

M Luisa Mearin, Leiden University Medical Centre, the Netherlands

M Luisa Mearin (MD, PhD) is presently Associate Professor of Paediatrics at the Leiden University Medical Centre and leads the Unit of Paediatric Gastroenterology of the LUMC and VUmc. She has over 20 years experience in the diagnosis and treatment of children with CD. She has directed clinical and epidemiological studies in CD, both in the general children population and in populations at risk, resulting in three Ph.D. at the University of Leiden. She has been involved in a number of international collaborations with scientists both within Europe and other countries and has co-ordinated the EU funded project on CD and cancer performed in 10 European countries (Biomed 2 Programme 1996; BMH4-CT98-3091; DG 12-SSMI). She is a member of the European Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN) and of the Medical Advice Committee of the Dutch Celiac Patient Association (chair lady 1998-2002).

As co-ordinator of the CDEUSSA project she will contribute with her leading experience in other European research projects. Furthermore she participates in the Dutch Coeliac Disease Consortium (CDC). The mission of the CDC is to develop the scientific bases for safer foods and for effective diagnosis, prevention and therapy of CD. The CDC brings together the leaders from industry, the Dutch patient community and Dutch knowledge-based institutions. In addition, the CDC will strengthen already existing ties with various genomics platforms supported by the *National Genomics Initiative*, i.e. the Centre for Medical Systems Biology (LUMC), the Centre for Bio Systems Genomics (WUR), a planned Netherlands Proteomics Centre and a planned Netherlands Bioinformatics Centre. The CDC supports the effort proposed by CDEUSSA, and is willing to collaborate in it.