

Sebastiaan Van Nuffel

PhD in Analytical Chemistry,
Specialized in Biological & Clinical Imaging Mass Spectrometry

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Recent Appointments

December 2020 –	Assistant Professor (Tenured)
Today	Location: Faculty of Science and Engineering as well as the M4I Division of Imaging Mass Spectrometry, Maastricht University Activity: I am building a research program and group focusing on expanding and connecting ToF-SIMS imaging to other levels of information in order to help us understand disease and biology from atoms to anatomy. I received tenure on January 28, 2022.
January 2020 –	Assistant Research Professor (NTT)
December 2020	Location: Materials Characterization Laboratory (MCL), Materials Research Institute (MRI), Pennsylvania State University Activity: I established independent collaborations with PSU faculty as well as industrial partners and obtained internal and external funding to sustain this research.
January 2019 –	Postdoctoral Scholar
December 2019	Location: Materials Characterization Laboratory (MCL), Materials Research Institute (MRI), Pennsylvania State University Activity: I conducted biological ToF-SIMS research in the Materials Characterization Laboratory (MCL) of the Materials Research Institute (MRI) as well as the research group of Professor Nicholas Winograd within the Department of Chemistry.

January 2017 -	Postdoctoral Researcher
December 2018	Location: Natural Product Chemistry Institute (ICSN), French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) Supervisor: Dr. Alain Brunelle Activity: I was part of Dr. Alain Brunelle's Mass Spectrometry Group at the Natural Product Chemistry Institute (ICSN) of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS). I worked on a variety of different projects within the scope of the DEFIMAGE (Project ID: ANR-15-CE29-0007) and CHEWING (Labex Ceba Strategic Project 2017-2019) grants.
November 2016 -	Research Assistant
December 2016	Location: School of Pharmacy, University of Nottingham Supervisor: Dr. Mischa Zelzer Activity: Led a two-month project to design and test a new sample holder for correlative cryo-SEM and cryo-ToF-SIMS imaging of frozen cells.

Education

- 2016 PhD, School of Pharmacy, University of Nottingham (UK)
Supervisors: Dr. Mischa Zelzer and Dr. Noah Russell
Thesis title: "Three-dimensional Time-of-Flight Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry Imaging of Primary Neuronal Cell Cultures"
- 2013 MSc in Chemistry, University of Antwerp (BE)
Supervisor: Prof. Luc Van Vaeck
Thesis title: "Preliminary Research of Molecular Depth Profiling with ULAM-S-SIMS of Industrial Laminate Systems"
- 2011 BSc in Chemistry, University of Antwerp (BE)
Supervisors: Prof. Luc Van Vaeck and Prof. Koen Janssens
Thesis titles: "Optimization of the Imaging of coated Fibers with Time-of-flight (TOF) Static Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (S-SIMS)" and "Comparison of the Analysis Possibilities of Paint Samples using various FTIR Techniques"

Honors and Awards

- 2025 Vickerman Prize of the UK Surface Analysis Forum
- 2020 ACS Editors' Choice
- 2019 BMSS John Beynon Travel and Conference Fund
- 2019 Travel Grant for Early Career Scientists from the Analytical Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry
- 2019 Travel bursary from the Early Career Researchers Fund of the Institute of Physics
- 2018 Travel Grant for Early Career Scientists from the Analytical Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry

- 2016 Overseas Conference Travel Grant from the Analytical Chemistry Trust Fund
- 2013 MSc in Chemistry awarded cum laude
- 2011 BSc in Chemistry awarded cum laude

Selected Funding, Grants and Contracts

Ongoing

- 2023 – 2025 European Commission: MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship (Dr. Caroline Bouvier)
 Role: Primary Supervisor
 Title: “Synergistic Combination of Immunolabeling and Molecular Imaging Technologies for Art Research (SCIMITAR)”
 Grant agreement ID: 101108506
 DOI: 10.3030/101108506
- 2023 – 2025 CZI: Advancing Imaging Through Collaborative Projects (PI: Dr. Ian Anthony)
 Role: Co-PI
 Title: “Fast Mass Spectrometry Imaging for Immunohistochemistry”
- 2022 – Present Atoms2Anatomy Fund (UFL/SWOL)
 Role: Trustee
 Scope: The Atoms2Anatomy Fund supports the development of Dr. Sebastiaan Van Nuffel’s research group at Maastricht University. The general aim of this group is the development and application of imaging mass spectrometry techniques in life sciences research and a specific goal is the development of a multi-scale approach to investigate biological models and clinical samples from atoms to anatomy.
- 2021 – Present PhD student (4y) provided by the Sectorplan Bèta en Techniek
 Role: PI
 Title: “The Development of Multiscale Multiomic Approaches using ToF-SIMS in the Context of Biomedical Research Applications”

