



NEWTRITION

Human Nutrition and Health

MAY 2025



GRANTS - CALL FOR PROPOSALS

EU-HORIZON MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS-Doctoral Network (DN) - MICROSUNSET (Lead institute: Technical University of Denmark, dr Jette Jakobsen). MICROSUNSET aims to create a network of doctoral candidates and future scientists in Europe who will be armed to further develop and help implement strategies for addressing Hidden Hunger in Europe. One PhD candidate will be recruited at WUR under supervision of dr Alida Melse-Boonstra (promotor) and dr Pol Grootswagers (co-promotor) to extend the Alpha tool to include vitamin and mineral bioavailability. Two PhD candidates from the network will be seconded at WUR from Newcastle University (prof. Georg Lietz) for short periods to work with dr Michiel Balvers and Gerben de Gier on carotenomics (LC-MS/MS). Other institutes involved: University College Cork, Ireland; Technical University München, Germany; University of Copenhagen, Denmark; University of Helsinki, Finland.

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NWO-ENW XL competition:

[Open Competitie ENW–XL ronde 2025–2026 | NWO](#)

The XL competition is intended for consortia in which research groups create added value through collaboration (coordinated bundling of expertise and strengths) compared to separate smaller projects, such as ENW-M grants (NWO-OCENWM).

The funding is intended for conducting curiosity-driven fundamental scientific research. The grants give researchers the opportunity and freedom to jointly start, strengthen or expand groundbreaking, challenging and innovative world-class research lines within the research areas of ENW.

A consortium consisting of at least two researchers from different organisations can apply for a grant. A researcher may only be involved in one ENW-XL application per application round (regardless of whether this is in the role of main applicant or co-applicant).

A budget of €49.3 million is available for the 2025-2026 round. The subsidy amounts to a minimum of €1 million and a maximum of €3 million. The maximum duration of the proposed project is six years. The subsidy must be used for at least four scientific positions in combination with the other available budget modules.

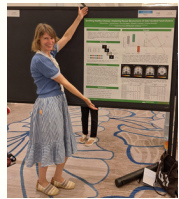
The deadlines for the 2025-2026 round are:

pre-applications: 16 September 2025;

applications: 9 June 2026.

SEMINARS - WORKSHOPS - PRESENTATIONS

- SSEB well represented at the 49th Annual meeting of the British Feeding and Drinking group. **Gerry Jager, Lise Heuven** and **Florian Walter** gave an oral presentation about their research. Posters were presented by **Victoire de Wild, Marlou Lasschuijt, Jiachun Li,** and **Marta Appiani**.
- **Suzanne Abbring** is keynote speaker at the first Dutch Nutritional Immunology Conference, held in Wageningen on April, 24 “Cereal fiber to improve immune function in elderly”. Suzanne Abbring is also one of the organisers of the symposium.
- On April 11th, a group of NuBi researchers attended and presented their research work using intestinal organoids in the third edition of the Organoid NL Symposium (<https://amolf.nl/organoidnl-symposium>): **Josep Rubert, Carmen Ambrosio, Jocelijn Meijerink, Maria Aroutiounova, Susanne Lotstra** and **Fleur Jansen**. They use various innovative intestinal organoid models to study the interplay of nutrients and gut-related metabolites on intestinal biology and function. Posters presented by NuBi: Mass spectrometry imaging reveals the interaction between a gut microbial metabolite and intestinal epithelial cells in an organoid model.
- Final conference NWA project ‘Transition towards a sustainable Dutch food system’ in Driebergen. Pitches and posters on the four manuscripts by HNH/CHL (**Sander Biesbroek, Frederick Duan, Maartje Poelman, Samantha Heerschop**.) Magazine-style output of the project (in Dutch): https://lnkd.in/eAb4_U6n
- AChemS 2025 – the annual conference on chemical senses. SSEB was represented by **Birgit van Dijk** and **Sanne Boesveldt**, at the annual AChemS - Association for Chemoreception Sciences meeting, in Bonita Springs, Florida.
- Op 14 mei 2025 **Ellen Kampman en Sander Biesbroek** op het symposium ter ere van het 40 jarig jubileum van de LWDO voor diëtisten en andere geïnteresseerden. (Dutch only)
- The 3rd National Congress on Sport, Physical Activity and Health – 20 June 2025, Arnhem. This year’s venue is Sportcentrum Valkenhuizen in Arnhem. Registration is now open, coinciding with the launch of this website: National Congres Sport, Physical Activity & Health - Home



