

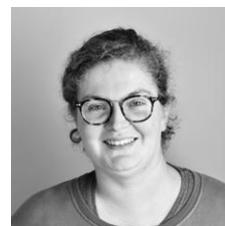
European Society for Biomaterials-YSF (ESB-YSF) Board Elections Application Form

It should not exceed two A4 pages and should include a photo of the candidate.

Name: Manon Minsart

Nationality: Belgian

Date of birth: July 14th 1995



Current position (position, affiliation): Postdoctoral assistant in the Polymer Chemistry and Biomaterials research group (PBM) at Ghent University, Belgium

Research interests (5 keywords): chemistry, (bio)polymers, hydrogels, electrospinning, wound healing

Position applied for (please rank your preferences from 1 (most preferred position) to 6 (less preferred position)):

6	YSF Spokesperson
5	YSF communication and dissemination officer
4	YSF industrial liaison officer
1	YSF educational officer
2	YSF secretary
3	YSF national chapters liaison officer

Past ESB conferences attended:

- ESB 2021 (virtual due to covid): poster contribution + co-chair
- ESB 2022 in Bordeaux, France: poster contribution + flash talk for poster
- ESB 2025 in Turin, Italy: oral presentation + co-chair of organized session
- (- WBC 2024 in Daegu, South Korea: oral presentation + co-chair)

Candidate summary (max 1 page)

Motivation:

As a committed early-career researcher, I strongly believe in the power of scientific collaboration, mentorship and community-building, which aligns with the core mission of YSF.

In my current role as a postdoctoral assistant, mentoring students at all levels—bachelor, master and PhD—is a particularly meaningful and rewarding part of my academic life. Interestingly, many of my students come from very diverse nationalities and backgrounds/research fields (including biomedical sciences/engineering, aquaculture, chemistry, bio-engineers and veterinary medicine), which I see as a form of meaningful interdisciplinary impact. Some of them have started their own PhD journeys now, which I perceive as a subtle yet impactful ripple effect. These connections reflect how our biomaterials research community can bridge disciplines and open doors for others. Additionally, it has strengthened my ability to communicate effectively across cultures and disciplines, both in informal and professional settings.

Throughout my academic journey so far, I have actively sought opportunities to connect with peers and industrial partners, exchange knowledge and support initiatives that empower young researchers or enthuse youngsters to pursue STEM careers. Whether organizing seminars, mentoring students or participating in interdisciplinary workshops, I have seen firsthand how platforms like YSF can amplify voices, spark innovation and build new networks. Indeed, being recently honoured with the Julia Polak Award—received during the YSF General Assembly in Turin in September—has even further reinforced my commitment to contributing meaningfully to the scientific community. Receiving this award did not only honour me but also strengthened my self-confidence as a researcher. My research work contributes to broader challenges, such as the use of waste/sidestream materials and healthcare solutions in constrained environments, including space research. These topics resonate far beyond the lab and foster collaborations across fields. Moreover, they facilitate active partnerships with industry stakeholders.

I am very eager to contribute my energy, ideas and organizational skills to help foster a vibrant, supportive and scientifically ambitious environment for young scientists across disciplines in the biomaterials community. If selected, I would bring a proactive mindset and a collaborative spirit with a sincere appreciation for the challenges and opportunities facing young scientists today. I believe that my experience, coupled with my enthusiasm for science communication and community engagement, would make me a valuable asset to the YSF board.

Possible Achievements:

Joining YSF would allow me to receive valuable feedback from experienced scientists, broaden my professional network, and engage in interdisciplinary discussions that could inspire new directions in my research work. I could further develop my career skills and explore future cross-institutional collaborations while contributing to the (young) scientific community in a meaningful and supportive way.

Communication skills:

I master the following languages to different extents: Dutch (native), English (very fluent), French (very fluent) and Italian (basic/fluent). My language skills enable me to communicate effectively across diverse (non-)professional and academic contexts. Via my LinkedIn account, I regularly post about my scientific work and outreach events. I would use these skills to further highlight the importance of YSF to young scientists, for instance by strengthening its digital presence with visual content (e.g. Instagram stories) and interactive formats (e.g. online Q&A sessions). I would build partnerships with local PhD and postdoc communities of various universities to expand the outreach of YSF. This would make YSF more visible and even more impactful.

Any other ideas/remarks: /