



# Belgian–Brazilian Academic Association

*Bridging Knowledge Between Belgium and Brazil*

## Message from the Board

Dear members and friends,

We are delighted to share the first edition of the AABB Newsletter. Our association was born bottom-up, built by volunteers from the Brazilian and Belgian academic communities. AABB is free, apolitical, and community-driven, relying on the engagement of its members to foster scientific, educational, and cultural collaboration between Belgium and Brazil.

The **2025 Annual Meeting** marked an important milestone with full rooms, vibrant exchanges, and a renewed commitment to expand our network.





# Annual Meeting at the Embassy of Brazil in Brussels

17 October 2025

## Highlights from the Meeting

Host: Ambassador Silvio Albuquerque

Participants: 39 on-site | 66 registered | waiting list

The meeting attracted great interest, with active participation from Belgian and Brazilian academics representing multiple institutions. Discussions spanned one-to-one exchanges, focus groups, and scientific and professional interactions, concluding with a social dinner.

Ambassador Albuquerque emphasized the importance of initiatives that foster trust in science and reaffirmed his support for AABB.

## Voices from the Community

"It was inspiring to see how many bridges already exist between Belgian and Brazilian institutions, AABB made them visible." • **Luana F. Nascimento** (SCK CEN)

"The meeting felt different, truly participatory, friendly, and intellectually rich. It reminded us why academic communities matter." • **Luis E. C. Rocha** (UGent)

"Having so many disciplines in the same room showed the potential of AABB as a genuine interdisciplinary network." • **Georges Martyn** (UGent)

"Great exchanges, meaningful discussions, and a sense of belonging, AABB is here to stay." • **Gustavo G. Müller** (KULeuven)

"By connecting nuclear science and plant biology, we can better understand how life adapts to environmental stress. The AABB platform shows how cross-disciplinary collaboration makes that possible." • **Gustavo T. Duarte** (SCK CEN)





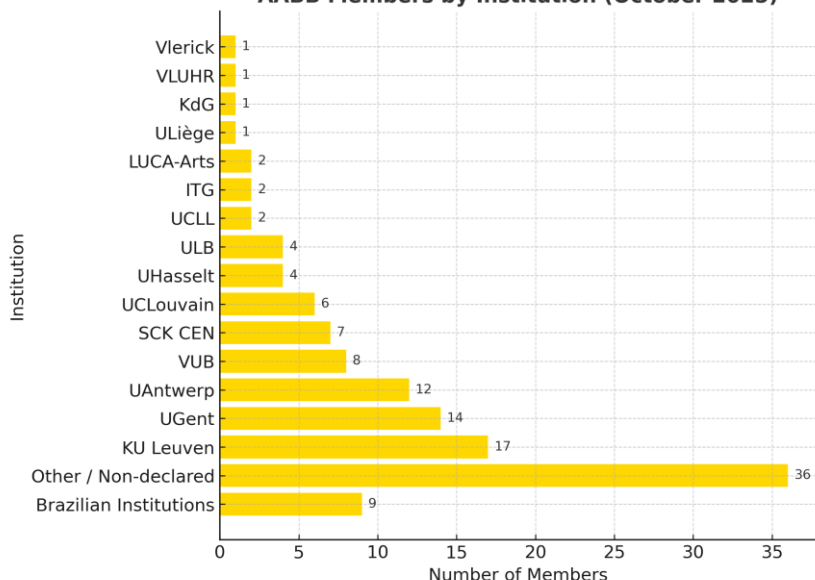
# AABB in Numbers

(October 2025)

The chart below shows how our members are distributed across Belgian universities, research centers, and Brazilian institutions. This diversity highlights the growing strength of our community and AABB’s mission to connect academics and researchers across borders.

The **2025 Annual Meeting** brought together 39 participants from different disciplines and career stages. Following the event, three active working groups (Collaboration, Outreach, and Events) were launched to maintain the network’s energy and prepare future activities.

**AABB Members by Institution (October 2025)**



## Distribution of AABB members by institution (October 2025).

Horizontal bar chart illustrating the number of registered members of the Associação Acadêmica Belgo-Brasileira (AABB) according to institutional affiliation. The two largest categories correspond to Other / Non-declared (members with personal or company affiliations) and Brazilian Institutions (various universities and research centers across Brazil).



Abbreviations: KU Leuven, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Leuven); UGent, Ghent University (Ghent); UAntwerp, University of Antwerp (Antwerp); UCLouvain, Université Catholique de Louvain (Louvain-la-Neuve); VUB, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Brussels); UHasselt, Hasselt University (Hasselt); SCK CEN, Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (Mol); ULB, Université Libre de Bruxelles (Brussels); ULiège, Université de Liège (Liège); UCLL, UC Leuven-Limburg University of Applied Sciences (Leuven); ITG, Institute of Tropical Medicine (Antwerp); LUCA-Arts, LUCA School of Arts (Leuven/Brussels); KdG, Karel de Grote University of Applied Sciences and Arts (Antwerp); VLUHR, Flemish Interuniversity Council (Brussels); Vlerick, Vlerick Business School (Ghent/Leuven/Brussels).



## Core Principles of the AABB

### 1. Facilitate scientific and social collaboration

1. Build and maintain a dynamic platform that enables researchers to share experiences, identify opportunities for collaboration, and develop joint projects.
2. Promote a culture of respect, diversity, and open science, ensuring equitable participation across all disciplines with scientific and social value.

### 2. Support academic development and strengthen bilateral collaboration

1. Promote and support workshops, training programs, student mentoring, and the sharing of information on funding calls, scholarships, and mobility opportunities.
2. Facilitate the establishment of strategic links between universities, research centers, cultural institutions, and funding agencies in Brazil and Belgium.

### 3. Promote science outreach

1. Organize and publicize public talks and community-facing events, and engage through communication channels and media to translate scientific research into accessible language, helping to share knowledge with all audiences.

## Join & Stay Connected

**Become a member:** Send a blank email to [listserv@lists.ugent.be](mailto:listserv@lists.ugent.be) with the subject 'subscribe aabb FirstName LastName'.

Follow **AABB online:** <https://aabbav.github.io>

LinkedIn: AABB Associação Acadêmica Belgo Brasileira

Instagram: @academia.belgobr

Email: [aabbav.info@gmail.com](mailto:aabbav.info@gmail.com)

**Next Steps:** Regional meetings at UHasselt and UGent (2026), recruitment campaign toward 150 members, and the next newsletter issue planned for Spring 2026.



### Editorial Team

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