

# Prof. Pieter Dagnelie

Program leader Clinical Epidemiology & Primary Care



Function

Strategic professor of Nutritional Epidemiology

## Biography

Prof. Pieter C. Dagnelie studied human nutrition at Wageningen University and received his PhD in 1988 based on a population-based, mixed-longitudinal cohort study of the nutritional status and growth of children fed macrobiotic diets. Subsequently, he received fellowships from the Dutch Cancer Society (1989) and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (1991) to work on the aetiology of weight loss in cancer patients, using advanced technologies such as magnetic resonance spectroscopy and stable isotope tracers as main research tools.

Pieter's current research interests are in both public health nutrition and clinical nutrition. He has performed and supervised numerous observational studies and randomised clinical trials on the role of nutrition and bioactive compounds in the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases and the improvement of transmural health care. In the problem-based learning system at Maastricht University, Pieter has fulfilled a number of senior roles in the Epidemiology master (Writing a research

protocol, Intervention research, Applied epidemiology and meta-analysis) and has been internship coordinator for this master from 2004-2010. He is former member of the Scientific Committee of Maastricht University Medical Centre and the Medical Ethical Committee of Maastricht University Medical Centre, and currently member of the Management Team (MT) of two large prospective cohort studies: The Maastricht Study and the KOALA Birth Cohort Study. The Maastricht Study, which started in 2010, is a large-scale study on the aetiology and prognosis of diabetes and its comorbidities, including individuals with and without diabetes. Enrolment is still ongoing and all participants undergo 4 half-days of intensive phenotyping. The KOALA Birth Cohort Study was initiated in 2000 and includes over 3000 mothers and their offspring, with main focus on allergic diseases and overweight.

### Ambition

My ambition is to exploit the combined capacities of different research groups participating in the program, in order to optimise quality, design and methodology of human health research, in order to contribute to improving people's nutritional and health status. Especially, I aim to explore new paradigms in the field of health research, lifestyle and nutrition, and to integrate and implement this new knowledge in disease prevention and treatment.