

Peter Feys

14/1/1972. Belgian nationality

Professor Rehabilitation Sciences and Physiotherapy

Dean of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Sciences

Contact details:

University of Hasselt, BIOMED/REVAL

Agoralaan, Gebouw A

3590 Diepenbeek, BELGIUM

Tel + 32 11 292123 or +32 486 744409. Skype: 'peterfeys'. Twitter 'peterfeys2'

 Email: Peter.Feys@uhasselt.be

Living in Antwerp, Belgium



Peter Feys (PhD KULeuven, 2004) is professor in Rehabilitation Sciences and Physiotherapy at Hasselt University, and dean of the faculty of Rehabilitation Sciences. He is member of inter-university steering committees on master programs in rehabilitation sciences and physiotherapy in Flanders as well as in occupational therapy.

Peter Feys is responsible for education of 8 courses in neurological rehabilitation in a 3 years Bac and 2 years Ma educational program of Rehabilitation sciences and Physiotherapy, and 1 course in the master Occupational Therapy. Two courses are focused on technology-supported rehabilitation. In addition, Peter Feys is teaching a course on 'Health organization, policy and ethics'.

Before working at UHasselt, he was clinical physiotherapist in Bürgerspital Solothurn (CH), University Hospitals Leuven and the National MS Center Melsbroek (Belgium).

His inter-disciplinary research is focused on the assessment and rehabilitation for gait and upper limb function in predominantly persons with neurological conditions. It comprises investigations of motor fatigability, music-based entrainment and sonification, upper limb training, cognitive-motor interference, technology-supported training, and community self-directed training. Neuro-imaging is performed to understand the impact of interventions on neural function and structure. The research is mostly performed in persons with Multiple sclerosis and secondary stroke and CP. Peter Feys has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles in esteemed international clinical neurological, imaging, and rehabilitation journals. Another particular interest is contributing to the establishment of large databases that contain MS rehabilitation data besides medical and lifestyle information. The MSDATACONNECT initiative led by dr. L. Peeters is ongoing.

Peter Feys has been president of RIMS (Rehabilitation in MS; www.euRIMS.org), a European network of best practice and research from 2011-17 after having served as chair of the special interest group on mobility (2008-11) and secretary in the executive board (2008-11). The European network is including MS clinical centers, MS specialized health care professionals, MS societies and MS research centers. Amongst others, collaborative multi-center research on psychometrics of mobility measures were established as well as educational projects such as APPECO – Applying evidence with confidence (<https://www.appeco.net/>); a living documentation system currently established for interventions targeting fatigue and cognitive function. Also, the access to health services for persons with MS in Europe was investigated thanks to RIMS support (see an illustrative publication below).

Peter Feys is member of the FWO (Flemish fund for science) expert panel MED 8 on 'Health' since 2018. He is an editorial board member of 'Multiple Sclerosis Journal' (Top journal in Multiple Sclerosis research; quartile 1 in the domain Clinical Neurology) and 'Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair' (Top number 1 journal in the domain Rehabilitation). Previously, Peter Feys was formal member of the Italian MS Society review board. Peter Feys has served as management committee member in the COST action TD1006 (European Network on Robotics for NeuroRehabilitation, 2011-15) and current substitute management committee member of COST action CA16116 entitle 'Wearable robots for augmentation, assistance or substitution of human motor functions'. In addition, he is secretary of 'Move to Sport' (www.movetosport.be) and member of the Flemish MS Support fund.

In the first half of 2018, Peter Feys contributes actively to WHO Rehabilitation Action Plan 2030 as voluntary consultant supported by the research council of UHasselt. He is part-time based in the headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, embedded in the Department for Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury

Prevention, specifically the group on 'Disability and Rehabilitation' led by prof. dr. A. Cieza. The project is the establishment of a 'package of priority rehabilitation interventions'. The contribution of Peter Feys is the establishment of the evidence base of effective rehabilitation interventions which are mapped with proposed interventions of a technical working group, composed of representatives from different continents and professional organisations. Final results are expected in 2019.