



**Research Board Prize 2021 – Laurent Vandendriessche**

**Laureate:**

**Dr. Daniele Bertoglio**

**Nominator:**

**Prof. Steven Staelens**

Daniele has made excellent preclinical contributions to the advancement of neuroimaging applied to neurological disorders. He successfully validated and characterized several novel Positron Emission Tomography (PET) radioligands in mice and applied non-invasive dynamic molecular imaging to monitor disease progression at key stages of Huntington's disease (HD). His research included multimodality imaging techniques as well as robust *post-mortem* assessment to unravel novel candidate PET biomarkers for HD, which have resulted in excellent contributions in well-respected peer-reviewed journals in our field, including Science Translational Medicine.

Daniele Bertoglio holds two PhDs (Medical Sciences 2019; Biomedical Sciences 2021) and he has written 20 high impact SCI A1 papers in the past 5 years. He is the best postdoctoral scientist I have ever met in my entire career: he is intelligent, he is pragmatic, he masters challenges, he is a scientific entrepreneur, a manager of both experiments, workflow, people, data, etc. His multidisciplinary capabilities of *in vivo*, *ex vivo*, pharmacology, analysis, statistics, ... are truly impressive. The workload he can successfully manage is for me often mind staggering. Additionally, his scientific merit to the field of molecular imaging and beyond has been recognized by scientific (also invited) oral presentations all over the globe to the Huntington Disease community as well as to the field of Molecular Imaging wherein he won multiple awards. Moreover, I see in him already now a great science manager who always synergistically cooperates with the whole team.

For the aforementioned reasons, I ask Rector Herman Van Goethem and Vice-Rector Ronny Blust to honour **Daniele Bertoglio** with the Research Board Prize 2021 – Laurent Vandendriessche of the University of Antwerp.