

# **Annual and Financial Report 2021 ISSTDR Conference Support Foundation**

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Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Registration Chambre of Commerce KvK 34178793**

## 1. Annual Report

### 1.1 Statutory aims

The *ISSTDR Conference Support Foundation* was established in 2009 for the express purpose of providing financial support to the International Society of Sexually Transmitted Disease Research (ISSTDR) and its activities. The statutory aims of the Foundation are:

1. To sustain and support the continuity of the ISSTDR conferences;
2. To give financial support to the local organizers of conferences of the ISSTDR;
3. To maintain and manage/administer resources/funds in this respect and every matter connected to this.

### 1.2 Background

The ISSTDR organizes biennial conferences. These meetings are widely recognized as having been scientifically successful for over three decades, and to our knowledge most or all were financially successful as well, i.e. revenues collected generally exceeded expenses. The ISSTDR Board believes that the Society's "brand" has been central to these successes.

Furthermore these meetings have been financially independent of one another and from the Society as a whole. Each president/local organizer has assumed independent responsibility for both financial liability and potential gain from running the meeting in the Society's name, often in a contractual relationship with a local institution or another legal entity. Further, through most of its history the ISSTDR has not been a legally constituted entity that could receive or disburse funds, although the ISSTDR Board functions as a governing body.

At the meeting of the ISSTDR Board of 27<sup>th</sup> June 2009 this issue was discussed with the following governing principles as an outcome:

- The *ISSTDR Congress 2005 Foundation* with a minimal change in the articles can be transferred in *ISSTDR Conference Support Foundation*. The articles of discontinuance can remain unchanged as they say that in case of liquidation of the foundation the favourable balance has to be handed over to organisers of a next ISSTDR conference.
- The ISSTDR Board consists of thirteen individuals and is elected by peers with two or three newly elected positions every two years.
- Local organisers respond to a call sent out before every conference and then are chosen by the ISSTDR Board at the board meeting held during the conference.
- The *ISSTDR Conference Support Foundation* (legal entity) acts in partnership with ISSTDR Board (not a legal entity) and with the local organiser for any particular ISSTDR conference (should be a legal entity).
- The relation between the *ISSTDR Congress Support Foundation* and the ISSTDR Board has been formalized in the articles of the foundation.
- The *ISSTDR Conference Support Foundation* board itself is under Dutch law responsible for its good governance.
- Local organisers are free to choose their own way of working and also the type of legal entity they use as a vehicle to run the ISSTDR Conference.
- The ISSTDR Conference has to be considered as a brand with an economic value in its name, in its database of participants and its goodwill based on a longstanding tradition. Also there is a general interest beyond the once-only interest of the local organizers in the quality of the congress (logistics and content) as it affects the value of the brand ISSTDR Conference and therefore the continuity.

Based on consideration above the ISSTDR Board meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2009, it has been

brought into conclusion that the *ISSTDR Conference Support Foundation* is the legal entity to fulfil the international support function to the ISSTDR conferences. So, the remaining funds have to be transferred to the Foundation and to be used to help assure the financial security of the Society and of future ISSTDR meetings and, with anticipated growth, may permit expansion of the Society's activities and mission in service to STD prevention.

Since 2013 additional principles were added:

- First was accepted that the Chair of the Foundation should attend ISSTDR Board meetings as an observer.
- Second, the minimum money in the ISSTDR Support Foundation is EUR 25,000.
- Third the Board agreed in 2013 to pledge biennial a minimum of EUR 10,000 and a maximum of EUR 20,000 to be used for scholarships as long as the Foundation bank balance was a minimum of EUR 50,000 (seed money for two conferences).
- All seed money should be transferred in Euro's. Seeding money agreed to be EUR 25,000.
- The local organiser has the discretion to retain for the pursuit of STI research a fraction of the profits that must not exceed 50% of the profit or EUR 50,000, whichever is the smaller. In all cases the ISSTDR Support Foundation should keep the ISSTDR Board involved.
- For a combined ISSTDR and IUSTI meeting the funds will be distributed as follows: 35% to the International Society for Sexually Transmitted Disease Research Conference Support Foundation as the lead scientific body and in recognition that the ISSTDR only hold meetings biennially. 35% to the Local Organizer, less the total amount of any discounts on registration provided to its members – in recognition that the Local Organizer is assuming the major financial risk. 30% to the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI), less the total amount of any discounts on registration provided to its members.

