



Regenerative Hepatology

Board Report 2023: Foundation (Stichting) Regenerative Hepatology

The Foundation Regenerative Hepatology is registered with the Chamber of Commerce under number 80698247.

Registered address: Luwte 6 | 3454TL de Meern.

The Board Report is available for viewing on the website <https://regenerativehepatology.com/> and at the association's office.

Date: 31-12-2023

Chairman:

Bart Spee

Secretary:

Pedro Baptista

Treasurer:

Louis C. Penning

Contents

Introduction.....	3
1. Financial Overview.....	3
2. Board and Management.....	3
3. Website	4
4. Research and Scientific Collaboration.....	5
5. Challenges and Opportunities	5
6. Future Outlook.....	6
7. Collaborations with Other Organizations	6
8. Explanation of Financial Figures 2023	6
Conclusion	7

Introduction

In 2023, Foundation Regenerative Hepatology has continued its mission to support and advance research and innovation in regenerative medicine, particularly in hepatology. Our foundation is aligned with the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) and is committed to addressing the critical shortage of donor organs through scientific advancement. The year 2023 is most recognizable as the second year that we organized a successful symposium that brought together regenerative hepatology scientists to advance our partners' knowledge and increase the implementation of new technologies to aid patients with liver disease. The Second Symposium of Regenerative Hepatology, held in Vienna, Austria, on 20-06-2023, was attended by our board, steering committee and 47 scientist (registrations) from all over Europe. Moreover, we attracted keynote speakers for the symposium, including Saskia van Mil, Delilah Hendriks, and Lars Zender.

1. Financial Overview

The foundation's financial performance for 2023 was steady, with donations from the private partners supporting the yearly conferences and the conference fee (50 euro) covering most of the costs. We have actively engaged with donors and collaborated with partner organizations like the EASL International Liver Foundation (EILF) to secure funding for future fellowships and research projects.

- Income: The total income for 2023 was derived from donations, most notably from IIS ARAGON, MDPI journal Organoids and Cancer, and CELLAION SA.
- Expenses: The key expense areas were operational costs associated with the foundation, reimbursements of speakers for the Second Symposium of Regenerative Hepatology, held in Vienna, Austria, 20-06-2023, and the conference costs at the Universitatsklinikum AKH Wien.
- Grants and Fellowships: The foundation did not award Albert Geerts fellowships this year. Typically, a fellowship is valued at €40,000.00, covering salary and travel expenses, for which insufficient funding was received this year.

2. Board and Management

An experienced team of professionals from the scientific and medical fields leads the foundation. All board members and steering committee work on a voluntary basis, ensuring that the foundation's resources are used as effectively as possible for research purposes.

- Chairman: Bart Spee
- Secretary: Pedro Baptista
- Treasurer: Louis C. Penning

The board meets regularly to discuss the progress of ongoing research projects, funding efforts, and organizational matters. In 2023, the board (not always complete) convened 4 times.

Steering committee:

- Professor Tobias Cantz
- Professor Frédéric Lemaigre
- Professor Etienne Sokal
- Professor Ludovic Vallier
- Professor Krista Rombouts

Members:

- Dr Giuseppe Mazza
- Professor Paolo De Coppi
- Professor Marc Lowdell
- Dr Fotis Sampaziotis
- Dr Andrea Banfi
- Professor Stuart Forbes
- Professor Mario Strazzabosco
- Dr. Gareth Sullivan
- Jean-Charles Duclos-Vallée

Honorary members:

- Professor Massimo Pinzani

Members can apply via the website <https://regenerativehepatology.com/our-members/>. The board members are appointed for a term of three years. Reappointment is possible for a maximum of two additional three-year terms.

3. Website

The website <https://regenerativehepatology.com/> was maintained by the EASL International Liver Foundation (EILF) and the company Soto. No costs were administered to the foundation. Management of the website will need to be changed to the foundation in 2024. The website Regenerative Hepatology represents the EASL Consortium for Regenerative Hepatology well and describes its focus on addressing the shortage of donor livers through advancements in bioengineering. The site also highlights the consortium's mission to create bioengineered liver tissues and bile ducts. It details their research strategy, fellowships (such as the Albert Geerts Fellowship), and upcoming symposiums. The goal is to develop transplantable liver tissues for clinical use. It also provides information on funding, research projects, and the managing board.

