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Translational Research in Gastrointestinal Disorders

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Dear IBUS members,

I am writing to express my strong and heartfelt interest in the position of IBUS Secretary. At this defining moment for our field, IUS is rapidly expanding its role in clinical care, research, and global collaboration. This evolution brings not only unprecedented opportunities, but also complex challenges. Challenges that call for vision, cohesion, and committed leadership. I am eager to contribute to shaping this future together with all of you, unifying on a global scale.

Over the past years, I have had the privilege of serving our IUS and IBD community in several capacities, each of which has deepened my commitment to IBUS and strengthened my ability to contribute meaningfully at a governing level. As former chair of IBUS Scientific Committee (and Young ECCO within ECCO), I worked alongside an exceptional group of colleagues to deliver impactful achievements. Together, we streamlined the IBUS grant review process, developed the IBUS interaction map to enhance collaboration and facilitate IIS studies across our field, and launched the IBUS topical reviews with SciCom. In parallel, I've been co-leading the EXTENT study together with Carolina Palmela, an initiative that reflects our shared ambition to generate high-quality, clinically meaningful evidence in IUS.

Beyond these roles, I have been deeply engaged in education and community building within IBUS. I co-organised and participated in multiple workshops, contributed to the training of numerous colleagues in Belgium and beyond, and was proud to help organise the first IBUS industry workshop together with Krisztina Gecse, Rune Wilkens and the IBUS Governing Board. These initiatives reflect my strong belief that education, collaboration, and engagement across disciplines and among stakeholders are essential to the sustainable growth of our field.

Currently, I am an active member of the ColCom, a committee that plays a pivotal role in strengthening global connections within IBUS. This position has further reinforced my dedication to fostering collaboration across borders and perspectives. Regardless of the outcome of this election, I will continue to invest in building bridges because collaboration has always been at the core of everything I do, whether locally, nationally, or internationally.

Looking ahead, the global expansion of IUS places us at the forefront of a transformative era. As a community, we must not only adapt to this growth, we must actively shape it. We have the opportunity to unify efforts across continents, harmonize standards, empower emerging leaders, and ensure that IUS becomes an integral, evidence-based pillar of patient care worldwide. I believe IBUS can serve as the driving force behind this vision, and I would be honored to contribute to that mission as Secretary.

Colleagues often describe me as positive, open-minded, and driven; someone who takes initiative, values teamwork, and is deeply committed to shared goals. I hope many of you who know me have seen this firsthand. I bring energy, structure, and attention to detail, combined with a genuine passion for connecting people and ideas. Above all, I take ownership, act with purpose, and remain fully committed to moving our community forward together.

If elected as IBUS Secretary, I will dedicate my energy, experience, and vision to strengthening our organisation, supporting its members, and helping guide IBUS through this exciting and evolving landscape.

I sincerely hope I can count on your support, so that together we can continue to strengthen IBUS and shape the future of IUS: united in purpose, ambition, and collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

Bram Verstockt, MD PhD