Completed (within the last 3 years)

- 2020 – 2022 PSU Pathway to Partnerships (P3) Stage 2 Application (PI: Prof. Neil Christensen)
 Role: Co-PI
 Title: “Papillomavirus-induced tumor tissue imaging using two novel mass spectrometry methods: TOF-SIMS and MIBI-TOF”

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

332 citations, H-index 6 (Google Scholar, 17/10/2025)

20. Garcia, K.G., Gaspar, E., **Van Nuffel, S.** (2025) ToF-SIMS spectra of typical substrates in both polarities: Si wafer, Au-coated glass, and ITO-coated glass. *Surf. Sci. Spectra* 2025; 32 (2): 025004.
19. Bouvier, C., **Van Nuffel, S.**, Brunelle, A. (2025) ToF-SIMS spectra of historical inorganic pigments. *Surf. Sci. Spectra*, 32 (1): 016801.
18. Garcia, K.G., Massonnet, P., **Van Nuffel, S.**, Heeren R.M.A. (2025) ToF-SIMS Parallel Imaging MS/MS of Lead Soaps in Embedded Paint Cross Sections. *Analytical Chemistry*, 97 (2), 1054-1058.
17. Sandström, E., Huysmans, P., Giskes, F., Laeven, P., **Van Nuffel, S.**, Heeren, R.M.A., Anthony, I.G.M. (2024) Improvements in Fast Mass Microscopy for Large-Area Samples. *Analytical Chemistry*, 96 (45), 18037-18042.
16. Shamraeva, M.A., Visvikis, T., Zoidis, S. Anthony, I.G.M., **Van Nuffel, S.** (2024) The Application of a Random Forest Classifier to ToF-SIMS Imaging Data. *Journal of the American Society for Mass Spectrometry*, 35 (12), 2801-2814.
15. Bouvier, C., **Van Nuffel, S.**, Brunelle, A. (2024) ToF-SIMS spectra of historical inorganic pigments: Copper-, zinc-, arsenic-, and phosphorus-containing pigments in negative polarity. *Surf. Sci. Spectra*, 31 (2): 025002.
14. Bouvier, C., **Van Nuffel, S.**, Brunelle, A. (2024) ToF-SIMS spectra of historical inorganic pigments: Copper-, zinc-, arsenic-, and phosphorus-containing pigments in positive polarity. *Surf. Sci. Spectra*, 31 (2): 025001.
13. Bouvier, C., **Van Nuffel, S.**, Brunelle, A. (2024) ToF-SIMS spectra of historical inorganic pigments: Calcium white pigments in both polarities. *Surf. Sci. Spectra*, 31 (1): 015007.
14. Bouvier, C., **Van Nuffel, S.**, Brunelle, A. (2024) ToF-SIMS spectra of historical inorganic pigments: Natural and synthetic ultramarine blues and smalt in both polarities. *Surf. Sci. Spectra*, 31 (1): 015006.
11. Bouvier, C., **Van Nuffel, S.**, Brunelle, A. (2024) ToF-SIMS spectra of historical inorganic pigments: Lead-based pigments in negative polarity. *Surf. Sci. Spectra* 1 June 2024, 31 (1): 015005.
10. Bouvier, C., **Van Nuffel, S.**, Brunelle, A. (2024) ToF-SIMS spectra of historical inorganic pigments: Lead-based pigments in positive polarity. *Surf. Sci. Spectra*, 31(1): 015003.
9. Lati^o, S., Marschner, C., Baumgartner, J., Prince, S., Biswas, S., Chakraborty, S., Garcia, K.G., Heeren, R.M.A., **Van Nuffel, S.**, Blom, B. (2023) Synthesis and in vitro anticancer studies of arene ruthenium (II) and arene osmium (II) complexes bearing arsine and stibine co-ligands on breast cancer cell-lines. *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry*, 122891.
8. Anderson, H.J., Sahoo, J.K., Wells, J., **Van Nuffel, S.**, Dhowre, H.S., Oreffo, R.O.C., Zelzer, M., Ulijn, R.V., Dalby, M.J. (2022) Cell-controlled dynamic surfaces for skeletal stem cell growth and differentiation. *Scientific Reports*, 12, 8165.
7. Bouvier, C., **Van Nuffel, S.**, Walter, P., Brunelle, A. (2022). TOF-SIMS Imaging in Cultural Heritage: a focus on old paintings. *Journal of Mass Spectrometry*, e4803.
6. Tuck, M., Blanc, L., Touti, R., Patterson, N.H., **Van Nuffel, S.**, Villette, S., Taveau, J.C., Römpf, A., Brunelle, A., Lecomte, S., Desbenoit, N. (2021). Multimodal Imaging Based on Vibrational Spectroscopies

