

Annual and Financial Report 2024 ISSTDR Conference Support Foundation

**Condensatorweg 54
Amsterdam, Netherlands
Registration Chambre of Commerce KvK 34178793**

1. Annual Report

1.1 Statutory aims

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

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

1.2 Background

The ISSTD 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 ISSTD 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 chair/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 ISSTD has not been a legally constituted entity that could receive or disburse funds, although the ISSTD Board functions as a governing body.

At the meeting of the ISSTD Board of 27th June 2009 this issue was discussed with the following governing principles as an outcome:

- The *ISSTD Congress 2005 Foundation* with a minimal change in the articles can be transferred in *ISSTD 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 ISSTD conference.
- The ISSTD 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 ISSTD Board at the board meeting held during the conference.
- The *ISSTD Conference Support Foundation* (legal entity) acts in partnership with ISSTD Board (not a legal entity) and with the local organiser for any particular ISSTD conference (should be a legal entity).
- The relation between the *ISSTD Congress Support Foundation* and the ISSTD Board has been formalized in the articles of the foundation.
- The *ISSTD 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 ISSTD Conference.
- The ISSTD 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 ISSTD Conference and therefore the continuity.

Based on consideration above the ISSTD Board meeting of the 27th of June 2009, it has been brought into conclusion that the *ISSTD Conference Support Foundation* is the legal entity to fulfil

the international support function to the ISSTD R 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 ISSTD R 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 ISSTD R Board meetings as an observer.
- Second, the minimum money in the ISSTD R 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 ISSTD R Support Foundation should keep the ISSTD R Board involved.
- For a combined ISSTD R 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 ISSTD R 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 ISSTD R 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 ISSTD R. The agreement is a legal translation of the principles and decisions of the ISSTD R Board decided in London on the 27th of June 2009 and the additional principles added since 2013. As it is in the general interest of ISSTD R there is a set of conditions in this regulations to safeguard the continuity of the ISSTD R conferences to be translated in formal regulations: The local organiser represented by a legal entity (of any kind) is required to present a formal budget to the ISSTD R 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.

ISSTD R 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 protects the brand of ISSTD R 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 was completed in 2016. The renewal of the trademark registrations started in 2019 and 2020, In 2023 the next renewal process was started to be completed in 2024 (EU) and 2025 (USA).

1.3 Activities in 2024

The board of the Foundation held two board meetings in the year 2024. The annual and financial report for 2023 was prepared and distributed in 2024. The current financial status was presented to the ISSTD Board for information. There were no comments.

The Board decided in 2024 to provide the organizing committee of the ISSTD 26th meeting to be held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada with seed money of EUR 25,000. In 2025 there was also a scholarship grant of EUR 20,000 provided to the organizers of the Montreal Quebec meeting (2025). The Foundation started in 2023 and continued in 2024 the process of renewal of the trademark registrations in the EU.

ISSTD 24th meeting Amsterdam 2021

At the 2017 meeting in Rio de Janeiro Amsterdam, the Netherlands team has been chosen to organize the 24th ISSTD meeting. This has been a combined ISSTD 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.

In 2022 the seed money of the 2021 meeting of EUR 25,000.00 was returned to the Foundation. The Foundation has received the agreed share of the surplus of the 2021 meeting of EUR 16,144.92.

On December 24, 2021, the Board of the Stichting World STI and HIV Congress 2021 – the local organizing committee (LOC) of the STI & HIV 2021 World Congress – decided to liquidate and asked the parties that formed the LOC in 2021 (Amsterdam Municipal Health Service and Aidsfonds – Soa Aids Nederland) to donate the ISSTD Foundation its remaining assets for community participation. January 2022 both parties decided to donate an amount of EUR 16,012.65 labelled “to stimulate the participation of the community and key populations in future ISSTD congresses”.

ISSTD 25th meeting Chicago 2023

At the 2019 Vancouver meeting a group represented by Dr Barbara Van Der Pol was chosen to organize the 25th ISSTD meeting that was held in Chicago, U.S. This was a combined ISSTD and IUSTI meeting, the World STI & HIV Congress 2023. The Board decided in its board meeting of April 2021 to grant an amount of maximum EURO 20,000 to the Local Organizers for the scholarships program of this meeting. Dr. Caroline Cameron agreed to represent the Foundation on the scholarship committee. In May 2023 the Foundation's Board decided to provide an additional grant of EUR 25,000 for the community participation programme.