PUBLICATIONS

Nutrition and Innovation (AI, new invitro models, technology)

- J Nutr. 2025 Apr 9;S0022-3166(25)00184-1. doi: 10.1016/j.tjnut.2025.04.002. Online ahead of print. Comparison of the Dual Isotope Tracer Approach with Oro-Ileal Balance Method for Determination of Amino Acid Digestibility in Cannulated Pigs. Nikkie van der Wielen 1, Sonja de Vries 2, Nadezda Khodorova 3, Juliane Calvez 3, Ilaria Minussi 2, Walter Gerrits 2, Claire Gaudichon 3, Daniel Tomé 3, Marco Mensink 4 [Comparison of the Dual Isotope Tracer Approach with Oro-Ileal Balance Method for Determination of Amino Acid Digestibility in Cannulated Pigs - The Journal of Nutrition](#)

Dietary patterns

- Stevens CL, Adriaans GMC, Spooren CEGM, Peters V, Pierik MJ, Weersma RK, van Dullemen HM, Festen EAM, Visschedijk MC, Hendrix EMB, Perenboom CWM, Feskens EJM, Dijkstra G, Almeida RJ, Jonkers DMAE, Campmans-Kuijpers MJE. Exploring diet categorizations and their influence on flare prediction in inflammatory bowel disease, using the Sparse Grouped Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator method. Clin Nutr. 2025 Apr;47:212-226. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clnu.2025.02.027>

Nutrition across the life course

- The effect of 12-weeks Nutritional supplementation on Nutritional Intake and Status among Indonesian Older Outpatients with Malnutrition Risk, the Prolansia study: a randomized controlled trial Dewiasty, E., Verlaan, S., Istanti, R., Rahmah, F., Satryo, E., de Groot, L. C. P. G. M. & Setiati, S., Jun 2025, In: Journal of Nutrition, Health and Aging. 29, 6, [100548. 10.1016/j.jnha.2025.100548](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnha.2025.100548)
- Unhealthful plant-based diet associates with frailty risk predominantly in men with low income from the UK Biobank cohort Schorr, K., Rodriguez-Gironde, M., van den Berg, N., de Groot, L. C. P. M. G., Slagboom, P. E. & Beekman, M., Mar 2025, In: Journal of Nutrition, Health and Aging. [29, 3, 100463. 10.1016/j.jnha.2024.100463](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnha.2024.100463)

Food systems, food safety and sustainability.

- Carr, T.W., Zárata-Ortiz, A.G., Reuzé, A. et al. Eating habits and sociodemographic factors impact household dietary greenhouse gas emissions reduction in Great Britain. Commun Earth Environ 6, 312 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-025-02252-x>

Eating behaviour

- Čad, E. M., van der Kruijssen, M., Tang, C. S., Pretorius, L., de Jong, H. B., Mars, M., ... & de Graaf, K. (2025). Three independent measures of sweet taste liking have weak and inconsistent associations with sugar and sweet food intake-insights from the sweet tooth study. Food Quality and Preference, 105536. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodqual.2025.105536>

Clinical nutrition

- Borkent JW, van der Meij BS, de van der Schueren MAE. [Decoding unintentional weight loss: How the right questions make a difference.](#) Clin Nutr. 2025 Apr 10;49:98-101. doi: 10.1016/j.clnu.2025.04.009. Online ahead of print.PMID: 40253812 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40253812/>
- Jensen GL, Cederholm T, Correia MITD, Gonzalez MC, Fukushima R, Pisprasert V, Blaauw R, Braz DC, Carrasco F, Cruz Jentoft AJ, Cuerda C, Evans DC, Fuchs-Tarlovsky V, Gramlich L, Shi HP, Hasse JM, Hiesmayr M, Hiki N, Jager-Wittenaar H, Jahit S, Jáquez A, Keller H, Klek S, Malone A, Mogensen KM, Mori N, Mundi M, Muscaritoli M, Ng D, Nyulasi I, Pirlich M, Schneider S, de van der Schueren M, Siltharm S, Singer P, Steiber A, Tappenden KA, Yu J, van Gossom A, Wang JY, Winkler MF, Compher C, Barazzoni R. [GLIM consensus approach to diagnosis of malnutrition: A 5-year update.](#) JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr. 2025 Apr 14. doi: 10.1002/jpen.2756. Online ahead of print.PMID: 40223699 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40223699/>

