



## **Business Meeting (Algemene Ledenvergadering; ALV)**

**March 8, 2024**

Board members:

Jeanine Prompers (JP)	President
Daan Christiaens (DCh)	Secretary
Rob Holtackers (RH)	Treasurer
Anja van der Kolk (AvdK)	Clinical representative
Alberto de Luca (AdL)	Communications coordinator
Donnie Cameron (DCa)	Annual meeting committee representative
Rosanne Govaarts (RG)	Substitute annual meeting committee representative

### **1. Minutes of last year's business meeting**

The report from last year's ALV has been distributed via the newsletter. There were no comments from the membership. The minutes are approved.

### **2. Overview of activities of last year**

The bylaws of the ISMRM Benelux Chapter "vzw" have been revised, including a change of the fiscal year. After vote of approval at 2023 ALV, the bylaws were signed with the notary by JP and DCh.

The Chapter organized 3 events throughout 2023: the Annual Meeting at Autoworld Brussels, the Benelux Party at the ISMRM in Toronto, and the *in vivo* NMR course in Wageningen.

Following the Brussels' meeting, we surveyed the membership regarding their preferences for future meetings. The main findings, based on 57 responders, are: 1) Regarding (the cost of) the venue, 58% of the members prefer to keep ticket prices low at a less fancy location. 2) Regarding the keynote, >50% of the membership prefers a more esteemed investigator versus <30% who prefer a young researcher. 3) Regarding the conference dinner, 65% like to have a conference dinner.

The website and social media communication have been updated.

### **3. Planned activities 2024**

The organizing committee, led by Eva Aalbrecht, has done an excellent job planning today's ISMRM Benelux Meeting in Den Bosch. This meeting had initially been planned in Arnhem at Burgers' Zoo, but one of the sponsors pointed out that this venue had been given negative advice by the Dutch Code of Conduct for Medical Device suppliers (*gedragscode medische hulpmiddelen*; GMH) supposedly being "too recreational". We decided to cancel the venue because we had no time to wait for an official "adviesaanvraag". This did mean that we were due to pay the 10% cancellation fee

with Burgers'. We have agreed with Burgers' to file a "adviesaanvraag" with the GMH and, if positive, organize next year's (2025) meeting at Burgers' for the same price as budgeted for 2024. In return, GMH will waive the 10% cancellation fee (independent on the outcome of the adviesaanvraag).

In addition, we plan another Benelux party at ISMRM in Singapore, which will take place on Wednesday 8 May 2024 at Hero's, a local music café. We also plan another edition of the *in vivo* NMR course, which will be organized by Prof. dr. Tom Scheenen at the Radboudumc (Nijmegen, the Netherlands) in the fall of 2024.

We will continue to send out monthly newsletters to our members.

#### **4. Financial report by treasurer (RH)**

Going forward, a transition of treasurer responsibilities will preferably happen at the end of Q3. As such, the leaving treasurer can finalize the ongoing book year and create the final report.

Closed book year (1 Sep 2022 – 30 Sep 2023): revenue approx. 54500 euro and loss of approx. 1150 euro. Total assets approx. 23000, which RH considers the bare minimum for an organization like ours, considering the size of the meetings we organize. Belgian VAT reimbursement is still pending.

We have realized a cost reduction due to a new ticketing system (Eventix) with lower fees. We also no longer accept credit card transfers from sponsors, to reduce payment overhead fees.

The financial audit of the 2022-2023 book year found no irregularities. The auditors note that the administration is now much better structured and therefore no longer recommend to switch to dedicated accounting software. They also support the plan to change treasurers at the end of the book year.

The ALV approves the financial report for book year 2022 – 2023.

#### **5. Leaving and new board members**

Jeanine Prompers is stepping down as president and will be replaced by Anja van der Kolk (Radboud UMC), who is currently the clinical representative. Vera Keil (Amsterdam UMC) will take over the role as clinical representative.

Donnie Cameron is stepping down as meeting committee representative and will be replaced by Rosanne Govaarts (Leiden UMC), who has already substituted for Donnie part of this year.

Alberto de Luca is stepping down as communication manager and will be replaced by Beatrice Lena (Leiden UMC).

The ALV approves the new composition of the Board.

The ALV appoints JP and AdL as substitute board members (bylaws art. 11).

#### **6. Other business**

M. Van Osch asks about our stance on the newly formed Belgian MR Research Community (MARBEL). The Board wishes to explore opportunities for synergy and applauds all initiatives that can strengthen the Belgian presence within the ISMRM Benelux Chapter. A pending issue for discussion is

the planned date of their 2025 meeting, which we would prefer to be further apart from the ISMRM Benelux meeting.