

23/09/2015

**The unbearable lightness of being a  
women in science:  
between fiction and reality**

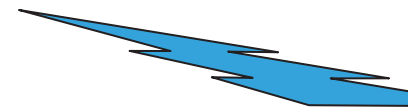
G. Schoeters



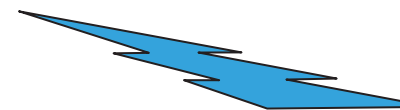
G. Schoeters



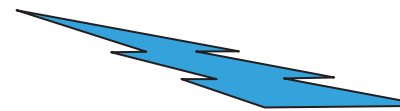
- » Biology student at University of Antwerp, Ph. D in 1983
  - » Start as radiation biologist- 15 yrs in the Belgian Nuclear research Centre
    - » Animal work → in vitro mechanistic studies
    - » 1 yr post doc US- 1983-1984
    - » **EU research projects – FP4-FP5**
- Project coordinator



1982



1985



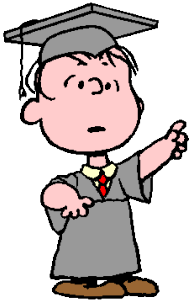
1991



chnology

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G. Schoeters



- » Flemish Institute for Technological research (since 1993)
  - policy supporting research + contract research
  - » Environmental toxicology- ecotoxicology:
  - » In vitro testing- environmental chemicals, environmental samples
  - » In vitro toxicology: in vitro bone formation in space
  - » Validation studies of in vitro tests together with ECVAM
  - » Development of an in vitro test for sensitisation based on genomics
  - TEST FACILITY: CARDAM (2006-2012)

Environmental health – population studies- molecular epidemiology

→ Coordination of the Flemish Human biomonitoring program

→ **transdisciplinarity**

Project manager, head of the unit (until end 2012)



G. Schoeters



- » 2002: Prof at the university of Antwerp
- » 2013: Prof at Southern Denmark University
  
- » President of the European Society of Toxicology in vitro (2008-2012)
- » Risk assessor : Contam panel of EFSA (2003-2006)  
SCHER ( DG Sanco) (2013-2015)
  
- » Advisory panels ( European Environment Agency, ESAP, HG



# Work Life Balance



# Today's Modern Woman

in science

Clean house.

Publish papers- h index

Healthy dinner on the table.

Fund raising

Fit, trim and well-groomed.

Compete with colleagues

Works full-time

Travel and present at meetings

Laundry done and put away.

Great sex life.

People's management

... pick any two.

+ all these



# Hidden secrets

- » Passionate interest in discovering , questions and answers
- » Positive feed backs from peers and colleagues
- » Collaborations – trans national, trans generational, transdisciplinary
- » Team work – open minds
  - » Sharing knowledge, sharing projects , sharing workload
  - » Sharing concerns
  - » Empowerment

# Don't be afraid to fail, be afraid of not to try

