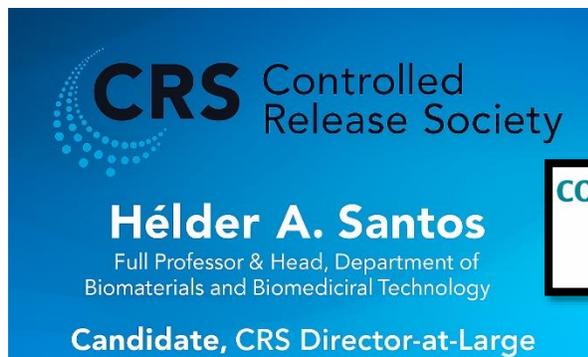


Vision, Commitment, and Service to the CRS Community

Statement for the position of CRS Director-at-Large 2026



CONNECTING CRS MEMBERS.
ADVANCING SCIENCE.
SERVING CRS.



Dear **Controlled Release Society Members**,

I believe that the most meaningful moments in a scientific career shape not only what we study, but how we understand our responsibility as scientists. If I look back, many of those defining moments occurred within the community of the Controlled Release Society.

I still remember joining CRS early in my career, full of curiosity, but still building my confidence as a young scientist. At that time, my first CRS meetings were transformative experiences. They were not simply venues for presenting results; they were places where ideas were constructively challenged, where mentorship happened naturally, and where collaboration crossed borders, disciplines, and generations. CRS was where I learned that excellence in drug delivery is inseparable from openness, integrity, and community spirit.

Today, I serve as Full Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Head of the Department of Biomaterials and Biomedical Technology at the University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen, The Netherlands, where I lead a translational research program in nanomedicine, biomaterials, regenerative medicine and immunomodulatory delivery systems.

The CRS has been a central part of this journey since I joined many years ago. CRS is my constant reference, where I found not just colleagues, but a true scientific home, a society of people, friends that values curiosity, rigor, inclusiveness, and has as central mission the training of future generations. Over the years, I have been fortunate to contribute to CRS through several leadership roles, including Vice Chair (2018–2019) and Chair (2019–2021) of the Nanomedicine & Nanoscale Drug Delivery Focus Group, followed by service as CRS Focus Groups Program Director (2021–2022), and CRS Fellow since 2024. Being honored with the CRS Young Investigator Award in 2021 was deeply meaningful to me, not merely as recognition of scientific achievements, but as affirmation from a community that had accompanied and supported my growth. Equally important to me has been the opportunity to give back: through constant participation in CRS Annual Meetings, mentoring students and early-career researchers within the CRS ecosystem, contributing to scientific programming and peer review, and fostering collaborations that were born within CRS forums.

One of my greatest sources of pride has been bringing my students and postdoctoral fellows to CRS meetings and witnessing their first presentations, first discussions with leaders in the field, and first sense of belonging to a global scientific family. CRS has been, for many of them, exactly what it was for me: a place where careers begin, confidence grows, and scientific identities are

formed. **This is what makes CRS exceptional.** It is not only the world's leading organization in drug delivery science, it is also a community defined by generosity, diversity, ethical rigor, and a shared commitment to impact. Preserving and strengthening this culture is, in my view, one of the most important responsibilities of CRS leadership.

I am therefore honored to be considered for the role of Director-at-Large. I see this position as one of service, representation, and connection. If elected, my commitment will be to actively listen to our diverse membership and to help translate members' voices into Board-level strategy and action. My priorities would focus on:

- **Strengthening scientific excellence and interdisciplinarity**, ensuring CRS remains the premier global platform where drug delivery science evolves across boundaries;
- **Supporting early-career researchers**, by expanding mentorship, leadership pathways, and meaningful engagement opportunities;
- **Enhancing global inclusion**, promoting the local chapters visibility and increasing participation from underrepresented regions and disciplines;
- **Promoting translation and societal impact**, strengthening dialogue between academia, industry, regulators, and clinicians;
- **Upholding ethical and responsible innovation**, safeguarding the values that define CRS science and community.

With extensive experience in academic leadership, international collaborations, and mentorship, having supervised dozens of doctoral students and mentored a large number of postdoctoral researchers, I bring a broad, global perspective and a strong commitment to community-building. I believe the Director-at-Large plays a vital bridging role: connecting members to leadership, strategy to practice, and tradition to future vision.

CRS has shaped the scientist I became. Serving as Director-at-Large would represent my way of giving back to the Society that has given me so much. I would approach this role with humility, dedication, and a deep sense of responsibility to ensure that CRS continues to thrive as both a scientific leader and a human community.

Your vote is important, and together we can continue advancing our community and its shared mission.

Thank you very much for your kind support!

With sincere respect and commitment,

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