

Dr. Nico van Belzen

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Nationality Dutch. Fluent in Dutch and English, some knowledge of German and French. Driving licenses A, B, C. Married, one daughter.

Key experience: General management and global representation of European and global non-profit organizations. Reporting to Boards including high level representatives from research organizations, academia, food industry and trade associations. Strategy development and implementation. Representation towards stakeholders and intergovernmental policy makers including EFSA, FAO, WHO, Codex, CFS and OIE¹. Extensive network in the food industry and related research and intergovernmental organizations. Consensus building involving a wide variety of stakeholders. Member recruitment. Building and restructuring organizations. Managing multicultural staff. Financial management. Acquisition of EC funding. Coalition building with other organizations. Scientific expertise in food safety and quality, R&D, nutrition, sustainability, standards setting and other areas related to food/beverage regulatory affairs. Editorial, organizing committee, expert committee, chairman and speaker roles. Computer literate.

Present: Founder and Director General, [ScienceConsult](#) (2012-present) and [Tools4Labs](#) (2020-present).

May 2012 – February 2018: Director General, [International Dairy Federation \(IDF\)](#), Brussels, Belgium

Directly accountable for staff, results and budget in a global non-profit federation that represents the interests of the dairy sector worldwide, especially towards intergovernmental organizations. IDF leads the dairy sector in standard setting and harmonization to support trade, and achieves global consensus within the dairy sector on topics related to nutrition, sustainability and food safety and quality. IDF represents the entire dairy sector, including farmers, processors, traders, dairy experts in academia and other research organizations, input providers and (in some IDF member countries) governments.

Key achievements: Built coalition of livestock sector associations and [represented](#) the global livestock sector towards [FAO and WHO](#) at [ICN2](#), which will set worldwide nutrition policies for the next decades. Enhanced IDF's image towards FAO, WHO, CFS and other international organizations, exemplified by IDF's role in ICN2, becoming a member of EFSA's Stakeholder Forum and being invited to participate in the intergovernmental organization panel in the Codex Alimentarius Commission meeting in 2017. Together with IDF President developed and implemented a strategic refresh, including identification of priority work areas nutrition, sustainability, standard setting and food safety and quality. Restructured IDF's staff, budget and accounting system. Increased financial transparency. Successfully divested volatile investments. Edited two volumes of the book series "Achieving sustainable production of milk".

May 2003 – April 2012: Executive Director, [ILSI Europe](#), Brussels, Belgium

End responsible for staff, results and budget of the European branch of the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI), a non-profit organization that enlists a large network of scientists from academia, research organizations, industry and government to jointly address food safety and nutrition topics, producing high quality scientific publications relevant to public health decision-making. Ensured quality and quantity of Institute output, e.g. scientific publications and workshops. Recruited and maintained membership and funding by food and related industry. Obtained additional funding from European Commission for research projects. Represented ILSI Europe with the EC and EFSA, and occasionally ILSI worldwide with e.g. the WHO. Active member of EFSA's Stakeholder Consultative Platform and EFSA's Working Group on Emerging Risks. **Key achievements:** Increased staff from 19 to 24, becoming the largest ILSI entity worldwide. Acquired EC-funded projects with combined budgets of €14m. Improved budgeting process and overhead allocation, speed of working, staff computer skills. Introduced expatriate benefits for non-Belgian scientific staff. Supervised staff from over a dozen different nationalities, coaching several staff members to internal and external promotions. Invited chairman and speaker on food safety and nutrition topics in meetings all over the world. Publicly advocated the involvement of industry-funded organizations in policy making. Demonstrated ability to maintain polite working relationship with adversary organizations. Board member of three EC-funded projects with €12m+ budget each.

April 1998 – April 2003: R&D manager, [DMV International / Campina](#), Nijmegen / Wageningen / Veghel, The Netherlands

Was hired as senior scientist, set up bioactivity assays and laboratory, became head of the laboratory. Subsequently became head of the department Research and Analysis, managing 27 staff. Developed ideas for new bioactive products, supported marketing and business development. Supervised product characterization by biochemical and physical analyses, product development and QC of food and pharmaceutical excipients.

Key achievements: Established cell biology laboratory from scratch. Provided more than 100 ideas for bioactive product/ingredient development. Presented bioactive products and their supporting science in public scientific meetings and during prospect and customer visits. Part of due diligence team that investigated a USA-based company as acquisition target. Participated in the Campina management development programme and in Krauthammer course. Member of the ILSI Europe task force "Nutrition and Genetics" and a genomics advisory panel of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture.

October 1994 – March 1998: Research group leader, [Erasmus University, Dept. Hematology](#), Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Key achievements: Established methods to amplify mutated immunoglobulin genes from B cell lymphomas and use them as tumor markers. Delivered proof of principle by cloning genes and monitoring disease in half a dozen lymphoma patients. Taught post-academic molecular biology and internet courses.

September 1990 – September 1994: Research group leader, [Erasmus University, Dept. Pathology](#), Rotterdam, NL

Key achievements: Established molecular biology group to study colon cancer. Designed a novel gene cloning technique, subtraction by digestion. Cloned over a dozen novel genes, including Drg1/NDRG1 that is now part of a cancer diagnostics kit.

PhD Cell biology (1990) and MSc Biology (1986), University of Utrecht, The Netherlands

Studied growth factor receptor signal transduction, gaining a deep understanding of cell biology.

Key achievements: Introduced label-fracture electron microscopy in the institute. Digitized images and wrote computer software to analyze them. Co-wrote computer software to calculate radioisotope ligand-receptor binding characteristics.

¹ [EFSA](#): European Food Safety Authority; [FAO](#): Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN; [WHO](#): World Health Organization; [Codex](#): Codex Alimentarius; [CFS](#): UN Committee on World Food Security; [OIE](#): World Organisation for Animal Health.