

Annual and Financial Report 2025 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 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 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 27th 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 these regulations to safeguard the continuity of the ISSTDR 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 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 protects 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 was completed in 2016. The renewal of the trademark registrations started in 2019 and 2020. In 2023 the next renewal process was started and completed in 2024 (EU) and 2025 (USA).

1.3 Activities in 2025

The board of the Foundation held three board meetings in the year 2025. The annual and financial report for 2024 was prepared and distributed in 2025. The current financial status was presented to the ISSTD R Board for information. There were no comments.

The Board decided in 2025 to provide the organizing committee of the ISSTD R 27th meeting to be held in New Delhi, India 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.

The Foundation started in 2023 and continued the process of renewal of the trademark registrations in the EU and USA, which was round-off in 2025.

In 2025 a proposal was brought forward to merge ISSTD R and IUSTI into a single organization. This concept was raised at the ISSTD R and IUSTI Board meetings held at the Montreal meeting in July 2025. A merger proposal is being prepared by individuals who are current or recent ISSTD R/IUSTI board members (i.e. individuals who have knowledge of the organizations). Caroline Cameron (Foundation Chair), Eric Chow (ISSTD R President), Alison Footman (ISSTD R Board member), and Henry de Vries (Past ISSTD R President) are serving on this working group, to represent the interests of both ISSTD R and the ISSTD R Foundation. If a merger proceeds, the key priorities of the ISSTD R Foundation's objectives will be maintained (that the foundation funds be used to support organization of the conferences – i.e. seed funding, scholarships) and ISSTD R Foundation Funds will be kept independent of other funding, regardless of where the account is maintained.

ISSTD R 26th meeting Montreal, Quebec 2025

At the 2021 Amsterdam meeting a group represented by Dr. Marc Steben was chosen to organize the 26th ISSTD R meeting to be held in Montreal, Quebec in July 2025. This will be a combined ISSTD R 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. The final settlement of this meeting is expected in 2026.

ISSTD R 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 R meeting to be held in New Delhi India, October 21-24, 2027. In 2025 the Board provided seed funding in the amount of EUR 25,000 to the New Delhi organizers. It is anticipated that the Board will provide a scholarship grant of EUR 20,000 to the New Delhi organizers in 2027.

ISSTD R 28th meeting Barcelona, Spain 2029

At the 2025 Montreal meeting a group represented by Dr. Oriol Mitja was chosen to organize the 28th ISSTD R meeting to be held in Barcelona, Spain, 2029. It is anticipated that the Board will provide seed funding in the amount of EUR 25,000 to the Barcelona organizers. It is anticipated that the Board will provide a scholarship grant of EUR 20,000 to the Barcelona organizers in 2029.

1.4 Finances in 2025

Expenditures in 2025 (EUR 47.563,99) were made for seed money to the New Delhi 2027 meeting, hosting and maintenance of the ISSTD R website, which is handled by Aidsfonds – Soa Aids Nederland, a scholarship for Montreal 2025 and costs for the renewal of the trademark.

In 2025 the Foundation didn't receive income. The credit balance of 2025 was EUR 47.563,99. This brings the Foundation's total assets to EUR 128.100,90 at the end of 2025.

1.5 Plans for 2026

The Foundation wants to round-off the renewal of the website in 2026, which is now due for

replacement. It is also continuously investigating how the ISSTDR meetings can best be supported financially. The foundation expects an application for seed money of the 2029 meeting in Spain. The Foundation also anticipates receiving the ISSTDR Foundation share of the Montreal 2025 surplus; this is expected after closing the year.

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 ISSTDR 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 ISSTDR 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 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 paperwork 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 three.

In 2025 there were no changes in the Board, with no open Board position. On July 27th, 2025, Caroline Cameron (chair) and Fabian Kong have been reappointed for a second four-year term. The same meeting the director's title were changed. Barbara J. Van Der Pol was appointed as the Foundation's secretary and Martin van Oostrom as treasurer instead of treasurer-secretary.

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	01-09-2029	
Martin van Oostrom (treasurer)	01-09-2018	01-09-2022	01-09-2026
Barbara J. Van Der Pol (secretary)	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	17-10-2029	

Amsterdam, June 11th, 2026,

Dr. Caroline
Cameron

Digitally signed by Dr.
Caroline Cameron
Date: 2026.06.11
18:00:50 -07'00'

Caroline Cameron, chair

Martin van
Oostrom

Digitaal ondertekend door
Martin van Oostrom
Datum: 2026.06.12
03:32:13 +02'00'

Martin van Oostrom, treasurer

2. Financial Report

Balance sheet (Euro)					
Assets per	31-12-2025	31-12-2024	Liabilities per	2025	2024
Current account Aidsfonds	128,100.90	175,664.89	Capital per January 1 st	175,664.89	122,884.73
			Result	47,563.99	52,780.16
Total assets	128,100.90	175,664.89	Total liabilities	128,100.90	175,664.89

Profit and loss account for the year 2025 (EUR)		
Income	2025	2024
Share surplus Chicago 2023 meeting	0.00	85,841.43
Total income	0.00	85,841.43
Expenditures	2025	2024
Seed Money Montreal		25,000.00
Grant Montreal 2025	20,000.00	0.00
Seed Money New Delhi, 2027	25,000.00	0.00
Hosting ISSTD R website	192.39	171.82
ISSTD R Brand registration (USA)	2,365.55	7,314.45
Notary costs amendment bylaws (2023)	0.00	575.00
Domain name registration	6.05	0.00
Total expenditures	47,563.99	33,061.27
Result	47,563.99	52,780.16

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

Martijn
Terpstra

Digitaal ondertekend door
Martijn Terpstra
Datum: 2026.06.12
09:35:32 +02'00'

Amsterdam, June 12th, 2026,

Dr. Caroline
Cameron

Digitally signed by Dr.
Caroline Cameron
Date: 2026.06.11
18:01:03 -07'00'

Caroline Cameron, chair

Martin van
Oostrom

Digitaal ondertekend door
Martin van Oostrom
Datum: 2026.06.12
03:32:46 +02'00'

Martin van Oostrom, treasurer