

RUNE WILKENS, MD, PhD

Candidate for IBUS Secretary | Clinical Associate Professor | Gastroenterologist

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am a founding member of the International Bowel Ultrasound (IBUS) Group and have been deeply involved in its leadership since day one. My career is defined by a commitment to standardizing intestinal ultrasound (IUS) and making it a routine part of IBD care globally. I specialize in building clinical frameworks that scale; most notably, I co-founded the IBUS Nordic program, which has successfully implemented IUS in every Danish hospital with a GI service (but one). I am running for Secretary to ensure IBUS becomes a "guiding" society that empowers local champions through transparency and more effective use of technology.

IBUS LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chair, IBUS Collaboration Committee (ColCom) | 2023 – Present

- **The "Local Champions" Strategy:** Shifted our global approach from random Module 1 workshop locations to strategic placement and development of the LEVEL 2 course. This framework empowers regional leaders and competent individuals to lead their own integration.
- **Streamlined Partnerships:** Increased the Platinum sponsors from 2 to 4 and obtained 2 ultrasound corporate members. Developed the "Universal Funding Proposal" to make industry collaboration faster and more transparent.
- **Committee Synergy:** Having served in nearly every IBUS committee (ColCom, ComCom, SciCom, and Treasury), I understand how our different departments must work together to succeed.

Former Treasurer & Governing Board Member, IBUS | 2017 – 2023

- **Structural Reform:** Played a key role in transitioning IBUS to its current efficient Governing Board structure to keep pace with our rapid international growth.
- **Financial Management:** Oversaw the society's finances during its most critical expansion phase, ensuring resources were directed toward our core mission of education and research.

Lead Central Reader, IBUS | 2023 – Present

- **Central reading in clinical trials:** Leading the development of a global standard for central reading and technical site qualification to ensure high-quality IUS data in multicenter trials.

CLINICAL EXCELLENCE & REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

Co-Founder & Strategic Lead, IBUS Nordic | 2023 – Present

- **The Scandinavian Model:** Developed a low-cost, recurring training program for Scandinavia.

- **Impact:** This model was so effective that by 2027, every Danish hospital providing GI services—except for one—will have at least one IBUS-trained physician on staff.

Staff Specialist in Gastroenterology | Bispebjerg Hospital | 2022 – Present

- High-volume clinical expert performing between 500-1,000 IUS procedures annually with expertise in quantitative contrast-enhanced ultrasound.
- Host for 20+ international physicians annually for hands-on clinical training and observerships.

ACADEMIC RECORD & KEY PUBLICATIONS

Clinical Associate Professor, PhD (2013-16), University of Copenhagen. H-index: 22 ([Google Scholar](#))

1. **Novak KL, [...] Wilkens R** Expert consensus on optimal acquisition and development of the International Bowel Ultrasound Segmental Activity Score (IBUS-SAS). *JCC*, 2021. (Lead developer of the global scoring standard).
2. **Wilkens R, et al.** Point-of-care testing and home testing: pragmatic considerations for widespread incorporation of IUS. *Gastroenterology*, 2022. (Invited authority in one of the field's leading journals).
3. **Kucharzik T, [...] Wilkens R, [...]** ECCO-ESGAR-ESP-IBUS Multi-Society Guideline on Diagnostic and Monitoring of IBD. *JCC*, 2025. (Co-author of the global standards of care).
4. **Ilvermark JF, [...] Wilkens R** Defining transabdominal intestinal ultrasound treatment response and remission in inflammatory bowel disease: Systematic review and expert consensus statement. *JCC*, 2022. (Leading standardization for response measures).
5. **Kucharzik T, Wilkens R, et al.** Early Ultrasound Response and Progressive Transmural Remission After Treatment With Ustekinumab in Crohn's Disease. *CGH*, 2023. (STARDUST TRIAL, leading the first pharma IUS central reading).

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING & FELLOWSHIPS

- **University of Calgary, Canada (2013-2016):** Total of 8 months of research fellowship in contrast-enhanced ultrasound (CEUS) under Prof. Stephanie Wilson.
- **University College London, UK (2015):** Specialized training in MR Enterography and bowel motility under Prof. Stuart Taylor.
- **Lüneburg & Düren, Germany (2010-2011):** Intensive foundational training in IUS under Prof. Christian Maaser and Frauke Petersen.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- **Young Investigator Award**, World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB, 2015).
- **Young Investigator Award**, European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (EUROSON, 2015).
- **Top 10 Global IUS Training Sites** (Awarded 2022 & 2023 & 2025 for Bispebjerg Hospital).