



**Willem M. de Vos** (1954) is Professor of Microbiology at Wageningen University and Finland Distinguished Professor at Helsinki University.

Willem M. de Vos (1954) studied Biochemistry (*cum laude*) and received a PhD degree (*cum laude*) at the University of Groningen, was partly done at the Max Planck Institute in Berlin, stayed for a post-doc at the NIRD (now IFR) in the UK, and became research manager at NIZO, the research institute of the Netherlands dairy industry. Here he established a research group on lactic acid bacteria and (at the age of 32) became first Professor of Bacterial Genetics and later Chair of Microbiology at Wageningen University, where he also served as Director of the Department of Biomolecular Sciences. While continuing to chair the Laboratory of Microbiology his

joint NIZO appointment was terminated in 2000 to become Program Director at TI Food and Nutrition, a public-private Technological Top Institute in the Netherlands. In 2007 he stepped down as he was elected Finland Distinguished Professor and he now serves as Professor of Microbiology at Wageningen University and Professor of Molecular Microbiology at Helsinki University.

### **Awards, Output & Research Interests**

Willem M. de Vos received various awards, including FEBS, EMBO and CEC Fellowships, the 2008 Spinoza award, a 2009 ERC Advanced Grant, and the 2010 award for the most entrepreneurial scientist in the Netherlands. Following his election he started in 2011 as Academy Professor by the Finnish Academy of Sciences. Since 2009 he is also member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences and Arts (KNAW). With his collaborators he published over 500 peer-reviewed publications. He is an inventor of over 35 patents or patent applications and has an h-index > 75. His research aims to understand and exploit microbes using molecular, (meta)genomics and systems approaches. His current interest is focused on the human intestinal tract microbiota and its relation with health and disease.