The principles are laid down in the Conference Support Agreement. Local organizers of the biennial ISSTDR meetings have to meet this agreement if they want to be qualified for support and to sustain the quality and the good reputation of the ISSTDR. The agreement is a legal translation of the principles and decisions of the ISSTDR Board decided in London on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2009 and the additional principles added since 2013. As it is in the general interest of ISSTDR there is a set of conditions in this regulations to safeguard the continuity of the ISSTDR conferences to be translated in formal regulations: The local organiser (ISSTDR President) represented by a legal entity (of any kind) is required to present a formal budget to the ISSTDR Conference Support Foundation. The contract contains some agreements on no-liability for a failed conference, seed money, money that is transferred not to be paid back and/or money for a conference in trouble and some practical conditions about payments, settlement of accounts.

#### ISSTDR trademark

The board decided in 2013 to file the trademark by using the International Registration system; first file a registration in the Benelux on which an International registration, designating the USA and the European Union, can be based. This International Registration system offers the Foundation the possibility to have our trademark protected in the (85) participating countries for substantially lower fees than normal 'national' application fees. Furthermore, the International Registration system also simplifies greatly the subsequent management of our trademark, since it is possible to record changes or to renew the registration through a single procedural step. This will protect the brand of ISSTDR to ensure its good reputation and the investment gained over twenty meetings for the next ten years. In 2014 the registration as a trademark for the Benelux and EU was completed, but the trademark application has been provisionally refused in the USA that year. After the clarification of some descriptions of the designated services the application was accepted in 2015 and the USA registration procedure has been round-off in 2016. The renewal of the registration started in 2020.

### **1.3 Activities in 2021**

The board of the Foundation held two board meetings in the year 2021. The annual and financial report for 2020 was prepared and distributed in 2021. The current financial status was presented to the ISSTDR Board for information. There were no comments.

In 2020 the brand registration that occurs every five years took place and was completed. The USA registration, for which the lead reviewer took more time, was finished in 2021.

#### ISSTDR 24<sup>th</sup> meeting

At the 2017 meeting in Rio de Janeiro Amsterdam, the Netherlands team was chosen to organize the 24<sup>th</sup> ISSTDR meeting. This will be a combined ISSTDR and IUSTI meeting, the World STI & HIV Congress 2021. Reflecting the Conference Support Agreement signed in 2018, the Local Organizers requested a payment of EUR 25,000 seed money and this was agreed upon. The Board has decided in its board meeting of April 2021 to grant an amount of maximum EURO 20,000.- ('twenty-thousand') to the Local Organizers for the scholarships program of this meeting.

#### ISSTDR 25<sup>th</sup> meeting

At the 2019 Vancouver meeting a group represented by Dr. Barbara Van Der Pol was chosen to organize the 25<sup>th</sup> ISSTDR meeting to be held in Chicago, U.S. This will be a combined ISSTDR and IUSTI meeting, the World STI & HIV Congress 2023. The Board has decided in its board meeting of April 2021 to grant an amount of maximum EURO 20,000.- ('twenty-thousand') to the Local Organizers for the scholarships program of this meeting. Our chair Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo has agreed to represent the Foundation on the scholarship committee.

#### ISSTDR 26<sup>th</sup> meeting

At the 2021 Amsterdam meeting a group represented by Marc Steben was chosen to organize the 27<sup>th</sup> ISSTDR meeting to be held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

### **1.4 Finances in 2021**

Expenditures in 2021 were made for the renewal of the ISSTDR brand registration (EUR 840.95) and hosting and maintenance of the ISSTDR website, which is handled by Aidsfonds – Soa Aids Nederland to be hosted more easily and cost-effectively (EUR 102.85).

The credit balance of 2021 was EUR -40.943,80. This brings the Foundation's total assets to EUR 90,986.10.

