Jens Nielsen

Jens Nielsen has an MSc degree in Chemical Engineering and a PhD degree (1989) in Biochemical Engineering from the Danish Technical University (DTU), and after that established his independent research group and was appointed full Professor there in 1998. He was Fulbright visiting professor at MIT in 1995-1996. At DTU he founded and directed Center for Microbial Biotechnology. In 2008 he was recruited as Professor and Director to Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, where he is directing a research group of more than 50 people. At Chalmers he established the Area of Advance Life Science Engineering, a cross departmental strategic research initiative and was founding Head of the Department of Biology and Biological Engineering, which now encompass more than 200 people. Jens Nielsen is also a co-founder of the Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Biosustainability that now have more than 300 people affiliated, for which he served as Chief Science Officer in the period 2013-2018. In 2019 Jens Nielsen was appointed as CEO of the BioInnovation Institute in Denmark, which is a new institute that will foster translational research and support new spin-out companies in life sciences. Jens Nielsen has supervised more than 100 PhD students and more than 75 post doctoral researchers. He has published so far more than 700 papers that have been cited more than 65,000 times (current H-factor 118), and co-authored more than 40 books. He was identified as a highly cited researcher in 2015-2018. He is inventor of more than 50 patents and he has founded several biotech companies. He has received numerous Danish and international awards including the Nature Mentor Award, the ENI Award, the Eric and Sheila Samson Prime Minister Prize, the Novozymes Prize, and the Gold Medal from the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences. He is member of several academies, including the National Academy of Engineering and National Academy of Science in USA, the Royal Swedish Academy of Science, the Royal Danish Academy of Science and Letters, the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences and the American Academy of Microbiology. He is a founding president of the International Metabolic Engineering Society.