



**LEUVEN**  
RESEARCH &  
DEVELOPMENT

# Spinning out life science ventures: business as usual?

Biolegis

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KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT  
**LEUVEN**



## K.U.Leuven

- 33.382 students with 10% international students
- 16.279 employees
  - 1.399 professors & 3.960 researchers
  - 2.748 administrative and technical staff
  - 8.082 employees at the University Hospital (UZ Gasthuisberg)
- Total budget
  - 1, 3 bn euro
  - Approx. 25% of research budget through K.U.Leuven R&D
- Humanities, Exact Sciences, and Biomedical Sciences



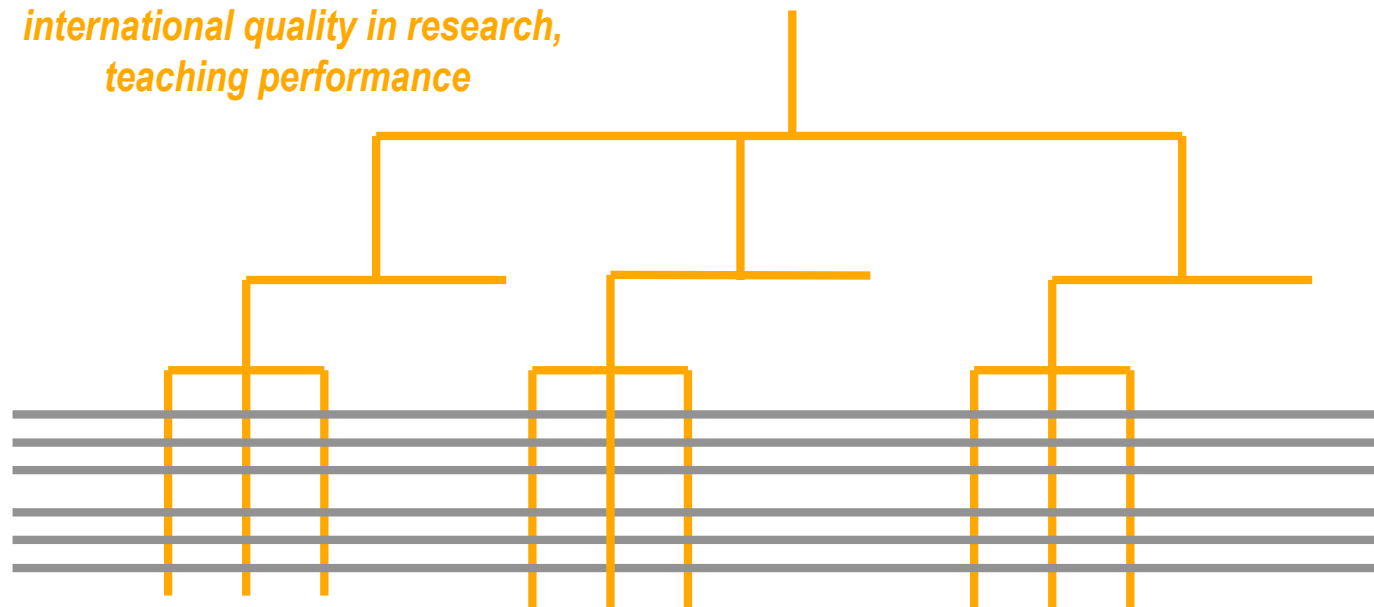
- **1425**
  - foundation Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
  - two core tasks & fundamental values: teaching & research
- **1968** splitting up into:
  - Dutch-speaking K.U.Leuven at Leuven
  - French-speaking UCL at Louvain-la-Neuve
- **1972**
  - foundation K.U.Leuven Research & Development
  - third core task: exploiting economic potential of research results



- Founded in 1972, as a separate not for profit entity
- Since 1985 *separate* entity *within* the university
- Large budgetary and HR autonomy within the university, enabling it to operate as a business unit
- LRD consists of:
  - **central multidisciplinary staff** supporting researchers in technology transfer
  - **research divisions** embedded in via matrix structure in university
    - “virtual organisations” in which (groups of) researchers (from different faculties or departments) can group their applied research, commercial-industrial and exploitation activities.



