

Since 2003, Dave Blank leads an expanding research group, consisting nowadays of 20 PhD candidates, 5 postdoctoral researchers and 3 scientific staff members.

During the course of his scientific career, Blank has evolved also as a successful initiator and leader of scholarly activities. In 2007, he was hired to the position of scientific director of MESA+ Institute for Nanotechnology, one of the worldwide leading institutions of nanotechnology. Now he is chief scientific ambassador of the University of Twente.

He was invited by the Dutch Government to contribute to the strategic research agenda (2008), which maps out the future of the Netherlands Nano Initiative. The strategic agenda was the basis for the successor of NanoNed, called NanoNextNL of which he is now the chairman of the executive board. The national programme has a budget of 250 million Euros with over 130 different contributing parties, among them 110 corporate enterprises.

The Minister of Economic Affairs has invited him to become “captain of science” of his High-Tech top team. The top team has the governing authority to give advice on expenditures of the national budget for knowledge and innovations projects and programmes. He now leads the activities to establish the national roadmap on nanotechnology for the next decade and beyond.