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Ahaus was previously Professor of Healthcare Management at the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Groningen (2004-2019). During this appointment he was also director of the research centre Healthwise, coordinator of the Supply Chain Management Master program and founding director of the MSc BA Health program in Groningen.

His research interests are Value Based Health Care, Integrated Care, Healthcare Purchasing, and Quality Improvement. His work has been published in academic journals both in the Service Operations Management field *and the Healthcare Management field. His work shows a variety of research methods. He successfully supervised 12 PhD students and supervises currently another 12 PhD students. Two of his PhD students won the European Karolinska Medical Management Center/EHMA research award. He is academic editor of PLoS ONE, associate editor of BMC Health Services Research, member of Editorial Review Board of International Journal of Operations & Production Management and editor-in-chief of KiZ, Dutch Journal for Quality and Patient Safety in Health Care.*

He developed in collaboration with prof. Martine de Bruijne (Amsterdam UMC) the blended Advanced Training Program Value-based Health Care for the NFU, the Netherlands Federation of University Medical Centres. Ahaus chairs the Right Care in the Right Place knowledge platform of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. In 2019 he received the NNK-award for outstanding achievements in Quality Management.