and Mass Spectrometry Imaging Applied to Biological Tissue: A Multiscale and Multiomics Review. *Analytical Chemistry*, 93(1), 445-477.

5. **Van Nuffel, S.**, Ang, K.C., Lin, A., Cheng, K. (2021). Chemical Imaging of Retinal Pigment Epithelium in Frozen Sections of Zebrafish Larvae using ToF-SIMS. *Journal of the American Society for Mass Spectrometry*, 32(1), 255-261.
4. **Van Nuffel, S.**, Quatredeniérs, M., Pirkel, A., Zakel, J., Le Caer, J.P., Elie, N., Vanbellingen, Q., Dumas, S., Nakhleh, M., Ghigna, M., Fadel, E., Humbert, M., Chaurand, P., Touboul, D., Cohen-Kaminsky, S., Brunelle, A. (2020). Multimodal Imaging Mass Spectrometry to Identify Markers of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension in Human Lung Tissue using MALDI-ToF, ToF-SIMS and Hybrid SIMS. *Analytical Chemistry*, 92(17), 12079-12087.
3. **Van Nuffel, S.**, Elie, N., Yang, E., Nouet, J., Touboul, D., Chaurand, P. & Brunelle, A. (2018). Insights into the MALDI Process after Matrix Deposition by Sublimation using 3D ToF-SIMS Imaging. *Analytical Chemistry*, 90(3), 1907-1914.
2. **Van Nuffel, S.**, Parmenter, C., Scurr, D. J., Russell, N. A., & Zelzer, M. (2016). Multivariate analysis of 3D ToF-SIMS images: method validation and application to cultured neuronal networks. *Analyst*, 141(1), 90-95.
1. Vercammen, Y., Moons, N., **Van Nuffel, S.**, Beenaerts, L., & Van VaecK, L. (2013). Experimental study of the organic ion intensity distribution in the ion imaging of coated polymer fibres with S-SIMS. *Applied Surface Science*, 284, 354-365.

Book Chapters

3. G. F. Trindade, K. G. Garcia, R. M. A. Heeren, **S. Van Nuffel**, H. Tian, and I. S. Gilmore, High-performance Analysers in SIMS. In *Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry: Fundamentals, Advancements and Applications*, ed. P. P. Michałowski, Royal Society of Chemistry, 2025, vol. 16, ch. 4, pp. 133-158.
2. C. Bouvier, A. Brunelle & **S. Van Nuffel**. Transferable Mass Spectrometry Methods: Examination of Authenticity in Artwork. In *Applications of Mass Spectrometry for the Provision of Forensic Intelligence: State-of-the-art and Perspectives*, ed. S. Francese and S. Bleay, Royal Society of Chemistry, 2023, vol. 14, ch. 10, pp. 236-264.
1. **Van Nuffel, S.** & Brunelle, A. (2022). TOF-SIMS Imaging of Biological Tissue Sections and Structural Determination Using Tandem MS. In *Mass Spectrometry Imaging of Small Molecules* (pp. 77-86). Humana, New York, NY.

