

## Research agenda for dietetics in the Netherlands; building the future

### Authors & Affiliations:

Presenting Author: Wineke Remijnse, delegate, dietitian, policy advisor Dutch Association of Dietitians  
Marieke Plas, nutritionist, researcher and policy officer Dutch Association of Dietitians

### Introduction:

Dietitians are experts in the field of nutrition and behaviour in relation to disease and health. Their interventions are based on evidence from scientific research and tailor-made to personal factors. The results of these interventions are difficult to prove in evidence-based research. Practice-based scientific research is needed to substantiate dietetic interventions. The objective of this research agenda is to provide insight in the knowledge gaps in dietetics in the Netherlands.

### Methods:

At first we did a literature review of systematic reviews in Cochrane Library. We selected 104 reviews, which we summarized based on the authors' conclusions. Second, we send a questionnaire to dietetic researcher's at all academic hospitals, research institutions and universities of applied sciences to make an inventory of ongoing research topics in the Netherlands. Researchers, stakeholders, clients and dietitians were asked for a maximum of three knowledge gaps. In this way, we collected over 250 knowledge gaps. We prioritised and categorised these knowledge gaps in an invitational conference with 30 dietitians and researchers. Research questions were formulated for each category, in a way that they are applicable for many conditions and cover various knowledge gaps.

### Results

The research agenda consists of 21 research questions, subdivided into seven categories: diagnostics, intervention, evaluation, prevention, interprofessional cooperation and substitution, technology and innovation, and knowledge and data infrastructure. The research questions are linked to the knowledge gaps, which are also included in the research agenda. Furthermore, the research agenda provides an overview of the literature results, knowledge gaps and research questions per disorder.

### Conclusion:

This is the first research agenda in dietetics in Europe. A wide range of knowledge gaps emerged from the inventory of dietitians, researchers, stakeholders and clients. It is evident that there is a great need for research in the field of dietetics. The research agenda offers a valuable document for the professional group. It is a good basis to organise the research that supports daily practice. The presentation will be about the development of such a national research agenda by showing the process, results, opportunities and threats and give insight into the next steps we are making to create a research infrastructure for dietetics.