

Motivation Letter – Candidate for IBUS Secretary

To the IBUS Membership and Governing Board,

I am writing to submit my candidacy for the position of IBUS Secretary. I have been a passionate part of the leadership since we founded the IBUS, and I have seen the society grow exponentially from a small group into a truly global organization. We are now at a moment where intestinal ultrasound (IUS) is becoming a standard monitoring and diagnostic tool. To maintain exponential growth, we need to consider how we can scale while continuing to support all our current and future members. We must guide, collaborate, and empower our members, patients, and hospital admins.

Why I am running for Secretary I have two main goals. First, I want to ensure a long-term strategic impact for IBUS by eventually also running for President-Elect. Second, I want to bring more transparency and efficiency to the Governing Board (GB). The Secretary is the engine of the society. In this role, I will ensure that information flows openly between the GB and the committees and keep tasks visible and on track. This is important for a trustworthy and efficient organization.

The "Nordic Model": A Proof of Concept I believe in building systems that work in the real world. As a co-founder of IBUS Nordic, I helped develop a low-cost, recurring training program (Regional Module 1+2) for Scandinavia. The result is that by 2027, every Danish hospital with a GI service (except one) will have an IBUS-trained specialist. I am immensely proud of this. This is my IBUS global goal: instead of being a bottleneck, IBUS should provide the tools, courses and scientific guidance that allow "National Champions" to lead their own local integration and quality assurance.

What I bring to the Governing Board

I am an IUS "all-rounder" with deep experience in most facets of IBUS. My background includes:

- **Leadership:** Current Chair of ColCom and Lead Central Reader, former IBUS GB Treasurer and ComCom Chair and a very large network.
- **Education:** Key member of the e-learning group and co-developer of the LEVEL 2 course and the current objective assessment technical skills (ATS) used in XP, LEVEL 2 and beyond.
- **Science & Innovation:** Co-lead developer of the IBUS-SAS and several "IBUS" publications, involved in + defining the IUS central reading concept + contributor to ECCO-IBUS publications.

Operational Efficiency. If I become Secretary, I will prioritize using technology and AI to make our work more efficient and less redundant. This will protect our staff from burnout and give better support to our busy committee chairs. By automating routine work, we can focus on what matters: science, education, and providing the best support/information to our members, patients + partners.

I offer you a leadership style based on trust, mentorship, and 15 years of IBUS history. I am eager to help IBUS reach its full global potential and TRANSFORM IBD CARE GLOBALLY USING IUS.

Best regards,

Rune Wilkens, MD, PhD

Chair, IBUS Collaboration Committee

Clinical Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen, Denmark