Dr. Sander Kersten is the director of the Division of Nutritional Sciences and the Schleifer Family Professor at Cornell University, USA. Dr. Kersten received his MSc degree in Human Nutrition from Wageningen University in 1993, and his Ph.D. degree in Nutritional Biochemistry from Cornell University in 1997. Research in his group aims to elucidate the molecular mechanisms that underlie the regulation of lipid metabolism in the liver and adipose tissue during fasting. He is convinced that a detailed understanding of how humans respond to fasting will create openings for designing effective preventive and therapeutic strategies for overnutrition and its pathological sequelae.

Dr. Kersten’s main scientific achievements are elucidating two important molecular mechanisms that determine how the liver and adipose tissue process lipids during fasting. He has received well over 25 research grants from national and international funding bodies and has participated in numerous national and international research consortia.

Dr. Kersten has pioneered online education in nutrition and was the first in Europe to launch a massive open online course in nutrition. The course was classified as one of the 250 most popular online courses of all-time.