Invited Talks

18. "ToF-SIMS Imaging: Improved Methodologies and Analysis across Applications", 2025 UKSAF Summer Meeting, National Physical Laboratory (NPL), Teddington, UK, 15-16 July 2025.
17. "Investigating Biointerfaces using Integrative ToF-SIMS Imaging", 17th European Vacuum Conference (EVC-17) and 37th European Conference on Surface Science (ECOSS-37), Harrogate, UK, 17-21 June 2024.

16. "Exploring Biological Systems through ToF-SIMS Imaging using Random Forest Machine Learning", 101st IUVESTA workshop, Maresias, Brazil, 19-24 May 2024.
15. "An Anthology of Integrative ToF-SIMS Imaging", Centro de Microscopia, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 16 May 2024.
14. "An Anthology of Integrative ToF-SIMS Imaging", Fundamentals & Methods of Chemistry Day, NWO, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 22 March 2024.
13. "An Anthology of Integrative ToF-SIMS Imaging", SIMS Europe 2023, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK, 7-9 September 2023.
12. "Integrative ToF-SIMS Imaging: Applications and Outlook", Webinar GDR-MSI, France, 21 October 2022.
11. "Answering Biomedical Questions Using Integrative ToF-SIMS Imaging", 23rd International Conference on Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (SIMS23), Minneapolis, MN, USA, 18-23 September 2022.
10. "Mass Spectrometry and Mass Spectrometry Imaging to Examine Authenticity in Artwork", International Mass Spectrometry Conference (IMSC2022) Focus Group Forensics, Maastricht, The Netherlands, 30 August 2022.
9. "ToF-SIMS at Maastricht University: Applications and Future Work", Virtual PHI User Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, USA, 21-22 September 2021.
8. "Identifying Markers of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension in Human Lung Tissue using Multimodal Imaging Mass Spectrometry", Virtual MSIS OurCon MS Imaging Seminar, UK, 16 June 2021.
7. "Chemical Imaging of Retinal Pigment Epithelium in Frozen Sections of Zebrafish Larvae Using ToF-SIMS", Webinar: Third Annual Penn State College of Medicine Research Cores Symposium, Hershey, PA, USA, 18-19 November 2020.
6. "Chemical Imaging of Retinal Pigment Epithelium in Frozen Sections of Zebrafish Larvae Using ToF-SIMS", PHI's Virtual Fall Workshop, Minneapolis, MN, USA, 17-19 November 2020.
5. "Time-of-Flight Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry: Biological Applications", Making the Best of a Bad Situation characterization webinar series organized by the Pennsylvania State University, the University of Illinois, the University of Wisconsin and the University of Minnesota, USA, 13 May, 2020.
4. "Imaging Mass Spectrometry: Answering Biomedical Questions using Spatially Resolved Chemical Information", Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences Grand Rounds, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, USA, 20 November 2019.
3. "Label-Free Chemical Imaging of Tissues and Single Cells using Imaging Mass Spectrometry", Webster Science Café Talk, PSU Post Doc Society, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, USA, 29 August 2019.
2. "3D Label-Free Chemical Imaging of Tissues and Single Cells using Imaging Mass Spectrometry", Millennium Café, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, USA, 23 April 2019.
1. "Understanding MALDI through 3D ToF-SIMS Imaging", NESAC/BIO, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA, 16 November 2017.

Oral Presentations at Refereed Conferences

7. "ToF-SIMS Imaging of Zebrafish Pigmented Cells", 22nd International Conference on Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (SIMS22), Miyakomesse, Kyoto, Japan, 20-25 October 2019.
6. "ToF-SIMS Imaging of Biological Tissue: Challenges and Opportunities", 2019 PHI User's Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, USA, 10-11 September 2019.
5. "Gazing at Titian's Ecce Homo with Imaging Mass Spectrometry", SIMS Europe 2018, Physical Institutes of the University of Münster, Münster, Germany, 16-18 September 2018.
4. "Advanced ToF-SIMS Image Analysis: PCA, Random Forests and Applications", 8th Annual French ION-TOF User's Meeting, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg, 15-16 March 2018.
3. "Understanding MALDI through 3D ToF-SIMS Imaging", 21st International Conference on Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (SIMS21), Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland, 10-15 September 2017.
2. "3D ToF-SIMS Imaging of Primary Cell Cultures", SIMS Europe 2016, Physical Institutes of the University of Münster, Münster, Germany, 18-20 September 2016.
1. "3D ToF-SIMS Imaging of Primary Neuronal Cultures", RSC Biomaterials Chemistry Meeting, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom, 7-8 January 2016.

