Alexander van Nuijs (°26/02/1984) graduated summa cum laude as Master in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Antwerp, Belgium (UA, 2007). In 2012, he defended his PhD thesis which was entitled: “Wastewater analysis as complementary approach for estimating illicit drug consumption in the general population”. Afterwards, he started a postdoctoral mandate in which he worked further on the research that was initiated during his PhD. Since 2014, he is professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Antwerp, Belgium. Alexander van Nuijs is author of >50 peer-reviewed papers and promotor of several (inter)national research projects. For the research he did regarding wastewater analysis, he was awarded with several prizes such as the National Prize of the Belgian Society of Pharmaceutical Sciences (2013), the Prize ’Laurent Vandendriessche’ from the Research Council of the University of Antwerp (2013) and the Superior Health Council Science and Public Health Prize, Superior Health Council, Belgium (2015).

The main research area of Alexander van Nuijs is forensic and analytical toxicology. He has expertise in the analysis of a wide range of compounds (alcohol, illicit drugs, new psychoactive substances, pharmaceuticals, toxicants) in different matrices (blood, urine, hair, nails, wastewater). Furthermore, he is appointed by the Belgian state as one of the official experts to analyse drugs-in-traffic and alcohol-in-traffic samples. One of his main research topics is the analysis of wastewater for the presence of biomarkers of lifestyle and health in order to obtain complementary Information on the health status of communities. This innovative methodology is successfully applied to estimate trends (spatial and temporal) in the use of substances within communities. Alexander van Nuijs is one of the internationally leading scientists in this field of research and is one of the pioneers of this approach.