### **1.5 Plans for 2022**

To be truly effective in the fight against STI & HIV scientists need to reach out and involve key populations in their endeavors. As scientists working in the field of STI we are often confronted with key populations such as sex workers, migrants, men who have sex with men and transgender persons. We try to reach out using special techniques such as snowball sampling or respondent driven sampling. Often, we fail in our attempts and refer to these groups as "hard to reach populations". What we often do not realize is that we ourselves might be "hard to reach". The big challenge for future STI research will be to involve communities, practitioners and healthcare workers in our research. We need to get out of our ivory towers and abandon top down approaches. Whether it involves neat *in vitro* work, randomized trials or mathematical models. To address the needs of those affected by STI and their medical caretakers, their involvement is required, not as a final step but from the design phase of our projects. This is an imperative to successfully implement results from a research environment to daily life.

It is for this purpose that on December 24, 2021, the board of the Stichting World STI and HIV Congress 2021 – the local organizing committee of the STI & HIV 2021 World Congress – has bequeathed its financial surplus to the ISSTDR Conference Support Foundation with the earmark “to stimulate the participation of the community and key populations in future ISSTDR congresses”. In 2022 the Board will shape a stimulation system on the participation of the community and key populations by grants or loans.

### 1.6 Governance

The composition of the ISSTDR Foundation Board should include a former chair of the ISSTDR Board, two members of the current ISSTDR Board, a “free” nomination profile and the secretary-treasurer. The latter communicates directly with the (foundation) Aidsfonds - Soa Aids Nederland, which continues to run the financial administration and paper work for the foundation. The rotation schedule of the board members of the foundation means that every two years the ISSTDR Board has to nominate or re-nominate two of the board members of the foundation for a term of four years. This keeps both organisations interconnected. The maximum number of terms is two.

There were two changes in the board. Henry de Vries left the board regulatory after the end of his second term on September 1st. The board appointed Caroline Cameron as a new board member. The current rotation schedule is:

Rotation schedule per 31-12-2021	End 1 <sup>st</sup> Term	End 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term
Jeanne Marrazzo (chair)	01-09-2021	01-09-2025
Martin van Oostrom (secretary-treasurer)	01-09-2018	01-09-2022
Barbara J. van der Pol	03-11-2019	03-11-2023
Nicola M. Low	03-11-2019	03-11-2023
Henry J.C. 3de Vries	01-09-2017	01-09-2021
Caroline E. Cameron	01-09-2025	

Amsterdam, 11th of January 2022



Jeanne Marrazzo, chair



Martin van Oostrom, secretary-treasurer

## 2. Financial Report

<b>Balance sheet (Euro)</b>					
<b>Assets per 31-12-2021</b>	<b>31-12-2021</b>	<b>31-12-2020</b>	<b>Liabilities per 31-12-2021</b>	<b>31-12-2021</b>	<b>31-12-2020</b>
Current account Aidsfonds	90.986,10	131,929.90	Capital per January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2021	131,929.90	89,005.77
			Result	-40.943,80	42,924.13
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>90.986,10</b>	<b>131,929.90</b>	<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>90.986,10</b>	<b>131,929.90</b>

<b>Profit and loss account for the year 2021 (EUR)</b>		
<b>Income</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Share surplus Vancouver 2019 meeting CAD 66.486,37	0.0	45,349.14
<b>Total income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>45,349.14</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Grant Scholarships Amsterdam 2021	20,000.00	
Grant Scholarships Detroit III 2023	20,000.00	
Hosting ISSTDR website	102.85	98.01
Renewal ISSTDR Brand registration	840.95	2,268.75
Bank costs	0.00	58.25
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>40.943,80</b>	<b>2,425.01</b>
<b>Result</b>	<b>-40.943,80</b>	<b>42.924,13</b>

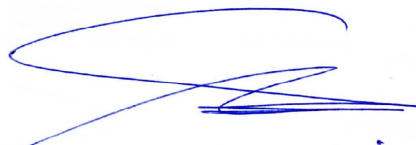
Drawn up by Koos Boering, controller Aidsfonds – Soa Aids Nederland



Amsterdam, 11th of January 2022



Jeanne Marrazzo, chair



Martin van Oostrom, secretary-treasurer