



EU-LIFE Woman Postdoc Mentoring Programme

Short bios of mentors



Saskia Lippens

Head of Bioimaging Core; Deputy Technology Director

VIB (Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie)

Gent, Belgium

Saskia Lippens holds a Ph.D. in Life Sciences - Biotechnology, which she earned from Ghent University. With a career spanning over a decade, she boasts a rich background in fundamental Life Sciences research at both Ghent University and the University of Lausanne. Upon her return to Belgium, she decided to shift her focus from conducting her own research to facilitating scientific progress in a supportive role. This transformative journey began in 2012 when she joined the effort to launch VIB's BioImaging Core. Initially, her primary responsibilities revolved around implementing volume EM and developing workflows for correlative light and electron microscopy. These endeavors were aimed at serving diverse research domains within the Life Sciences field. In 2017, Saskia ascended to the position of Head of the VIB Bioimaging Core, allowing her to further enhance the core's capabilities and services.

In 2023, she assumed the role of Deputy Technology Director at VIB Technologies. This program has evolved to encompass a formidable team of over 100 tech-savvy professionals, all dedicated to empowering life science research through their profound technological expertise. Saskia is deeply passionate about interdisciplinary collaboration and the creation of frameworks that attract, nurture, and cultivate the talent necessary for driving future technologies. Her career trajectory is marked by a commitment to interdisciplinary work, innovation, and the convergence of technology and science.

As a mentor, Saskia offers valuable insights on strengthening transferable skills, which are essential for careers extending beyond the traditional scientific track. She serves as a sounding board for individuals interested in pursuing careers in core facilities or other enabling units within the life science environment.

Notably, within her institute, she was the first woman appointed as Head of a Core facility. Saskia balances her career with her role as a partner and mother of two teenagers. High on her list of priorities are well-being and inclusivity, and she provides support to mentees who may encounter challenges related to these aspects in their own environments.