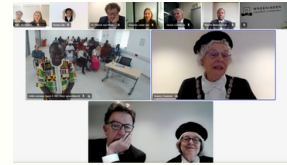
PUBLICATIONS

Nutrition and chronic disease management

- Wanders L, Gijbels A, Hul GB, Feskens EJM, Afman LA, Blaak EE, Hopman MTE, Goossens GH, Thijssen DHJ. Impact of a 12-week personalized dietary intervention on vascular function and cardiovascular risk factors. *Diabetes Obes Metab.* 2025 May;27(5):2601-2612. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dom.16261>
- Urea-to-creatinine ratio as a biomarker for clinical outcome and response to nutritional support in non-critically ill patients : A secondary analysis of a randomized controlled trial Diethelm, Julian ; Wunderle, Carla ; Zanten, Arthur R.H. van; Tribolet, Pascal ; Stanga, Zeno ; Mueller, Beat ; Schuetz, Philipp (2025) *Clinical Nutrition ESPEN* 67 . - p. 242 - 249.
- Targeting Cognitive Resilience through Prebiotics : A Focused Perspective Dalile B, Boyle NB, Ruiz FT, Chakrabarti A, Respondek F, Dodd GF, Kadosh KC, Hepsomali P, Brummer RJ, McArthur S, Dam V, Zanzer YC, Vermeiren Y, Schellekens H. *Adv Nutr.* 2025 Jan;16(1):100343. [doi: 10.1016/j.advnut.2024.100343.](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.advnut.2024.100343)
- Monoaminergic Alterations at the Subregional Cervical and Thoracic Spinal Cord Level of Patients Within the FTD-ALS Continuum and Early-Onset AD: Low Thoracic Dopaminergic Activity in ALS Heylen A, Vermeiren Y, De Deyn PP, Van Dam D. Monoaminergic Alterations at the Subregional Cervical and Thoracic Spinal Cord Level of Patients Within the FTD-ALS Continuum and Early-Onset AD: Low Thoracic Dopaminergic Activity in ALS. *J Neurochem.* 2025 Mar;169(3):e70046. [doi: 10.1111/jnc.70046.](https://doi.org/10.1111/jnc.70046)

HNH (PEOPLE) IN THE MEDIA - NEWS

- **Victoire de Wild** en studenten bestudeerden nauwgezet het eetgedrag van leerlingen van basisschool De Bron in Barneveld. Dat deden zij de afgelopen vier weken in elke groep een keer tijdens een speciaal verzorgde lunch.
- On April 23rd, **Mamadou Bah** successfully defended his PhD thesis entitled "Iron supplementation strategies in Gambian infants". Congratulations to Mamadou, his family and supervisors for a remarkable achievement and successfully PhD defending!
- Launche Video on Youtube: Food Quality and Planetary Health: Application of Foodomics for Sustainable Protein Solutions **Eva Jermendi, Pol Grootswagers, Michiel Balvers, Edith Feskens**, case study from the Food EDU course Foodomics & Society, Module 6: Mapping Food Quality for a Healthy and Sustainable Future <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiNQnFXXar4>;
- **Frederick Duan** and **Sander Biesbroek**, WUR press release: <https://www.wur.nl/en/newsarticle/more-fruit-and-less-processed-meat-help-prevent-thousands-of-disease-cases-by-2050.htm>
- **Sander Biesbroek**: <https://www.rtl.nl/nieuws/binnenland/artikel/5502121/onderzoekers-als-we-gezonder-eten-kunnen-we-jaren-langer-gezond>
- **Sander Biesbroek**, Radio 538 07.45 uur on lower chronic disease burden if the Dutch population would adhere to the Dutch dietary guidelines.
- **Edith Feskens**, Foodparadijs langs de A12: genieten of ongezonde verleiding? Radio NPO1 Dit is de Dag – FoodVillage or Snack Boulevard? [Foodparadijs langs de A12: genieten of ongezonde verleiding? | NPO Radio 1](#)
- **Ellen Kampman**, [Omroep Gelderland](#): WUR-hoogleraar na Frans soja-alarm: 'Geen reden tot ongerustheid'
- **Ellen Kampman**, [Editie NL: Darmkanker bij jongere patiënt](#)



NEW FACES - ROLE CHANGES IN THE DEPARTEMENT

Peipei Zhao – PhD student in Sensory Science & Eating Behaviour (China)

Hi everyone! I'm Peipei, joining Wageningen University this April for my 4-year PhD journey in Sensory Science and Eating Behaviour. I am thrilled to become part of the SSEB group and WUR's vibrant community! I look forward to collaborating with you all and growing as a researcher. When not in the lab, I enjoy cycling, reading, trying new foods (stroopwafels are already a favorite!), and learning sports like swimming. Tips about life in Wageningen are always welcome— Looking forward to meeting you all.



