

## Press Release

Wageningen, 27 April 2010

### TIFN names new Programme Director, Sensory & Structure

Top Institute Food and Nutrition (TIFN) announces the appointment of Professor Erik van der Linden as Programme Director Sensory & Structure effective 1 September 2010. He succeeds Dr. Harmen de Jongh who has been Interim Director since December 2009

Professor van der Linden will combine this new appointment at TIFN with his position as Professor of Food Physics and Physical Chemistry of Foods in Wageningen University and Research Centre. He has held this position as Head of the Laboratory of Food Physics in the Agrotechnology and Food Sciences Group in the university since 1998. As well as stimulating research and teaching, he has established a network of research collaboration within the Netherlands and also with food companies worldwide.

Prior to his university appointment, Erik van der Linden worked at the interface of science and industry at Unilever Research in the Netherlands and in the USA. During his time at Unilever Research (1991 to 1997), he led innovation projects directed to gaining insight into structural and sensory aspects of foods and other products.

Erik van der Linden's close affinity with university research and teaching began at Leiden University where he completed his PhD on dielectric and optical properties of micro emulsions. Subsequently, he was awarded a post doc fellowship at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia (USA), where he worked on the stability of oil in water emulsions.

Dr. Jan Maat, TIFN General Manager is very pleased to welcome the new programme director: "Erik van der Linden has an impressive track record of innovative research at prominent universities and first-hand experience in food industry research. This combination of experience is essential in leading and inspiring research of scientific excellence with clear industrial relevance. Erik has been associated with TIFN research for some time and in the coming months will step up his participation in our activities. In September, Erik will take up his position as Programme Director."

TI Food and Nutrition operates as a partnership of research institutes and food companies for research on food and nutrition. The partners are CSM, DSM, FrieslandCampina, Groningen University, University Medical Center Groningen, Unilever, Maastricht University, NIZO food research, NZO, TNO, VION, and Wageningen University and Research Centre. TIFN is co-funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs.

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