ACADEMIC POSITION

BIOMANUFACTURING OF THE FUTURE

ENGINEERING THE CELL MECHANICAL ENVIRONMENT

There is a full-time vacancy among senior academic staff in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at KU Leuven, Belgium, in the area of biomanufacturing. We are looking for internationally oriented candidates with an excellent research record in biomanufacturing and with educational competence within the field of biomedical engineering.

You will be a member of the Biomechanics section (www.mech.kuleuven.be/en/bme), being a multidisciplinary group with broad expertise in terms of computational and experimental biomechanics of human structure and function, and one of the main drivers of the Leuven Medical Technology Center (www.kuleuven.be/LMTC). It focuses among others on mechanobiology, a field that studies the interaction between the mechanical micro environment and cell fate. One of its applications is tissue engineering, a field that has gained considerable attention at KU Leuven (see e.g. Prometheus, the transdisciplinary platform for skeletal tissue engineering, www.kuleuven.be/prometheus). In addition, the department has built up a strong, international reputation in terms of technologies, relevant for biomanufacturing, such as additive manufacturing and micro-electro-mechanical systems (MEMS), being research subjects of the Production Processes (www.mech.kuleuven.be/pp/) and Micro and Precision Engineering (www.mech.kuleuven.be/micro/) research groups. Both are already active within the biomedical engineering field. By means of this academic position in biomanufacturing, the department of Mechanical Engineering wants to strengthen its research in the tissue engineering field in conjunction with its partners (such as Prometheus), by creating synergies between the more fundamental mechanobiology research on the one hand, and more applied, technology-driven research on additive manufacturing and micro engineering on the other hand.

You are expected to develop an excellent research program in biomanufacturing that is complementary to and in collaboration with the already mentioned research groups at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and related partners at KU Leuven. Research will focus on the development of innovative hardware technology for the biomanufacturing of living tissues that emphasises mechanobiological principles. You must also ensure high-quality education within the Bachelor and/or Master programs of Mechanical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering of the Faculty of Engineering, with a clear commitment for the quality of the programme as a whole.

You have a PhD in engineering with an emphasis in biomanufacturing and that demonstrates experience with interdisciplinarity at the interface between engineering and biomedical sciences. You have a strong research profile, as proven by publications in international, leading journals. You have demonstrable qualities related to academic education.

Depending on your record and qualifications, you will be appointed to or tenured in one of the grades of the senior academic staff: assistant professor, associate professor, professor or full professor. In principle, junior researchers are appointed as assistant professor on the tenure track for a period of 5 years; after this period and a positive evaluation, they are permanently appointed (or tenured) as an associate professor.

For more information on the contents of the job, please contact Prof. Dominiek Reynaerts, department chair of Mechanical Engineering, e-mail: dominiek.reynaerts@mech.kuleuven.be, tel. +32 (0)16 322 480.

You can apply for this job no later than June 30, 2014 via the online application tool. More information on this vacancy can be found on http://icts.kuleuven.be/apps/jobsite/vacatures/52451672?lang=en.