Bertrand Tombal is the Chairman of the Department of Surgery and Full Professor of Urology at the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL), Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc, Brussels, Belgium. From 2017 to 2021, he was the President of the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC), the leading European academic research organisation in the field of cancer.

He has both a basic science and a clinical interest in urological oncology, particularly in the field of prostate and bladder cancer. Professor Tombal obtained his MD in 1990 and his PhD in 2003, both from the Université catholique de Louvain. During his PhD, he studied the mechanisms involved in apoptosis of prostate cancer cells and the modulation of apoptosis by growth factors. He completed part of his basic sciences training at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA.

Professor Tombal’s primary clinical interest is the treatment of advanced stages of prostate cancer, and particularly hormonal treatment and development of new biological agents. He is heading the uro-oncology division at the Université catholique de Louvain where he is coordinating several trials in this research area. In addition, Professor Tombal has authored more than 300 published papers, books, and book chapters. He has presented at numerous national and international conferences and has been the recipient of various awards for his research in the field of urology, including the European Association of Urology thesis award, which he received in 2003.