

## **Promotor**

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### **Prof dr Danny Schoors**

Department of Cardiology UZ Brussel  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

## **Copromotor**

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### **Prof dr Hans Bonnier**

Department of Cardiology UZ Brussel  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

## **Leden van de examencommissie**

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### **Prof dr Eric Eeckhout**

Department of Cardiology, CHU Vaudois  
University of Lausanne, Switzerland

### **Prof dr Jan Piek**

Department of Cardiology, AMC  
Universiteit van Amsterdam, Nederland

### **Prof dr Felix Zijlstra**

Thoraxcentrum, UMCG  
Universiteit Groningen, Nederland

### **Prof dr Pedro Brugada**

Heart Rhythm Management Center UZ Brussel  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

### **Prof dr Luc Huyghens**

Department of Intensive Care Medicine UZ Brussel  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

### **Prof dr Guy Van Camp**

Department of Cardiology UZ Brussel  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

### **Prof dr Bart Keymeulen, voorzitter**

Diabetes Research Center  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel



Vrije Universiteit Brussel

FACULTEIT GENEESKUNDE EN FARMACIE

## **Doctoraat in de Medische Wetenschappen**

Academiejaar 2009-2010

## **UITNODIGING**

Voor de openbare verdediging van het  
doctoraatsproefschrift van

**Paul VERMEERSCH**

vrijdag 17 september 2010

U wordt vriendelijk uitgenodigd op de openbare verdediging van het proefschrift van

**Paul VERMEERSCH**

**'Percutaneous coronary intervention for the treatment of saphenous vein grafts'**

Op **vrijdag 17 september 2010**  
om **17.30 uur** in auditorium **P. Brouwer**  
van de Faculteit Geneeskunde & Farmacie,  
Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Brussel

### **Situering van het proefschrift**

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In the beginning of this millennium , the adjunct of drugs directly onto metallic stents made that stents were not only used to scaffold the vessel, but also to elute drugs with the potential to inhibit the processes leading to restenosis . A restenosis rate of less than 10% was achieved, however some concerns related to the safety, possibly linked to the higher stent thrombosis rate , were raised.

We focused on the use of drug eluting stents for the treatment of diseased saphenous vein grafts, usually excluded from the randomized trials.

The purpose of this research was to assess acute and long term efficacy and safety of drug-eluting stents.

Saphenous vein grafts have always been, considered high risk, both for their inherent risks of acute embolization resulting in distal myocardial damage and for increased restenosis, higher than in native coronary arteries. We conducted the first randomized trial comparing bare metal stents and sirolimus eluting stents in saphenous vein grafts. The results of this trial showed a significant reduction of restenosis at 6 months, however, on the long term increased major cardiac event rates were more prevalent in the drug eluting stent group.

### **Curriculum Vitae**

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Paul Vermeersch was born on 28th July, 1962 in Brugge .

He obtained his MD diploma at the university of Ghent in 1987 with summa cum laude.

He became a resident in cardiology at the Sint-Antonius hospital , Nieuwegein , the Netherlands.

Since 1993 he is registered as a cardiologist in Belgium. From 1994 on he is working as a interventional cardiologist in the Middelheim hospital, Antwerpen. He is a fellow of the European society of cardiology.

His thesis resulted from randomized trials done in the field of the use of drug eluting stents in diseased saphenous vein grafts.

This resulted in several articles in international peer reviewed journals.