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Dr. Grootenhuis is Senior Director Chemistry at Vertex in San Diego. Prior to joining Vertex in 2002, Grootenhuis worked at CombiChem-DuPont in San Diego (1998-2002), and at Organon in the Netherlands (1989-1998). At Vertex, Grootenhuis has been working on cystic fibrosis and sodium channel blockers for the treatment of pain. He was project-leader and is co-inventor of several CFTR modulators including ivacaftor (FDA approved 2012), lumacaftor (phase 3), and VX-661 (phase 2).

Grootenhuis received MSc and PhD degrees in chemistry at the Universities of Utrecht and Twente in the Netherlands. Subsequently, he performed post-doctoral studies in computational chemistry at UC San Francisco (1987-1989) under supervision of Prof. Peter Kollman, followed in 1991 by a short sabbatical with Prof. Martin Karplus at Harvard University. Currently he holds a part-time professorship chair in Virtual Screening and Design at the Free University at Amsterdam.

Grootenhuis has published over 100 peer reviewed papers and is inventor of 62 patents. He received several scientific awards, most recently the 2013 ACS Heroes of Chemistry award for his contributions to the discovery of ivacaftor.