



Wout Boerjan earned his PhD in Plant Biotechnology from Ghent University, Belgium in 1993 and is currently a full professor at Ghent University and group leader at the VIB Department of Plant Systems Biology, Ghent (Belgium) where he leads the Bioenergy and Bio-aromatics Group. The research in his team is aimed at underpinning the transition from a fossil-based to a sustainable bio-economy. His primary focus is understanding the biosynthesis and structure of lignin to provide the fundamental knowledge needed to improve biomass processing into fermentable sugars. He uses *Arabidopsis* as model system for gene discovery and poplar and maize for translational research. His group established two field trials with transgenic poplar trees in Belgium. In 2009, Wout Boerjan was named “Forest Biotechnologist of the Year”. He is associate editor of *Bioenergy Research* and is on the Clarivate Analytics list of Highly-Cited researchers in the field of Plant and Animal Sciences.