

LAUDATIO

In honour of
Prof. PhD. Marc M. Van Hulle
KU Leuven

On conferring Aurel Vlaicu University of Arad`s Doctor Honoris Causa title

Dear Guests,
Distinguished audience,
Dear colleagues,

„Aurel Vlaicu” University of Arad is honoured to confer the high academic distinction of Doctor Honoris Causa to professor Marc M. Van Hulle from the KU Leuven University, (Belgium), a renowned researcher and professor in the fields of Computational Neuroscience, Topographic Maps and Brain Computer Interfacing.

The biographical hallmarks of this researcher born in Ghent (Belgium) on the 6th of April 1960, reveal an avid knowledge seeker with an insatiable thirst for understanding, factors which have undeniably left an imprint over his entire career.

In 1982 he is awarded an MA in electronics at KU Leuven and 4 years later a bachelor degree in Economics at Hasselt University, Diepenbeek; in 1991, at the same university, he earns an MBA in Business Administration.

He obtains a PhD in Applied Sciences in 1990 (KU Leuven University) and since 2002 is Doctor Technicus (Dr.techn.) with the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), Copenhagen.

Currently he is a tenured professor teaching Neural Computing and Brain Computer Interfaces at KU Leuven University. Throughout his career he has occupied the following positions:

- Visiting Academic, Imperial College, London, UK, 1 August 2012 - 30 July 2015
- Associate Professor, Medical School, KU Leuven, 2000-2003

- Research Associate, National Fund for Scientific Research (Belgium), 1994-2000
- Postdoctoral Fellow, M.I.T., Cambridge (Massachusetts, USA), 1992-1993
- Senior Research Assistant, National Fund for Scientific Research (Belgium), 1991-1994
- Research Assistant, National Fund for Scientific Research (Belgium), 1985-1990

He is actively involved with various associations and institutions. Founding member of the Society for Neuroscience (USA) and of Brain-Computer Interface (BCI), of the Fulbright Alumni Association in Belgium and a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) (USA). Technical committee member of IEEE Signal Processing Society's Machine Learning for Signal Processing and a senior member with the International Neural Network Society.

He has received numerous awards and distinctions throughout his scientific career, that certify both the value and the importance of the research conducted in the field of neuroscience:

- BCI 2020 award, BCI Society
- Spanish Royal National Academy of Pharmacy, Institute of Spain, 29 September 2016
- Grand Prix Humanitaire de France (medaille Laureat d'Or), Senate of France, 9 April 2016
- Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine, 24 October 2015
- Mentor of Labour, Royal Institute of Elites of Labour of Belgium Albert I, 26 September 2015
- IEEE Fellow, "For contributions to biomedical signal processing and biological modeling", 25 November 2013
- Rudolf Virchow medal, Europäische Akademie der Naturwissenschaften, Hannover (DE), 30 March 2012
- red dot award: design concept 2010, Singapore, 25 November 2010
- SWIFT prize of the King Baudouin Foundation of Belgium on 21 December 2009
- Honorary Professor Brest State University, Brest, Belarus, 30 September 2009
- Capgemini Chair (2008-2012), Capgemini Netherlands
- Laureate of Labour, Royal Institute of Elites of Labour of Belgium Albert I, 9 July 2007

Professor Hulle has been previously awarded the high academic distinction of Doctor Honoris Causa by the Brest State University (Belarus) and Yerevan State Medical University (Armenia); today we wish to welcome him within our academic community by presenting him with the very same title.

Prof. Van Hulle is also a member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine and the Spanish Royal National Academy of Pharmacy, Institute of Spain.

His publishing history covers hundreds of articles with some of the most prestigious scientific journals. He is associate editor for IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems, Computational Intelligence and Neuroscience and the International Journal of Neural Systems.

The above-mentioned cover only a small part of professor Marc M. Van Hulle`s scientific accomplishments. But a simple enumeration of his scientific career`s highlights cannot encapsulate the impact on knowledge, on the understanding of the human being...

However, what we can do today, in sign of appreciation for his entire scientific activity as well as for the contributions brought forth to the development of science, is to award Prof. Hulle with Aurel Vlaicu University`s Doctor Honoris Causa title. I bid you Welcome to our academic community!

November,21st 2022

Professor Ioan Radu,
President of the Academic Senate - "Aurel Vlaicu" University of Arad