*Faculties, departments, research groups:  
international quality in research,  
teaching performance*



*LRD divisions/projects  
Contract autonomy &  
flexibility incentives*

⇒ **Dual incentive mechanism to maintain a balance and healthy tension between striving for scientific excellence and gearing this excellence towards application and innovation.**



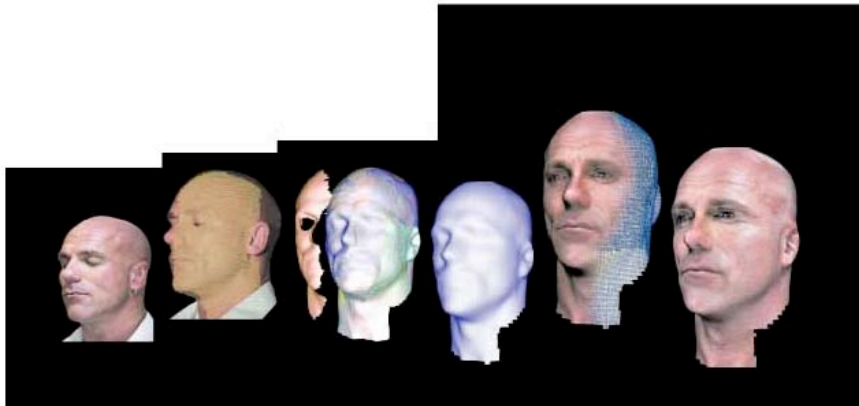
“To promote and support knowledge  
& technology transfer to the industry”



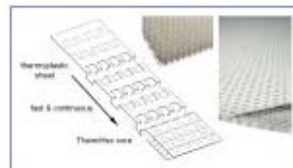
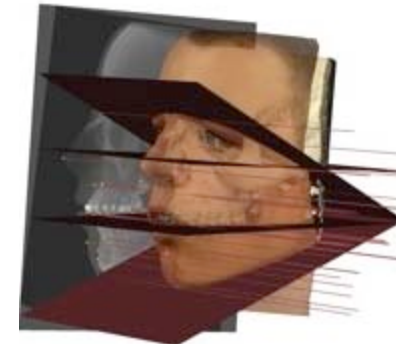




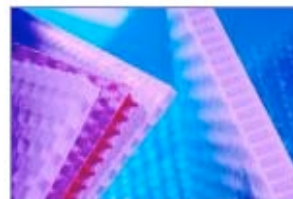




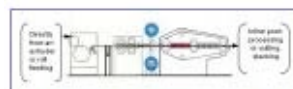
(From left to right) The artists regenerated the face of actor Ricky Hards (Charlie Jolson) with Eyetrionics' ShapeSnatcher, which uses a light-projected grid to obtain depth information. The software then meshes together the multiple surfaces to form



ThermHex cores and production process



ThermHex cores and panels



ThermHex panel production line





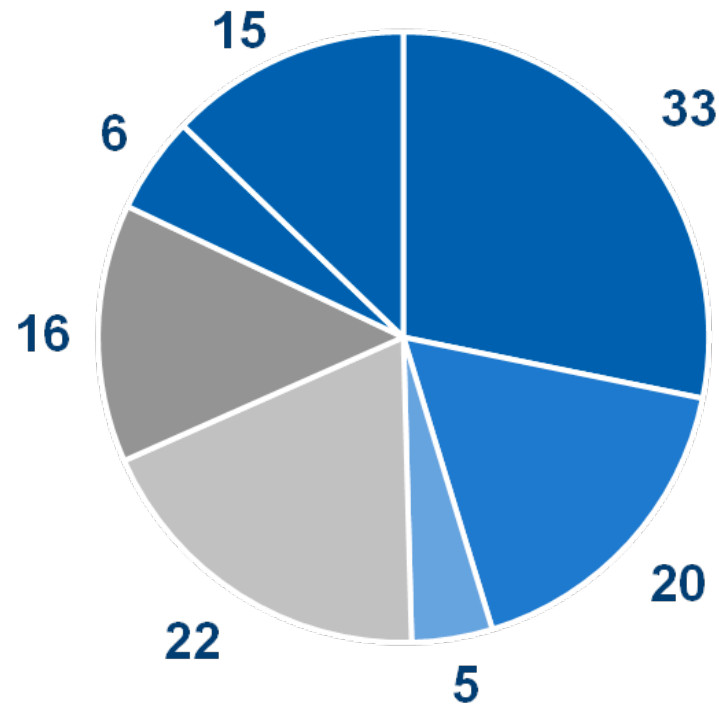
- Various types of spin-offs
- Expertise (→ size)
- Non compete
- Access rights
- Right of first refusal



- US ≠ Silicon Valley
- Push vs pull
- Conflict of interest



## 117 companies with biotech activities



- 5: Tissue Engineering
- 6: Food
- 15: Service Providers
- 16: Plants
- 20: Diagnostics
- 22: Industrial
- 33: Bio Pharma

©: FlandersBio



- US ≠ Silicon Valley
- Push vs pull
- Conflict of interest



- MARKET VALUE!
- Auditor report
- License vs contribution
- Return
  - university
  - researcher



- Limited liability (foundation-exit)
- No majority
- Funding capital increases



# Would you have invested?







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**Thank you**



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