



Prof.dr.ir. Luuk A.M. van der Wielen (Amsterdam, 16-06-1964) is Executive Director of [BRIGHT](#), Novo Nordisk Foundation Biotechnology Research Institute for the Green Transition of Denmark's Technical University and Professor Sustainable Bioeconomic Development, per 1/9/25. BRIGHT will develop and scale innovative biosolutions with specific focus on Sustainable materials, Microbial foods and Microorganisms for net-zero agriculture, to strengthen the green transition and Denmark's and Europe's sustainable bio-economic development. The Novo Nordisk Foundation is supporting the new initiative with DKK 1 billion. Previously, he was Bernal Professor for Biosystems Engineering and Design since February 2017, and [first Director of the Bernal Institute](#) at the University of Limerick, Ireland (2017-2024). The Bernal Institute is a 450 p, €200+m research institute on structured materials characterisation, design and manufacturing, especially focusing on solving grand challenges in Health, Energy and the Environment. He is Distinguished Professor in Biobased Economy (nowadays parttime) at Delft University of Technology, Dept. of Biotechnology (www.bt.tudelft.nl), where he headed the Bioprocess Engineering Section from 1998 until 2017. The activities of the section were ranked as *excellent* by consecutive national research evaluations and have resulted in several spin-off companies¹. His research interests include various engineering topics in biorenewables production systems, and their societal impacts, which has translated into TU Delft's Life Science & Technology and Engineering Doctorate programs. [Google Scholar](#) counts over 350 publications/ patents (June'25; 8637 citations; H-index 47). 46 PhD, 75 Eng. Doctorates & over 100 MSc students have graduated under his supervision.

During 2004-'19, he led B(E)-BASIC, then globally operating private-public research organisation for Biobased Sustainable Industrial Chemistry & Energy, based in The Netherlands with hubs in South East Asia and Brazil and a cumulative budget exceeding 250 M€. BE-BASIC executed R&D, training and innovation programs in industrial and environmental biotechnology, via a consortium of 50 academia and industries. He is nowadays chair of BE-Basic Foundation Board (www.be-basic.org). He was member of foundational team of the multi purpose [Bioprocess Pilot Facility BPF](#) (M€ 80). In 2012, he coordinated the Netherlands' Bioenergy and Biochemicals Innovation plan under the Dutch Topsector Policy (budget exceeding €1bn), and was appointed in the 1st Board of Directors of Foundation TKI-BBE. During 2014-17, he chaired [BioPort Holland](#) (aviation industry and government group) to help shape the Dutch policy and market towards more sustainable aviation.

He is Fellow of the [Irish Academy of Engineering](#) and is/was member/chair of (inter)national and European boards: [Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce](#) (IRL) launched by [Irish Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers](#), Irish SAF Taskforce of Dept of Transport, [Platform Bio-Economie](#) (NL), ESBES Board ([European Society for Biochemical Engineering Science](#)), [Expert Advisory Group](#) of the [National Bioeconomy Forum](#) (Ireland), Governing Board of [IBioIC](#) (Scotland/UK Industrial Biotech Innovation Center), [UCIBIO](#) – (P) research in Health, Wellbeing, Bioeconomy, AgroPolo (agro/forestry re-industrialisation board Sao Paulo, BR), Supervisory Board of Dutch Separation Technology Institute, of NL Platform Renewable Feedstocks, Sustainable Energy Cie of the Royal NL Academy of Sciences (KNAW), Steering Group of the EU Technology Platform Suschem/ Industrial Biotechnology, Steering Committee BBE (Min Econ. Affairs) and BioPort of Rotterdam, Taskforce Bioenergy Systems (EU Fed. for Biotechnology), Advisory Boards of [BioBic](#) (Ireland) [SENAI-CETIQT](#) (Brazil), [BIOKET](#) (France), US-EU Taskforce on Biotechnology Research, KP Sinha Bioenergy Center (IIT Kharagpur, India), of [CLIB2021](#) (Germany). Advisor to European/internat. industries. Boards of Commissioners of Dutch Greentech Fund, SHIFT Invest, Bioprocess Pilot Facility BV. In 2007, he joined (part-time) Royal Dutch Shell as Principal Scientist Biotechnology. He is co-leading [SCI Sustainability](#), an industry wide sustainable development initiative and journal of [SCI](#) from nov'24.

He was Visiting Professor at the Univ. San Carlos, Philippines until 2008; and 2009-'13 at Univ. of Technology Malaysia. Luuk holds a MSc degree in Chemical Engineering from Twente University (Netherlands), and a PhD degree (with honours) from Delft University of Technology. Luuk van der Wielen is/was member of editorial, advisory and organisational boards of several leading scientific journals and conferences. He is one of the initiators of the successful academic program on [Life Science & Technology](#) of Leiden University and TU Delft, director (1997-2017) & Chair (2017-onwards) of postgraduate program [Engineering Doctorate \(PDEng\) Bioprocess Design](#). Luuk van der Wielen is married, has 3 children, and active & passive interest in jazz ([2010](#), [2011](#), [2018](#), [2024](#)).

¹ such as Delft Advanced Biorenewables <https://dab.bio/> and others