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Joost Holthuis is a lipid cell biologist. He studied biology at Utrecht University (NL) and at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester (USA). In 1996 he graduated with honors on the mechanism of neuroendocrine secretion at the Radboud University Nijmegen. Following postdoctoral studies on syntaxins with Hugh Pelham at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge (UK), he returned to the NL to start his own group at the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam. In 2001 his group moved to the Bijvoet Center and Institute of Biomembranes at Utrecht University, where he worked as associate professor and organized the first Bijvoet Summer School “*Exploring Nature’s Molecular Machines*”. In 2012 he was appointed as professor of Molecular Cell Biology at the University of Osnabrück (DE). Research in his group focuses on membrane lipid metabolism, transport and homeostasis; the underlying protein machinery of lipid converters, sensors and flippases; and how this machinery participates in key cellular and pathological processes. He has been a Marie Curie Fellow (1997-1998), Royal Academy Fellow (1998-2002), NWO-CW VIDI grant holder (2003-2007) and High Potential of Utrecht University (2004-2009). He is the scientific coordinator of SPHINGONET, a Marie Curie-funded Research & Training Network focusing on the mechanisms of sphingolipid homeostasis using chemical and systems biology approaches (2012-2016).