ISSTD 26th meeting Montreal, Quebec 2025

At the 2021 Amsterdam meeting a group represented by Dr. Marc Steben was chosen to organize the 26th ISSTD meeting to be held in Montreal, Quebec in July 2025. This will be a combined ISSTD and IUSTI meeting, the World STI & HIV Congress 2025. In 2024 the Board provided seed funding in the amount of EUR 25,000 and in 2025 the Board provided a scholarship grant of EUR 20,000 to the Montreal Organizers

ISSTD 27th meeting New Delhi, India 2027

At the 2023 Chicago meeting a group represented by Dr. Sunil Sethi was chosen to organize the 27th ISSTD meeting to be held in New Delhi India in 2027.

1.4 Finances in 2024

Expenditures in 2024 (EUR 33,061.27) were made for seed money to the Montreal 2025 meeting, hosting and maintenance of the ISSTD website, which is handled by Aidsfonds – Soa Aids

Nederland, notary costs for the amendment of the bylaws in 2023 and costs for the renewal of the trademark. The Foundation received the surplus of the Chicago 2023 meeting in an amount of EUR 85,841.43 (USD 93.653).

The credit balance of 2024 was EUR 52,780.16. This brings the Foundation's total assets to EUR 175,664.89.

As for the events after the closing of the financial year 2023, the most important is the scholarship grant of EUR 20,000 to the organizers of the Montreal 2025 meeting.

1.5 Plans for 2025

The Foundation wants to round-off the renewal of the website in 2025, which is now due for replacement. It is also continuously investigating how the ISSTD R meetings can best be supported financially.

1.6 Governance

The Board decided on October, 16th 2023 to amend the articles of association to ensure continuity. This means the current chair of the ISSTD R Board can be nominated or appointed henceforth as a board member. Furthermore of a Board member is appointed chair of the Foundation, membership is deemed to have restarted and this board member can again serve the set terms as long as this person is chair. A former chair of an ISSTD R Conference cannot be nominated or appointed chair of the Foundation until four years after the Foundation's support has ended. The latter to prevent any appearance of conflict of interest. In connection with the amended legislation in the Netherlands, the article regarding vacancies in the Board has also been expanded with provisions in the event of the absence or inability of all directors. The Foundation supports biennial conferences, so the frequency of activities is relatively low, therefore the number of terms for a board member has been increased from two to three. The amendments were passed by the notary on October 30th 2023 and are effective from that moment on.

The composition of the ISSTD R Foundation Board should include a former chair of the ISSTD R Board, two members of the current ISSTD R 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 ISSTD R 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 three.

In 2024 there were no changes in the Board, with no open Board position. The rotation schedule is:

Rotation schedule per 31-12-2023	End 1 st Term	End 2 nd Term	End 3 rd Term
Caroline Cameron (chair)	01-09-2025		
Martin van Oostrom (secretary-treasurer)	01-09-2018	01-09-2022	01-09-2026
Barbara J. van der Pol	03-11-2019	03-11-2023	03-11-2027
Nicola M. Low	03-11-2019	03-11-2023	03-11-2027
Fabian Kong	17-10-2025		

Amsterdam, June 16th, 2025,

Dr. Caroline
Cameron

Caroline Cameron, chair

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Caroline Cameron
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Martin van
Oostrom

Martin van Oostrom, secretary-treasurer

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2. Financial Report

Balance sheet (Euro)					
Assets per	31-12-2024	31-12-2023	Liabilities per	2024	2023
Current account Aidsfonds	175,664.89	122,884.73	Capital per January 1 st	122,884.73	148,020.25
			Result	52,780.16	-25,135.52
Total assets	175,664.89	122,884.73	Total liabilities	175,664.89	122,884.73

Profit and loss account for the year 2024 (EUR)		
Income	2024	2023
Share surplus Chicago 2023 meeting	85,841.43	0.00
Total income	85,841.43	0.00
Expenditures	2024	2023
Additional Grant Chicago Ill 2023	0.00	25,000.00
Seed Money Montreal, 2025	25,000.00	0.00
Hosting ISSTD R website	171.82	135.52
ISSTD R Brand registration	7,314.45	0.00
Notary costs amendment bylaws (2023)	575.00	0.00
Total expenditures	33,061.27	-25,135.52
Result	52,780.16	-25,135.52

Drawn up by Martijn Terpstra, controller Aidsfonds – Soa Aids Nederland a.i.

Amsterdam, June 16th, 2025,

Dr. Caroline
Cameron

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Caroline Cameron
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Caroline Cameron, chair

Martin van
Oostrom

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Martin van Oostrom, secretary-treasurer