

**Speakers Symposium Future Food Utrecht  
'Food & Health' 9 October 2018**



**Michel Poulain, PhD**

Emeritus Professor University of Lovain, Senior  
Researcher Tallinn University

Michel Poulain was originally skilled in astrophysics at University of Liège (ULg) he received a PhD in demography at Université catholique de Louvain (UCL). As demographer, he is specialized in Longevity studies. Currently emeritus professor at UCL, he is also Senior Researcher at the Estonian Institute for Population Studies at Tallinn University (Estonia). He has been President of the *Société Belge de Démographie* (1984-1990) and later of the *Association Internationale des Démographes de Langue Française* (AIDELF) (1988-2000).

Involved in centenarian's studies since 1992 he is active member of the International Database on Longevity (IDL) and the International Centenarian Consortium (ICC). He validated the age of numerous supercentenarians including Antonio Todde, Johan Riudavets and Emma Moreno, each of them holding the Guinness record of longevity. He also invalidated the age of numerous others including the famous supercentenarians of the Caucasus.

In 2000, he was involved in validation the age of the numerous centenarians in Sardinia in cooperation with Gianni Pes, a Sardinian Medical Doctor. In this framework, he introduced the concept of Blue Zone when identifying an exceptional longevity area in the mountainous part of Sardinia. The original term Blue Zone was related to the blue pen that he used to shape the longevity area on the map of Sardinia. In two Sardinian villages, Villagrande and Seulo, he demonstrated with colleagues an exceptional situation where men live as long as women do, a unique situation in our modern societies. Thereafter in cooperation with Dan Buettner, he identified other Blue Zones in Okinawa, the Nicoya Peninsula (Costa Rica) and Ikaria (Greece).

Michel Poulain, one of the three founders of the Blue Zones, is an international speaker. He delivered more than 100 speeches on exceptional longevity and Blue Zones on the 5 continents. He disseminated the lessons of the Blue Zones to both scientific and general public in a very comprehensive way. The search for new Blue Zones is going on and he is willing communicate his passion for this quest to everybody.



### **Pauline Scheelbeek, PhD**

Assistant Professor in Nutritional and Environmental Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Pauline Scheelbeek is an Assistant Professor in Nutritional and Environmental Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). She works on the interactions between environmental change, agriculture, nutrition and health. Pauline is particularly interested in modelling future food availability under different climate scenarios as well their potential impact on population health. Pauline holds a PhD Global Environmental Epidemiology from Imperial College London. Currently, she leads the Future Diets and Health (FUDAH) project at LSHTM and is the health lead for the Sustainable Healthy Food Systems (SHEFS) project - studying environmental change, food systems & health in the UK, India and South Africa. Pauline is actively involved in public engagement around sustainable and healthy food systems in primary and secondary schools through the Science Technology Engineering & Maths (STEM)-ambassador programme.



### **Maartje Poelman, PhD**

Utrecht University, Faculty of Geosciences

Maartje Poelman works as assistant professor at the department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning of Utrecht University and at [the Global and Geo Health Data Centre](#). Maartje has a background in Nutrition and Dietetics (Bsc) and Health Sciences (Msc, PhD (2014)), with a specialization in Prevention and Public Health.

Maartje is currently involved in various projects as Principal-investigator ( NWO Veni grant "[Geographies of Food Consumption](#)"). Combining insights from both health- and geosciences to untangle the complex relationship between the food environment, food consumption and health) and as Co-Investigator ("[Food in Motion](#)", "[JPI-policy evaluation network](#)", "[SMARTSIZE@work](#)" among others)



### **Arienne de Jong, PhD**

Head of Department Nutrition and Health - National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)

Arienne de Jong obtained her Master's degree in Health Sciences at the Maastricht University in 2001, followed by a PhD in Human Nutrition. In 2006 she got a Marie Curie Fellowship for the University of Milan, Italy to study Intima Media thickness as a cardiovascular risk factor. Then she left the academic world for a contract research organisation (CRO) working in the field of nutrition and health as head of the scientific team, working in both Europe and Asia.

In 2011 she left Italy for China, working for both the Shanghai and Singapore offices as a scientific consultant. In 2015 she came back to the Netherlands to work for Unilever as the head of the Clinical team for Nutrition and Refreshment. As of nov 2017 she was appointed as Head of the Department of Nutrition and Health at the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). The department of Nutrition and Health is engaged in monitoring food composition and the daily food consumption of the Dutch Population to contribute to national and international policies on health and sustainability.



**Marca Wauben, PhD**

Professor Intercellular Communication, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University

Marca Wauben heads the research group Intercellular Communication of the Department of Biochemistry & Cell Biology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Utrecht University. She studied Biology at Utrecht University (PhD 1993). Postdoctoral training was performed at Utrecht University and at the University of California San Diego, USA. She established her own research groups at Leiden University Medical Center (Department of Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion) and at Utrecht University (Department of Biochemistry & Cell Biology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine). In 2011 she became full professor. Her research group investigates the role of cell-derived vesicles (EVs) in intercellular communication in several biological systems with emphasis on the immune system. For (functional) characterization of EVs they developed specialized high resolution flow cytometry-based technology which enables individual EV-based analysis. Marca Wauben is Secretary General of the International Society for Extracellular Vesicles (ISEV) and President of the Netherlands Society for Extracellular vesicles (NLSEV).



**Guido van den Ackerveken, PhD**

Professor Translational Plant & Microbial Biology – Faculty of Science - Utrecht University

Guido's research on plant resistance and disease susceptibility has contributed to the understanding of pathogen recognition of microbes by plants, regulation of the plant immune system, and mechanisms that make plants susceptible to microbial pathogens.

He collaborates with the plant breeding industry to translate his findings to improve crop resilience, so that research will also have societal impact.



**Johanna Fink-Gremmels, PhD**

Professor Emeritus Pharmacology, Pharmacotherapy and Clinical Toxicology at Utrecht University

Johanna Fink-Gremmels qualified as a veterinarian and specialist in veterinary pharmacology and toxicology. For more than 20 years, she was professor and head the Division of Veterinary Pharmacology, Pharmacotherapy and Clinical Toxicology at the Veterinary Faculty of Utrecht University. Her research activities, reflected in more than 350 publications and book chapters, includes diverse aspects of food safety based on the mechanisms of action of veterinary drugs, contaminants and natural toxins (mycotoxins) and resulted in assignments as a member in national and international expert panels on contaminants in the food chain. Recently she created a Science for Food hub, linking recent insights in gut health management and the use of natural food and feed additives to improve disease and stress resilience in livestock with innovations in (food) waste recycling and sustainable agriculture.



**Aletta Kraneveld, PhD**

Professor Interdisciplinary Translational Pharmacology, Faculty of Science and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University

After obtaining her PhD at Utrecht University in 1994 she continued her research at Harvard Medical School (Boston MA, USA, 1994). Being recognized by the Utrecht University as talented female researcher (UU award) Kraneveld was appointed as assistant professor in 1999 and in 2002 as associate professor at Utrecht University. In 2016 Kraneveld was promoted to a joint appointment as Full Professor Interdisciplinary Translational Pharmacology at the faculties of Science and Veterinary Medicine. Kraneveld is involved in the citizen initiative Immunowell (see [www.immunowell.com](http://www.immunowell.com)) that focuses on defining a nation-wide research program on 'Immune Fitness' in a public-private setting with strong patient participation.

Her current research interests involve targeting the interaction between innate and adaptive immunity as well as host-microbiome interactions in chronic (inflammatory) diseases with pharmaceutical and nutritional interventions.