

## **dr Loek Pijls pmp - Understanding Nutrition**

Nutrition Science, Epidemiology, Regulatory Affairs,  
Communication, Project Management

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**Key:** How does what we eat impact our health?  
How to apply such understanding to benefit our health?

- Broad experience in academic, public & private sector; several countries; team member & leader
- Adaptable, courageous, curious, fast, innovative, knowledgeable, optimistic, resilient
- Extensive & lasting networks; excellent communicator, 5+ languages; farmers' son

### **Professional record**

**July 2015 - Present: Loekinfood-gcv - Brussels (Loek is its Founder & Owner)**

Expertise around:

- *How does what we eat impact our health?*  
Designing & understanding nutrition science
- *How to apply such understanding to our health - how to make it land on our plate?*  
Diet & food composition, reformulation, claims, communications & guidelines, regulatory positioning, nutrition policy, training

Clients: *Bacchus/EuroFIR, Caelus, Cosucra, FrieslandCampina, Health Council of The Netherlands, Hearing Health Science, Hylobates, KarmaKarma, Marqt, MoodFood, Nestlé, Newtricious, Quadram Institute BioScience, Quisper, VMT, Winlove, 73100*

Partner in: *Nutrition Consultants Cooperative (NCC), Wageningen, The Netherlands*

### **Employment & other professional activities**

**May 2014 - June 2015: The Coca-Cola Company - Atlanta & Brussels**

- *Global Director Nutrition Innovation -Corporate Scientific & Regulatory Affairs*
- Guide the Company in extending the nutrition dimension of its portfolio, e.g. by extending its scientific network, developing tools such as an internal Living Library, and guiding specific innovation projects

**Jan - May 2014: Nestlé Benelux - Amstelveen, The Netherlands**

- *Regulatory Affairs Manager (free-lance)*
- Ensure regulatory compliance of all product (re)launches *Nestlé Health Science, Purina & Inneov*

**July - Dec 2013:**

- Free-lance consultant nutrition & regulatory affairs, for several companies
- Training to complete certification as *Project Management Professional (PMP®)*

**Nov 2012 - June 2013: Nestlé Health Science (former HealthCare Nutrition) - Lutry/Vevey - Switzerland**

- *Interim Global Regulatory Affairs Manager*
- Portfolio of products for: *Metabolic Health & Ageing*, incl. *Nutritional Supplements & Dysphagia*
- Guide Research in shaping substantiation for product positioning, characteristics & effects
- Produce Master product labels & dossiers, create & align ingredient listings

**July 2009 - Oct 2012: Nestlé Research Center - Lausanne, Switzerland**

- *Group Leader Claim Development & Assessment*, at world's largest private nutrition research center
- Lead a team of 6, guiding Nestlé worldwide in the scientific substantiation health claims, from ideation to research & product launch. Overcome gaps & identify alternatives. Build a database for all Nestlé claims (opportunities) & health claims evaluated by authorities worldwide. With all these insights and having trained colleagues well, the Group successfully completed its mission.

**Jan 2004 - June 2009: International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) Europe** - Brussels

Scientific non-profit organisation to advance public health nutrition and food safety, by bringing together experts from academia, food industry & governments:

- **Senior Scientist:** lead Task Forces & projects on Nutrient Requirements, Dietary Carbohydrates & Dietary Fibre; co-author EC-funded PASSCLAIM, i.e. European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) first reference for their health claim evaluations
- **Director** (from 2006) of a major EC-funded project in Nutrition: EURRECA (EUROPEAN micronutrient RECommendations Aligned) Network of Excellence. Obtained its € 13 M funding; involved hundreds of experts, 35 organisations, 17 countries; close collaboration EU institutions & authorities worldwide. Results underpin nutrition education, labelling, nutrition & health claims.

**Oct 1998 - Dec 2003: Health Council of the Netherlands** - The Hague, The Netherlands

The Netherlands' most acclaimed scientific Council

**Scientific Secretary:** Answered Ministers' questions on nutrition. This concerned e.g. recommended nutrient intakes, dietary fibre, mycotoxins & health claims. Latter was the first Council's advice issued in both Dutch & English at the same time, and was published on the same day as the EU draft Claims Regulation.

**Jan 1993 - Sept 1998: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Faculty of Medicine** - The Netherlands

**Scientific Researcher:** Designed, carried out & published a clinical intervention study, showing that dietary protein restriction does not help to protect kidney function in Type 2 diabetes

**Aug 1990 - Dec 1992: National Institute for Public Health - Centre for Epidemiology** - The Netherlands

**Scientific Researcher:** Analysis within 7-Countries Study. Demonstrated how self-rated health impacts future morbidity & mortality, and produced part of the 1993 National Public Health Forecast

**June 1991 - May 1992: Wageningen University, Dept. Human Nutrition:** Publish Ethiopian work

**Sept 1989 - April 1990: Ethiopian Nutrition Institute** - Addis Ababa & several rural areas

**Scientific Researcher:** Conducted & published field studies on how micronutrient deficiencies impact one another, with important implications for micronutrient approaches; Documented, for the first time, nutritional & agricultural aspects of staple-food-for-10-million *Ensete ventricosum* aka false banana

**June - Sept 1988: Camp America- Institute for Foreign Study** - New Jersey, USA

**Camp Counselor:** Lead underprivileged inner-city teenagers - canoe expeditions on the Delaware River

1975 - 1986: various types of agricultural work

#### **Recent voluntary work**

- mediate Dutch language conversation for Dutch-language-learners (2016)
- train volunteers of Dutch Elderly Fund in Nutrition for Elderly (2015)

#### **Publications & Presentations** (complete list in Annex)

First industry representative to be invited to address two exclusively-academic societies:

- Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences. Symposium: What is scientific evidence for nutrition and health claims? Amsterdam - 2012
- The Rank Prize Funds. Mini-Symposium on Nutritional Biomarkers: Present Science & Future Opportunities. Marking health effects: the use of biomarkers to substantiate health claims on foods. Windermere, Lake District, United Kingdom - 2010

#### **Current Board & Memberships**

- Editorial Board Member - International Journal of Nutritional Science and Food technology
- Active Member - The Netherlands Academy for Nutritional Sciences

#### **Education & degrees**

- 2015: Certified *Project Management Professional* (PMP®)
- 2011: London Business School - Nestlé Leadership Programme
- 2006: Certified, PhD level; Netherlands Academy for Nutritional Sciences
- 2000: Certified, PhD level; Netherlands Society for Epidemiology
- 1999: PhD, Faculty of Medicine - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- 1990: MSc, Human Nutrition, Epidemiology - Wageningen University
- 1978, 1988, 1996, 1998: First Aid

Languages: English, Dutch, French, German, Spanish (fluent); Amharic, Italian (basic)