

Dirk De Ridder, MD, PhD, FEBU



Dirk De Ridder is Professor of Urology at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. He chaired the dept. of urology of the University Hospitals KU Leuven from 2015-2020.

He qualified in medicine in 1989, became an accredited urologist in 1995, and completed a PhD thesis on urological care for multiple sclerosis patients in 1998. He has been a staff member of University Hospitals KU Leuven since 1995. He is a Fellow of the European Board of Urology.

Professor De Ridder's research interests included male and female incontinence, interstitial cells, TRP channels and urothelial signalling, and obstetric fistula. He was a senior clinical researcher of the FWO Flanders from 2009-2024. He founded the lab for experimental urology at KU Leuven in 2000 and has supervised more than 20 PhD students.

He chaired the Fistula Committee of the International Consultation of Incontinence, and has previously served as President of the European Society for Neurourology (2004–2007), a board member of the European Society for Female and Functional Urology (2007–2011) and Chair of the Standardisation Committee and Executive Board member of the International Continence Society (both 2007–2010).

Professor De Ridder was an associate editor for *Neurourology and Urodynamics* and the *British Journal of Urology International*.

He is a regular speaker at national and international meetings and congresses, such as the Annual meeting of the European Association of Urology, the Annual meeting of the American Urological Association and the meetings of the International continence society.

From 2013 on he is the strategic director of the Flemish Hospital Network KU Leuven, a quality improving association of 36 hospitals, collaborating with the University Hospitals KU Leuven. He also acts as chairman of the Leuven Institute for Healthcare policy since 2013. In that position he contributed to the Flemish health policy by writing governmental reports on 'The hospital of the Future' and 'Strategic care planning in hospital networks in Flanders'.

Quality of care and patient safety are currently his fields of interest. The Flanders Quality Model, that he co-developed, is currently being implemented in 25 Flemish hospitals.

He is chairman of the board of the National Multiple Sclerosis Center, Melsbroek, Belgium.

He is member of the management committee of the University Hospitals KU Leuven and Wit Gele Kruis Vlaams-Brabant (home care organisation).