



CHRISTIAN RAFTOPOULOS, M.D., Ph.D. was born in Africa in 1958. He entered medical school at *Liège University* (Belgium), where he obtained his **Medical Degree** in 1983. Already before the end of his medical studies, he had published his first scientific paper in a peer-reviewed journal.

In 1983, he moved to the *Free University of Brussels* where he started his neurosurgical training under Jacques Brotchi, Jacques Noterman and Jean D'Haens. In 1989, he received the “**Dr Paul et Philippe Martin**” prize for his studies on intracranial pressure monitoring. C. Raftopoulos was recognized as a **Neurosurgeon** in 1989. He remained in the same Department of Neurosurgery and, in addition to his full surgical practice, worked to present his doctorate (**Ph.D.**) in Neurosurgery in 1994.

In 1996, C. Raftopoulos was asked by Prof. JP Kestens (Chairman of the Surgical Department, Université Catholique de Louvain) to assume the **Chairmanship** of the new neurosurgical department at St-Luc University Hospital in Brussels, which is the academic hospital of the *Université Catholique de Louvain*. Four years later, C. Raftopoulos became **Professeur Ordinaire** of Neurosurgery in the same university. Under his leadership, the neurosurgical department of St-Luc hospital has grown into an internationally recognized center of excellence that attracts visiting colleagues and patient referrals.

C. Raftopoulos' key **scientific contributions** include the development of a new classification of intracranial pressure waves and development of modified surgical techniques for Chiari malformation, meningoceles and intracranial aneurysms. Currently, C. Raftopoulos is particularly involved in epilepsy surgery and new minimally invasive spinal techniques. His considerable work is reflected in the more than 100 articles of which he is author or co-author that have been published in peer-reviewed journals. In 1998, he published a **world première** reporting the implantation of an electrode around the optic nerve in a human patient. He is co-chairman of the **Center of Refractory Epilepsy** since 2001. In April 2002, he **opened the first plenary session** at the *Congress of the American Association of Neurosurgeons* in Chicago with a lecture about his experience with intracranial aneurysm surgery. In October 2003, he was recognized as a **Master Neurosurgeon** by the (American) Congress of Neurosurgeons. In June 2013, he reported in the scientific journal *Neurosurgery* a new way of performing **cortical transection** in refractory epilepsy which is associated with a significant lower rate of complication.

In 2006, C. Raftopoulos opened a **unique neurosurgical complex** at the university hospital St-Luc (UCL) with an intraoperative MRI at 3.0T. Since 2010, he has pioneered the use of **robotic 3D fluoroscopy** (Zeego, Siemens) in minimally invasive spinal neurosurgery.

In 2000, C. Raftopoulos was elected for five years *General Secretary* of the **Société de Neurochirurgie de Langue Française (SNCLF)**, being the first non-French and the youngest neurosurgeon to occupy this post. Since 2008, he is the *President* of the scientific comity of the **Fondation JED-Belgique**. In 2011, he was *President* of the society **Groupe International d'Etude Des Approches INTERsomatiques du RACHIS (GIEDA)**. In November 2012, C. Raftopoulos was elected *President* of the **SNCLF**. In 2015, he became a teaching professor for the **World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS)**.

C. Raftopoulos is an active *member* of other multiple National and International Scientific Societies and Editorial Boards.