many colleagues who participate in the activities of the journal’.* My interest to serve as Director-At-Large of the CRS aligns very well with what motivates me to serve as editor of JCR: I strongly believe we need a strong scientific society to encourage drug delivery scientists to work together on projects which matter. If elected I will do my best to keep the scientific quality of CRS high. To make CRS conferences even more engaging, I will encourage the society to approach absolute experts, also from related fields, who have the capacity to integrate and communicate their key findings in a way others can learn from and build on. Being strongly convinced of the high value of academic teaching, I will motivate CRS to invite outstanding individuals, who have prominently shaped the drug delivery field, to educate and instruct the next generation(s) of scientists on directions to take in the future. Finally, I will encourage our society to further strengthen its objective on geographic diversification as I strongly believe that talented scientists with a passion for the development of innovative treatments and safe medication are everywhere in the world.