



Minutes of the General Assembly (ALV)

Autoworld, Jubelpark in Brussels, Belgium - March 24, 2023

0. Changes to the bylaws

Changes to the ISMRM Benelux Chapter bylaws were presented at the previous Annual Meeting, held in Maastricht, the Netherlands, on April 25, 2022. These include a change of fiscal year, the addition of awards and prizes as the society goals, and stipulations regarding personal data collection to comply with current regulations.

The updated bylaws were revised by the notary, and subsequently shared with all Chapter members through the Newsletter for review.

All 261 members present at the 2023 Annual Meeting were invited to vote on the changes to the bylaws during the first part of the ALV, held during the Plenary session of the 2023 ISMRM Benelux Meeting. The membership vote approved the updated bylaws.

Furthermore, the membership voted in favour of authorizing the Board to make textual and linguistic changes in the “notariële akte”. The membership also authorized the Board to sign the “notariële akte” before the approval of the minutes of the 2023 ALV.

1. Minutes of the 2022 General Assembly (ALV)

The minutes of the 2022 ALV were distributed to all members via the newsletter. No comments were made.

The minutes of the 2022 ALV were approved.

2. Overview of last year’s activities

Annual scientific meeting

The 14th annual meeting of the ISMRM Benelux Chapter was held on April 25th 2022 in the MECC Maastricht (the Netherlands). A total of 274 attendees met in-person at the MECC Maastricht, participating in ten oral and power-pitch sessions – consisting of 40 talks in total – and two poster sessions, comprising 97 posters. The meeting was followed by tours of the Scannexus facility in Maastricht, and dinner at a local restaurant. The meeting was originally planned in January 2022, but was postponed due to Covid restrictions. Luckily, the situation was improved in April and we could have a physical meeting. For many PhD students this was in fact the first opportunity to present their results during a physical meeting, so it was a good decision to postpone the meeting.

ISMRM Benelux party

During the ISMRM meeting in London in 2022, we had our ISMRM Benelux party in The Forge on May 11th. The party was organized by Drs. Linda Heskamp and Oliver Gurney-Champion.

Symposia and courses

The ISMRM Benelux chapter endorses symposia and courses in the Benelux area. The chapter advertises the symposia through its website and via direct email contact.

The 18th in vivo NMR course was organized by Dr. Jeanine Prompers and Prof. Rick Dijkhuizen on September 26–30, 2022 in the University Medical Center Utrecht (Utrecht, the Netherlands). The course was fully booked with 24 participants from 8 different institutes in the Netherlands.

Tour of clinical centers

Sarah Jacobs, the Clinical Representative of the Annual Meeting Organising Committee, toured the Radiology Departments of University Medical Centers (UMCs) in the Netherlands in an effort to recruit more clinicians to our chapter.

Other activities

- Continued promotion of job opportunities and events in the MR field
 - Via our improved and updated ISMRM Benelux Website
 - Via social media: Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn
- Monthly newsletters to keep people engaged and informed.
- Teaching programme in collaboration with the British and Irish Chapter of the ISMRM.

3. Planned activities 2023

Annual scientific meeting

The 15th Annual Meeting of the ISMRM Benelux Chapter takes place on March 24 2023 in Brussels, Belgium. The programme includes two keynote speeches by Olivier Collignon (UC Louvain) and Dennis Klomp (UMC Utrecht), in addition to 36 oral presentations given by Junior members, with a strong focus on clinical applications.

ISMRM Benelux party

An ISMRM Benelux party will be held during the ISMRM meeting in Toronto, on June 7, 2023. Drs. Alex Bhogal, Eric Schrauben and Michael Noseworthy have organized this year's party.

Benelux Chapter poster at ISMRM 2023

This will serve as a gathering place during the meeting.

Symposia and courses

- The 19th in vivo NMR course will be organized by Dr. Camilla Terenzi at Wageningen University & Research (Wageningen, the Netherlands) in October 2023.

Other activities

- Proposal to reinstate the Pub Quiz, organized during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

4. Financial report

Jules Nelissen, treasurer of the ISMRM Benelux Chapter, presented the financial results. The fiscal year (September 2021 until August 2022) resulted in a net surplus of 2086,70 euro.

Audit

The Audit Committee met with the Treasurer on 8 March 2023. Their independent review of the finances found no irregularities.

Due to the growing complexity of VAT regulations, the Audit Committee recommends implementing specialised accounting software to replace MS Excel.

Voting

The ALV approves the financial report.

Forward guidance

The 2023 meeting in Brussels will most likely result in a net loss of approximately 4000 euro, due to unexpectedly high costs for the venue and catering.

5. Changes to the Board

There are three candidates for the board:

- Daan Christiaens (KU Leuven, BE) is candidate to replace Elisabeth Jonckers (University of Antwerp, BE) in the position of Secretary.
- Rob Holtackers (Maastricht UMC, NL) is candidate to replace Jules Nelissen (Amsterdam UMC, NL) as Treasurer.
- Anja van der Kolk (Radboud UMC, NL) is candidate to replace Pieter Van Dyck (Antwerp University Hospital, BE) as Clinical Representative.

Elisabeth Jonckers and Jules Nelissen will stay on as Substitute Board Members in accordance with article 11 of the bylaws.

These changes are approved by membership voting.

6. Aims & Other business

The Board members reiterate their continued commitment to stimulate further clinical involvement and further involvement of research centers in Belgium and Luxemburg. In addition, the Board continues to stimulate junior members, MR education, and the promotion of job opportunities and events in the MR field.

A member of the audience raises a request to publish the proceeding archives of the Annual Meetings.

7. Closing remarks

The Board wishes to encourage all members who wish to participate actively in the Chapter to get in touch.