



Barend Mons (born The Hague, The Netherlands in 1957, MsC 1981 (*Cum Laude*), PhD. 1986 at [Leiden University](#), in The Netherlands) is a molecular biologist who turned to [bioinformatics](#) in 2000 after a decade of research on the genetic differentiation of [malaria parasites](#), and some years of science management at the [Research Directorate of the European Commission](#) and the [Netherlands Organisation of Scientific Research](#).

He is the initiator of [WikiProfessional](#) and an inventor of the [Knowlet](#) technology. In 2008 he was one of the driving forces behind the [Concept Web Alliance](#), in close collaboration with (a.o.), [Jan Velterop](#), [Mark Musen](#) and [Amos Bairoch](#), In 2000 he founded [Collexis](#) and in 2005, he co-founded [Knewco, Inc.](#) The CWA resulted in the definition of ‘nanopublications’, an entirely new way of publishing data and information in a semantic web compliant, computer reasonable format. (6)

Since 2002 he has been Associate Professor in [Biosemantics](#) at the [Department of Medical Informatics, Erasmus Medical Centre, University of Rotterdam](#) and (since 2005) at the [Department of Human Genetics](#) at the [Leiden University Medical Centre](#), both in [The Netherlands](#). His present research focuses on ‘*in silico* knowledge discovery’ in an Open Innovation e-science environment through computer reasoning.

As of 2010 He is a [Scientific Director](#) of the [Netherlands Bioinformatics Centre \(NBIC\)](#), whilst retaining his academic affiliations with [Leiden University Medical Centre](#) and [Erasmus Medical Center](#).

Famous Quote: *Text mining?.....Why bury it first and then mine it again?*ⁱ

Selected references related to the concept web:

1. [Which gene did you mean?](#)
2. [Text mining for biology - the way forward: opinions from leading scientists.](#)
3. [Calling on a million minds for community annotation in WikiProteins](#)
4. [Novel Protein-Protein Interactions Inferred from Literature Context](#)
6. [The Value of data](#)

Selected press about activities spearheaded by Barend Mons

- Malaria meeting charts rocky path ahead, [Declan Butler, Nature, 388, 1997](#)
- SHARED Scientific Knowledge for the Developing World, [Science magazine careers, 2002](#)
- Key biology databases go wiki, Jim Giles, [Nature, 445, 2007](#)
- The semantic web as a driver for change: in [The impact of electronic publishing](#), D.J. Brown, R. Bolderstone (2008)
- WikiProteins Brings Scientific Collaboration to the WikiSphere, Michael Lopresti, [Business Library, 2008](#)
- Literature mining: Speed reading, Cori Lok, Nature News , [Nature 463, 2010](#)
- Crowdsourcing human mutations, [Editorial, Nature Genetics, 43, 2011](#)

ⁱ <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2105/6/142>