

**Jens Erik Nielsen**

Senior Vice President
Enzyme, Protein and Strain Engineering
Research
Novonesis R&D

Career:

- Postdocs, EMBL Heidelberg and UC San Diego 2000-2003
- Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, University College Dublin, Ireland 2003-2011
- Novozymes positions:
 - Senior Manager, Protein Design, 2011
 - Senior Manager, HTS & Design, 2015
 - Director, HTS & Design, 2016
 - Director, Protein Engineering, 2017
 - Director, Protein Engineering & SDMA, 2019 – 2020
 - Vice President, Enzyme Research 2020 – 2024
- Sen. Vice President, Enzyme, Protein and Strain Eng. Research, Novonesis. Jan 2024 - present
- 50+ refereed journal publications (14000+ citations), H-index of 35, 15+ patents.

Formal education:

- MSc Biochemistry, University of Copenhagen, 1997
- PhD Structural computational biology, EMBL Heidelberg/Uni Marburg, 2000

Google scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=CvQ4t90AAAAJ&hl=en>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jenseriknielsen/>

Jens Erik Nielsen is the Senior Vice President of Enzyme, Protein and Strain Engineering Research at Novonesis A/S. He holds a PhD from the EMBL/Philipps-Universität Marburg in computational biology. He post-doc'ed at the EMBL and at UCSD before taking up a Sen. Lecturer position at University College Dublin and studying protein electrostatics and enzyme catalysis. Since 2011 he has working at Novozymes in various positions before taking on the responsibility for basic enzyme discovery, engineering and production strain construction in 2020. After the merger with Chr. Hansen in 2024, Jens is a Senior Vice President responsible for Enzyme, Protein and Strain Engineering Research at Novonesis A/S. Jens enjoys understanding the biophysical principles that limit enzyme performance in application and in the methods we have available for engineering and formulating enzymes and proteins to overcome these limitations. Lately he has become particularly interested in how we make biological solutions robust enough and cheap enough to be widely adopted in society and thus contribute more to a sustainable planet. The engineering of enzymes to be stable under extreme conditions and the contextualization of biology in industrial are main contributions in his recent work at Novozymes and Novonesis.