Peipei Zhao

Lili Kokai - Post doc on the Eet wijzer Project

Startdate on the 6th of May, she will introduce herself in the newsletter of May.
Project of Renate Winkels, Desiree Lucassen en Bob Mulder



Lili Kokai

Milena Banic - Post doc Precinut

I recently started as a post-doctoral researcher in the chair group Nutrition, Metabolism and Genomics where I am working on a Targeted PRECision NUTrition (PRECINUT) strategy to prevent chronic metabolic diseases, in close collaboration with Lydia, Anouk, and also Maastricht University. This means we'll be traveling and sending shipments back and forth between us and Maastricht quite regularly. If you're doing something similar, I'd love to hear about it and maybe we can coordinate things!

Many moons ago (or a few, depending on your perspective) I conducted my BSc in Nutrition and Health and my MSc in Molecular Nutrition & toxicology here at WUR. I recognise some faces, but there's also many new people! After completing my studies, I worked as a research assistant on blueberry supplementation in South England for a while, followed by a PhD on omega-3 fatty acids in bonny Scotland. Now I live in Ede, nearby the forest. I am looking forward to my new postdoc position and to meeting you, so hopefully see you soon!



Milena Banic

ANNOUNCEMENTS - HIGHLIGHTS

On Thursday April 17th the PhD committee hid Easter eggs on the first floor of Helix, did you find any?



Team Science

LIV-team Planning and conducting studies with human volunteers can be quite challenging. Are you stuck with Castor, are you not sure how to organize reimbursement of participants, do you need ideas for recruitment etc? Whatever it is, there is always a colleague who can help. Every now and then, we will also discuss methodological issues around the set-up or analysis of nutrition intervention studies.

Join the LIV-team on MS Teams. Go to Teams and click on 'Join or create a team'. There you can type the following code, which will bring you straight to the team: **gft7xlv**

The team meets once every three months in person and has an active MS teams site for exchange of information. More information: **Renate Winkels**

CALENDER - UPCOMING EVENTS - PHD DEFENSE

MAY

22-05 17:00-19:00: PhD Port wine & cheese tasting

28-05 PhD defense Samantha Heerschop

Feasible solutions for sustainable diets with adequate protein intake

JUNE

04-06 Levenslange vitaliteit: van onderzoek naar realiteit, Dagvoorzitter: dr. ir. **Pol Grootswagers**

06 & 07 ILSI: Nutrition for the Ageing Brain symposium, Crete (Greece).

13-06 PhD defense Eva Cad

Sweet Tooth: Nature or Nurture? Assessing the role of dietary sweetness exposure on sweet taste liking

16-06 PhD defense Esthika Dewiasty

Nutritional problems in Indonesian elderly population

19-06 PhD defense Laila Hammer

Bridging Tradition and Innovation: Evaluating Protein Digestibility and Quality of Edible Insects and Soy-based Foods Using In Vitro Assays and a Dual Tracer Method in Humans.

PhD defense Luc Heerkens

Liver and kidney health in cardiovascular patients

19-06 WeDay en Summervibes

20-06 Sports conference Arnhem

26-06 HNH Barbecue

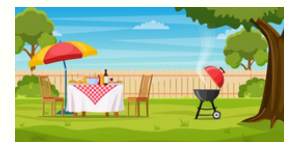
26-06 PhD defense Jacintha Domic

The anabolic properties of a vegan diet later in life

30-06 PhD defense Iris van Damme

Taking dietary guidelines to heart

closure Helix week 27 (June 29-July 4) / conversion power supply



SEPTEMBER

13-16 ESPEN: European Society of Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism, Prague

OCTOBER

09-10 HNH Division Day


10-10 Expression of interest INFOGEST Imaging Working Group Workshop:

<https://forms.office.com/e/kuQuJMwn3x>

NOVEMBER

17 -11 Cursusdag Voeding en Hersenveroudering: Cursusleider: dr. Yannick Vermeiren

May 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5 	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 09:30 coffee Pantry The Bridge between Helix and Impulse	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 09:00 Research MMM 1038 Helix	20	21	22 17:00-19:00: PhD Port wine & cheese tasting	23	24	25
26 09:00 Education MMM 1038 Helix	27	28 10:30 Omnia PhD Defense Samantha Heerschop GN	29 	30	31	