Koen Van Herck, MD, PhD

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Expert Screening Programmes
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Koen Van Herck joined the Belgian Cancer Registry in 2022, as an expert in cancer screening programmes, after 25 years of experience in academia.

Koen Van Herck graduated MD and subsequently obtained his PhD (2006) from the University of Antwerp in Belgium. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow of the Research Fund – Flanders (FWO), and subsequently held a part-time assignment (10%) as a professor in Vaccinology at the Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination, Vaccine & Infectious Disease Institute, University of Antwerp. From 2009 through 2021, he was tenured at Ghent University, as professor (in the rank of Senior Lecturer) in Preventive Medicine, where he headed the department of Public Health in 2015-2018. He authored over 130 scientific publications, among which over 90 in peer-reviewed international journals, and presented at several (inter)national conferences. He (co)supervised 5 PhD students (4 at Ghent University and 1 at University of Antwerp). His teaching experience includes public health, epidemiology, preventive medicine, and clinical drug development.

At the Belgian Cancer Registry, Koen Van Herck and Julie Francart jointly coordinate the team and the activities relating to (organized) cancer screening. This implies close collaboration with the regional authorities and their respective screening organizations, including collaborative efforts for harmonization and international benchmarking.

Koen Van Herck regularly represents the Belgian Cancer Registry, both within the country (e.g. as an advisor to the Flemish screening programmes and policy) and internationally (recently in the CanScreen-ECIS project and in the Joint Action EUCanScreen). He acts as the Belgian representative in the GRELL Steering Committee since 2022.

In addition to the field of cancer screening, epidemiology and prevention, his previous research interests and activities include:

- Organisational aspects of, and health inequities in preventive medicine;
- Epidemiology, prevention and control of (vaccine-preventable) infectious diseases, with specific interest in the longevity of vaccine-induced protection
- Extensive clinical research experience (University of Antwerp, Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination) from performing several clinical vaccine trials, in children, adolescents, adults and older adults and in the long-term follow-up of previous clinical trials.

Academic impact - An overview of the scientific performance of Koen Van Herck with some citation report data from Web of Science (as from 15/04/2025), is given below:

- Number of records listed in the Web of Science: 110
- Sum of the Times Cited: 18,348 (18,219 without self-citations)
- h-index: 38

An extensive CV is available on request.