

dr Loek Pijls pmp - Understanding Nutrition

Nutrition Science, Intervention Studies, Epidemiology,
Regulatory Affairs, Communications, 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** (Founder & Director) - Brussels-BE, Utrecht-NLD

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; non-confidential: *Caelus, Cosucra, EuroFIR/Bacchus, FrieslandCampina, Health Council of The Netherlands, Hearing Health Science, Hylobates, KarmaKarma, Marqt, MoodFood, Nestlé, Nestlé Health Science, Newtricious, Quadram Institute BioScience / Nascent, Quisper, VMT, Winclove, 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) as well as Health Canada's 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

- Quisper - Scientific Advisory Board; EuroFIR - Member of Board of Directors
- Active Member - *The Netherlands Academy for Nutritional Sciences*
- Editorial Board Member - *International Journal of Nutritional Science and Food technology*

Education & degrees

- 2015, 2018: 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)