**Biosketch Eric Ronken**

Dr Eric Ronken (1963) has studied biology and biochemistry at Nijmegen university, the Netherlands. He received his PhD from Utrecht university on the target identification and evaluation of the mechanism of action of certain neuropeptides after which he spent his postdoc period at the department of pharmacology in Amsterdam. In 1993 he joined Solvay Pharmaceuticals as cell biologist and pharmacologist to its CNS programs. This allowed for the development of high throughput screening and the department of Target Biology for the global Solvay pharma organization. Eric initiated a number of public-funded research collaborations such as dutch Technology Subsidies for neurological diseases, Marie Curie fellowships on traumatic brain injury and multiple sclerosis and was the industrial quarter master for Top Institute Pharma in the Netherlands on translational model systems.

To further improve Solvay’s ambition for innovative drug treatment, Eric joined the new scouting group in 2008 which continued at Abbott labs after it acquired Solvay pharmaceuticals. In 2011 Eric joined the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) for the commercial development of the Spinoza Centre for Neuroimaging and to set up a Technology Transfer Office. Today Eric is developing business proposals for sustainable technologies and innovative Life science companies. In 2016, he joined GeneCode to further strengthen its drug development.

Eric has contributed to 40 scientific publications and book chapters, co-founded the Neurology franchise at Solvay, is co-author of more than 25 patents and is co-recipient of the Doerenkampf-Zbinden prize for the development of alternative animal models in pharmacology.