Teaching Experience

Period 4, 2023 - Present	Coordinator, Advanced Image Processing and Artificial Intelligence (MIE1007), Faculty of Science and Engineering, Maastricht University
Period 3, 2023 - Present	Coordinator, Research and Engineering Project I (PRO4004), Faculty of Science and Engineering, Maastricht University
Period 3, 2022 - 2024	Planning Group Member, Pre-clinical Imaging (MBS1501), Faculty of Health, Medicine & Life Sciences, Maastricht University
Period 2, 2022 - Present	Coordinator, Imaging Engineering (CEN2005), Faculty of Science and Engineering, Maastricht University
Period 2, 2022 - Present	Guest Lecturer, Advances in Biomedical Sciences (SCI3050), Faculty of Health, Medicine & Life Sciences, Maastricht University
Period 1, 2021	Co-coordinator, Academic Skills and Project Management (SKI1101), Faculty of Science and Engineering, Maastricht University
Period 6, 2021	Tutor, Critical Appraisal of Biomedical Publication (BBS1006), Faculty of Health, Medicine & Life Sciences, Maastricht University
June 13, 2019	Guest Lecturer, Chemistry Research Experience Undergraduate (REU) Program, Pennsylvania State University Seminar titled: "3D Label-Free Chemical Imaging of Tissues and Single Cells using Time-of-Flight Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry"

Autumn 2017

Lecturer, Unités d'Enseignements (UE): Méthodologies en Protéomique for the M2 Ingénierie et Chimie des Biomolécules (ICBM) organized by Dr. Virginie Redeker, Université Paris-Saclay
Course on the fundamentals and instrumentation of mass spectrometry given to master's students in class sizes averaging 10 students.

Mentorship

BSc students	As a PhD student, I co-supervised undergraduate students during their bachelor thesis projects. I compiled reading lists for their literature review and helped them set up experimental plans, analyze data and writing their thesis. As an assistant professor at the UM, I have supervised one Bachelor thesis project.
MSc students	During my time as a postdoc with the CNRS, I co-supervised the master thesis project of a foreign exchange student. As an assistant professor at the UM, I organize the first project period of the master Imaging Engineering. I have also organized volunteer projects for UM students.
PhD students	As an assistant professor at the UM, I currently supervise one PhD student in my group.
Postdocs	As an assistant professor at the UM, I currently supervise two postdoctoral researchers in my group. I previously supervised one postdoctoral researcher and co-supervised two others.

Reviewing and Journal Duties

For an up-to-date overview of my reviewer duties, please visit my author profile at webofscience.com.

2024 Guest editor for the JASMS Special Issue on Advanced Data Analysis in SIMS

Committees and Boards

2025 - 2027	Member of the working community committee on Fundamentals & Methods of Chemistry for the Dutch Research Council (NWO)
2024 - 2028	Secretary of the SIMS Europe Advisory Board
2020 - 2022	International scientific committee member of the SIMS-23 conference
2021 - today	M4I Representative for the Platform Scientific Integrity (FHML/MUMC+)
2021 - today	Board of Admissions (BoA) for the MSc Imaging Engineering (FSE)
2022 - today	Trustee of the Atoms2Anatomy Fund (UFL/SWOL)

Scientific Memberships

2023 – today	British Mass Spectrometry Society (BMSS)
2023 – today	American Society for Mass Spectrometry (ASMS)
2021 – today	Nederlandse Vereniging voor Massaspectrometrie (NVMS)
2015 – today	Institute of Physics (MInstP)
2015 – today	Royal Society of Chemistry (MRSC)

Licenses & Certifications

Course Small Group Teacher Training (tutor, coach, etc.)

FHML, Maastricht University, June 2021- no expiration date.

Examiner course

FHML, Maastricht University, February 2021- no expiration date.

Introductory course on the principles of PBL

FHML, Maastricht University, January 2021- no expiration date.

Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) – Basic

CITI Program, ID 36108122, July 2020 - no expiration date.

IONTOF Level 2 TOF.SIMS 5 Maintenance Certificate

IONTOF GmbH.

Languages

Dutch native proficiency

English bilingual proficiency

French professional working proficiency