

To: The Council of the European Society of Biomechanics (ESB)

Date: 23 June 2026

Subject: Formal Application for the Establishment of the ESB Netherlands National Chapter

Dear Members of the ESB Council,

In accordance with Article VII of the ESB Statutes and By-Laws, we, the undersigned active members of the Society, formally submit this application for the establishment of the ESB Netherlands (NL) National Chapter.

Rationale and Objectives

The Netherlands represents a premier hub for biomechanics research in Europe, characterized by a well-established synergy between (technical) universities and clinical medical centers. Despite this high density of excellence and a large number of active ESB members, the community currently lacks a formal national entity to coordinate its efforts.

The primary objectives of the intended ESB-NL Chapter will be to:

- Fostering a unified Dutch biomechanics community for deeper scientific collaboration within the community, and for strengthening ties with other scientific fields and healthcare providers to benefit biomechanics research and technology,
- Creating a point of contact for Dutch "science agenda makers" and governmental funding bodies to elevate biomechanics on the national research agenda,
- Advancing biomechanics education and training to train the next generation of biomechanics scientists in the country, and
- Acting as a local conduit for ESB initiatives, increasing the visibility and impact of the Society within the Netherlands.

Compliance and Governance

As required by the Society's regulations, we certify that there is currently no legally established national society in the Netherlands uniquely focused on biomechanics.

Attached to this letter, you will find a draft of the ESB-NL By-Laws. These have been carefully modeled after the existing three National Chapters' By-Laws to ensure administrative consistency with the Society's proven frameworks. Our governance structure includes an Executive Board, aiming to have a well representation of the research and academic institutes in the Netherlands active in biomechanics field.

The Founding Team & Active Members Support

This initiative is led by a core group of representatives from the major Dutch research institutions:

1. Dr. Ali C. Akyildiz – Delft University of Technology / Erasmus Uni. Medical Center
2. Dr. Sandra Loerakker – Eindhoven University of Technology
3. Dr. Mohamed Irfan Refai – University of Twente
4. Dr. Gabor Závodszky – University of Amsterdam
5. Dr. Christian Greve – University of Groningen / Uni. Medical Center Groningen
6. Dr. Bart Spronck – Maastricht University

While some of our founding ambassadors are already active ESB members, others are currently expanding their involvement or awaiting formal membership confirmation. We view this mix as a direct reflection of the chapter's core mission: to actively recruit, reactivate, and integrate top-tier local researchers into the global ESB ecosystem.

To demonstrate widespread institutional endorsement and satisfy the Society's membership quorum requirements, this application is formally backed by a broader assembly of active ESB members in good standing across the Netherlands. A supplementary list of these supporting signatures is provided in the Appendix.

Conclusion

We are confident that the formalization of the ESB-NL Chapter will significantly strengthen the biomechanics landscape in the Netherlands and provide a sustainable model for local engagement. We look forward to your review of our application and the attached By-Laws, and we remain at your disposal for any further information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ali C. Akyildiz

On behalf of the ESB Netherlands Founding Team

Signatures of the founding members

Dr. Ali C. Akyildiz
*Delft University of Technology
& Erasmus Uni. Medical Center*

(active ESB member)



Dr. Sandra Loerakker
Eindhoven University of Technology

(active ESB member)



Dr. Mohamed Irfan Refai
University of Twente

(active ESB member)



Dr. Christian Greve
*University of Groningen
& Uni. Medical Center Groningen*

(pending ESB member)



Dr. Gabor Závodszy
University of Amsterdam

(pending ESB member)



Dr. Bart Spronck
Maastricht University

(pending ESB member)



Signatures of supporting active ESB members

Prof. Frank Gijsen
*Delft University of Technology
& Erasmus Uni. Medical Center*



Dr. Selene Pirola
Delft University of Technology



Dr. Behrooz Fereidoon nezhad
Delft University of Technology



Prof. Keito Ito
Eindhoven University of Technology



Dr. Wouter Huberts
Eindhoven University of Technology



Prof. Richard Lopata
Eindhoven University of Technology



Dr. Mirunalini Thirugnanasambandam
Eindhoven University of Technology



Prof. Aurélie Carlier
Maastricht University



Dr. Malte Asseln
University of Twente