4. Research and Scientific Collaboration

In 2023, the foundation played a crucial role in advancing regenerative hepatology, specifically focusing on liver disease. Through collaboration with European research groups, we supported efforts in stem cell technology and biotechnology to develop artificial organs.

The following milestones were achieved:

- Research symposium, the foundation organized the Second Symposium of Regenerative Hepatology, held in Vienna, Austria, 20-06-2023. With an attendance of 47 scientist from the field of Regenerative Hepatology.



Figure 1. Picture of the symposium at the Universitätsklinikum AKH Wien with (part of the) attendance of the symposium. Vienna, Austria, 20-06-2023.

5. Challenges and Opportunities

One of the key challenges faced in 2023 was securing adequate funding for the growing scope of the foundation's projects. However, the registration and sponsorship of the symposium covered all expenses. The exposure and network, preferably by memberships, will have to continue to grow over the next couple of years.

6. Future Outlook

Looking ahead to 2024, the foundation plans to:

- Award the Albert Geerts fellowship program to a new bright spark in the field.
- Increase engagement with international donors and foundations, including private partners, to secure long-term funding for research projects.
- Continue our collaboration with key stakeholders in the field of regenerative hepatology.
- Organize the Third International Symposium of Regenerative Hepatology, the day before the EASL conference in Milan, Italy.

7. Collaborations with Other Organizations

National

Dutch patient organizations: Although there are no active concrete project patient organizations, the NLV (Dutch Liver Patients Association) does collaborate structurally with our foundation members. In any case, relevant information is exchanged between them.

International

The foundation works closely with the EASL International Liver Foundation (EILF), a global non-profit organization focused on advancing liver health and reducing the worldwide burden of liver disease. It works alongside the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) to promote education, advocacy, and research. EILF funds innovative projects, offers fellowships, and builds partnerships to support liver disease awareness, prevention, and treatment. Its initiatives aim to improve care standards and influence public health policies related to liver disease.

8. Explanation of Financial Figures 2023

General

The year 2023 closed with a deficit of € 1,624.32. We will use the reserve from 2022 to cover the deficit. After deduction, we have a positive bank balance of € 1.725,39. The membership continues to grow, and sponsoring has increased due to increased interest. In addition, the registration fee of 50 euros covered most of the costs associated with the symposium but, importantly, not all of the expenses. Donations and other gifts have not been achieved.

Balance Sheet

Assets: Fixed assets are not relevant to the foundation. The bulk of liquid assets consists of the balances in the ING bank account.

Liabilities: Reserve decreased due to the high reimbursements costs, probably due to the (relatively) high costs of hotels in the Vienna area. We will increase the registration fee to € 75.00 to cover the foundation's expenses in the next year. There is a willingness to pay a higher amount.

Balance in 2023

- Costs bank account: €216,18
- Reimbursement speakers: €4,287,73
- Sponsoring: € 3,350.00
- Poster prize: € 150.00
- Registration: € 1,450.00
- Conference costs: € 1,869.41
- Corrections (costs): € 51.00

Income and Expenses Statement

Income: Sponsorship revenues and registrations covered most expenses.

Expenses: Maintenance costs include bank account. The IT costs, including website licenses and domain renewals, are still covered by EASL International Liver Foundation (EILF) till mid-2024.

Result

The negative operating result is mainly due to higher-than-expected reimbursement costs. The board proposes to use the reserve to cover the excess costs. In addition, the registration fee for the symposium will be increased to €75.00 to cover additional expenses.

Conclusion

The year 2023 has been one of growth and progress for Foundation Regenerative Hepatology. We are proud of our accomplishments and optimistic about the future as we continue contributing to life-saving research and innovation in regenerative medicine.