



Regenerative Hepatology

Board Report 2025: 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: 31-12-2025

Chairman:

Bart Spee

Secretary:

Pedro Baptista

Treasurer:

Louis C. Penning

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Introduction

In 2025, Foundation Regenerative Hepatology continued its mission to support and advance research and innovation in regenerative medicine, particularly in hepatology. The foundation remains 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 2025 marked the fourth year of successfully organizing a scientific symposium bringing together experts in regenerative hepatology. The Fourth International Symposium of Regenerative Hepatology, held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on 6-05-2025, brought together the board, steering committee, and an international group of scientists. The symposium further strengthened collaborations and facilitated knowledge exchange to accelerate the implementation of innovative technologies for liver disease.

1. Financial Overview

The foundation's financial performance for 2025 remained stable, supported by sponsorships and registration fees for the symposium. Continued engagement with partners, including EASL, contributed to strengthening the financial basis for future activities.

- Income: The total income for 2025 was derived from sponsorships and registrations, most notably the sponsorships from IIS ARAGON, FUNDACION AGENCIA ARAGONESA, MDPI, and DEMCON ORGONEX BV.

- Expenses: The key expense areas were operational costs associated with the foundation, and venue costs for the Fourth International Symposium of Regenerative Hepatology, held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on 6-05-2025, at the Muziekgebouw.

- 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 2024, 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.

In 2026, the foundation bids farewell to its Treasurer, Louis C. Penning, who has served the board with great dedication and care. The board would like to sincerely thank Louis for his valuable contributions, particularly his commitment to maintaining financial oversight and supporting the foundation's activities over the past years.

We are pleased to welcome Lisa van Uden as the new Treasurer. We look forward to working with her and are confident that her expertise will further strengthen the foundation's financial management.

3. Website

The website <https://regenerativehepatology.com/> was maintained by our new website host HANDIGE HARRYS (<https://handigeharrys.nl/>) from June 2024 onwards, which supplies website services to small companies and foundations. This partnership is going well. 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. The new host will update the website regularly and will ensure the proper visibility of the board reports on the website, as required for the ANBI status.

4. Research and Scientific Collaboration

In 2025, the foundation continued to play a key role in advancing regenerative hepatology, with a focus on liver disease and translational applications. Through collaboration with European research groups, efforts in stem cell technology and bioengineering were further supported.

The following milestone was achieved:

- Research symposium: the foundation organized the Fourth International Symposium of Regenerative Hepatology, held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on 06-05-2025, with participation from international experts in the field.



Figure 1. Picture of the symposium at the Muziekgebouw aan het IJ with (part of the) attendance of the symposium (left). Poster winner Romane Schils and chair Pedro Baptista. Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 06-05-2025.

5. Challenges and Opportunities

A continued challenge in 2025 was securing sufficient funding to support fellowships and expand research activities. While symposium-related income covered operational costs, long-term funding remains essential for sustaining and growing the foundation's impact.

6. Future Outlook

Looking ahead to 2026, the foundation plans to:

- Award the Albert Geerts Fellowship to support emerging talent in regenerative hepatology
- Further expand engagement with international donors and partners
- Strengthen collaborations within the regenerative medicine community
- Organize the Fifth International Symposium of Regenerative Hepatology in Barcelona, Spain.

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 European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) to promote education, advocacy, and research. EASL 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 2025

General

The year 2025 closed with a net loss of €2,276, which will be covered by the reserve from 2024. After these adjustments, the remaining positive bank balance stands at €2,297.

The costs of the venue for the Fourth International Symposium of Regenerative Hepatology were higher than anticipated, mainly due to elevated catering expenses. Sponsorship income was lower compared to previous years, amounting to €5,449, although this was partly offset by higher income generated through registration fees.

The annual cost for website hosting remained at €849 per year.

Additionally, the foundation has selected DIGIBOOX as its accounting software. This online tool allows multiple foundation members to access the financial status, thereby increasing transparency. Furthermore, the software enables automatic VAT filing with the Dutch Tax Authority.

Membership continues to grow, although sponsorship income decreased compared to previous years. The registration fee of €75 covered most of the costs associated with the symposium.

However, the total income was insufficient to fund an Albert Geerts Fellowship, which remains a key aspiration of the foundation. Establishing this fellowship would significantly enhance the exchange of scientists in the field of regenerative medicine and accelerate research through knowledge sharing.

Unfortunately, no donations or other financial contributions were secured in 2025.

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: Although the reserve decreased due to the high amount of venue costs, the cost for the venue of the next symposium is almost a quarter of the price of this year which will increase our reserve further.

Balance in 2025

- Costs bank account: €258
- Reimbursement speakers: €0
- Conference costs: € 10,661
- Poster prize: € 150
- Website: € 849
- Email (Google): € 21
- Accounting Costs: € 60
- Sponsoring: € 5,449
- Registration: € 2,626
- Tax return: € 1,649

Income and Expenses Statement

Income: Sponsorship revenues and registrations covered most expenses.

Expenses: Maintenance costs include bank account, website, and accounting software. The website costs, including website licenses, domain renewals and adjustments, are maintained by HANDIGE HARRYS.

Result

The negative operating result is mainly due to higher-than-expected venue costs. The board proposes to use the reserve to cover these extra expenses in 2025. The registration fee for the symposium will remain €75.00 to allow a low threshold registration for the symposium.

Conclusion

The year 2025 marked continued growth and consolidation for the Foundation Regenerative Hepatology. The successful organization of the Fourth International Symposium in Amsterdam, together with increasing engagement from partners and members, further strengthened the foundation's role in advancing regenerative medicine.

Despite these achievements, securing sustainable funding for fellowships such as the Albert Geerts Fellowship remains a key priority. The foundation will continue to build partnerships and explore funding opportunities to support its mission.

Looking ahead, the foundation remains committed to fostering collaboration, supporting innovative research, and contributing to solutions for the global shortage of donor organs.