

# DSM Press Release

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DSM, Corporate Communications,  
P.O. Box 6500, 6401 JH Heerlen, The Netherlands  
Telephone (31) 45 5782421, Telefax (31) 45 5740680  
Internet: [www.dsm.com](http://www.dsm.com)  
E-mail : [media.relations@dsm.com](mailto:media.relations@dsm.com)



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## **DSM Nutrition Award 2009 presented to Michael Holick and Heike Bischoff-Ferrari**

**Royal DSM N.V., the global Life Sciences and Materials Sciences company headquartered in the Netherlands, announces today that the DSM Nutrition Award 2009 for research on Human Nutrition has been granted jointly to Professor Michael F. Holick of Boston University, USA, and Professor Heike A. Bischoff-Ferrari of the University of Zurich, Switzerland, in recognition of their seminal contributions to research on vitamin D and its role in human nutrition and health.**

An international judging committee, chaired by Dr. Manfred Eggersdorfer, Senior Vice President Research & Development, DSM Nutritional Products, selected Professor Holick and Professor Bischoff-Ferrari from among several candidates shortlisted by an international pre-selection committee. The award – which carries a cash prize of EUR 50,000 that the two winners will share – was presented by Dr. Eggersdorfer and Mr. Mauricio Adade, President Human Nutrition & Health, DSM Nutritional Products, at the International Congress of Nutrition 2009 in Bangkok (Thailand) on 6 October.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Adade said: *‘Our Innovation Awards Program forms part of our interaction with the academic world. We consider this interaction to be very important, as it is an essential component of our “open innovation” approach. As a science-based company and leading producer of vitamins and other nutritional ingredients, we are convinced that science and technology will always play a crucial role in providing innovative solutions to the many challenges confronting mankind. We are very pleased to honor here today two of the world’s most outstanding scientists working in the field of human nutrition.’*

Speaking on behalf of the judging committee, Dr. Eggersdorfer said: *‘Over the past decade the understanding of vitamin D has extended beyond its well established effects on bone metabolism to encompass vitamin D needs in the prevention of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome, immunological disorders and certain forms of cancer. The award winners have made major contributions to our understanding of the role of nutrition in human health.’*

### **Pioneers in vitamin D research**

Michael F. Holick is renowned worldwide for his lifetime contribution to the basic understanding of the formation of vitamin D in the skin, the regulation of vitamin D absorption in the gut, and the metabolism and activation of vitamin D by liver and kidney. He also established the evidence that most human populations have a limited capacity to form vitamin D by sun exposure, thus resulting in a critical need for an adequate supply of vitamin D by diet and dietary supplements. Michael F. Holick is Professor of Molecular Medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine, Boston USA.

Heike A. Bischoff-Ferrari is recognized for her significant contributions on the effects of vitamin D in the field of population health and her demonstration of a widespread vitamin D deficiency, particularly in the elderly. Already at this early stage of her career she has demonstrated the critical role of vitamin D in assuring muscle strength and bone health to prevent falls and fractures, thus redefining the vitamin D and calcium requirements of this growing segment of the population.

Heike A. Bischoff-Ferrari has received a professorship from the Swiss National Science Foundation and is director of the Centre on Aging and Mobility at the Department of Rheumatology and the Institute of Physical Medicine, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

### **The award**

The DSM Nutrition Award forms part of DSM's Innovation Awards Program. It is granted every two years and alternates between the fields of human and animal nutrition. The DSM Nutrition Award for Human Nutrition is granted in recognition of excellence in innovative research related to essential nutrients as well as to other naturally occurring bioactive compounds in the field of human nutrition. This can be research of a fundamental nature as well as applied research providing solutions to important research questions in the field of human nutrition.

### **About DSM Nutritional Products**

DSM Nutritional Products is the world's leading supplier of vitamins, carotenoids and other fine chemicals to the feed, food, pharmaceutical and personal care industries. The business has sales of over EUR 2 billion and a long tradition as a pioneer in the discovery of new products, new formulations and attractive applications for all industry segments. More information at [www.dsmnutritionalproducts.com](http://www.dsmnutritionalproducts.com)

### **About DSM – the Life Sciences and Materials Sciences Company**

Royal DSM N.V. creates innovative products and services in Life Sciences and Materials Sciences that contribute to quality of life. DSM's products and services are used globally in a wide range of markets and applications, supporting a healthier, more sustainable and more enjoyable way of life. End markets include human and animal nutrition and health, personal care, pharmaceuticals, automotive, coatings and paint, electrical and electronics, life protection and housing. DSM has annual net sales of EUR 9.3 billion and employs some 23,500 people worldwide. The company is headquartered in the Netherlands, with locations on five continents. DSM is listed on Euronext Amsterdam. More information: [www.dsm.com](http://www.dsm.com)

### **For further information about the Award:**

DSM Innovation Center  
Vikas Sonak  
Communications Manager  
Innovation Awards Program  
tel. +31 (0) 46 4763771  
e-mail [vikas.sonak@dsm.com](mailto:vikas.sonak@dsm.com)  
Internet: [www.innovationawards.dsm.com](http://www.innovationawards.dsm.com)

DSM Corporate Communications  
Elvira Luykx  
tel. +31 (0) 45 57822421  
fax +31 (0) 45 5740680  
e-mail [media.relations@dsm.com](mailto:media.relations@dsm.com)

DSM Nutritional Products  
Charlotte Frederiksen  
External Communications Manager  
Tel: +41 (0)61 815 83 54  
Fax: +41 (0)61 815 88 90  
E-mail: [charlotte.frederiksen@dsm.com](mailto:charlotte.frederiksen@dsm.com)