



Business Meeting (Algemene Ledenvergadering; ALV)

January 17, 2025

Board members:

Anja Van der Kolk (AK)	President
Daan Christiaens (DCh)	Secretary
Rob Holtackers (RH)	Treasurer
Vera Keil (VK)	Clinical representative
Beatrice Lena (BL)	Communications coordinator
Rosanne Govaarts (RG)	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

Last annual meeting, in March 2024, was initially planned at Burgers' Zoo, but had to be rearranged because of sponsorship requirements set by the 'Gedragscode Medische Hulpmiddelen' (GMH). We applied with the GMH to have the meeting at Burgers' Zoo this year, in collaboration with the venue's legal team, but the application was rejected. We did not file an appeal. We paid for the GMH application in exchange for waived cancellation fees. This issue raises a question moving forward, because we risk needing to apply with GMH each year, in addition to the venue fees. It is suggested to have the sponsors support the society instead of the annual meeting as a way to circumvent the issue, but the sponsors still need to feel comfortable about such workaround w.r.t. the GMH rules.

The annual meeting 2024 in 's Hertogenbosch was very successful. However, we can not afford this location any longer as venue costs continue to rise. The OC also explored options to host the annual meeting within a research institution, but the larger venues are often not available due to teaching or exams.

The Benelux Party at the ISMRM Annual Meeting in Singapore, organised by former president Jeanine Prompers, was a big success too.

The 20th In vivo NMR course in Nijmegen in December 2024, organized by Prof. Tom Scheenen, was fully booked. This was the first edition that included a clinical component.

We did a survey about the ISMRM Mini-hub for their Annual Meeting 2025. The other European Chapters sent out a similar survey too. The purpose was to find out if there is community interest.

Other activities included the monthly Newsletters, the Job Board on the website, and a new membership directory on the website to exchange contact details with other members.

3. Planned activities 2025

The annual meeting today.

The Benelux Party at the ISMRM Annual Meeting 2025 in Hawaii will be organized by RH and BL.

There will be another in vivo NMR course.

4. Financial report by treasurer

Final financial report of the last annual meeting: Net result of approximately 8800 euro, thanks to excellent work on sponsoring and great deal with the venue. Costs savings that were implemented paid off.

With this result, we have about 30.000 euro in cash. This is a buffer, and this is really the bare minimum we need to operate because we need to be able to pay a deposit on the venue.

An independent audit of the accounts ('kascontrolecommissie') found no irregularities in the financial book year.

The book year also accounted for approximately 3300 euro in VAT to Belgium from the Brussels meeting that we couldn't claim back. This is part of the total VAT paid. The VAT for the venue could be recovered, but not for catering.

5. Leaving and new board members

Rob Holtackers (Treasurer) will step down at the end of the financial book year. The Board suggests Wyger Brink as his successor.

Daan Christiaens (Secretary) is also stepping down. The Board proposes to replace him with Ahmed Radwan.

The two substitute board members are currently Jeanine Prompers and Alberto de Luca. The Board suggests that Daan Christiaens and Rob Holtackers replace them.

The ALV approves these changes to the Board. No objections were raised.

Other business

- Location of future meetings:
 - We welcome all suggestions for affordable venues, including academic centres, because the OC is also at a loss. Any new approaches could help.
 - Could we have the meeting at a Saturday to enable academic venues? There are split opinions in the room.
- Financial buffer:

- o It is recommended to determine what the minimum financial buffer should be. As soon as this cash reserve is met, we should no longer aim to make a profit on the meeting.
- As the society gets more professional, we get more professional problems. It is suggested to get a broader sample of the ALV for more diverse opinions. Perhaps an online format?
- Regarding the registration costs:
 - o It is deemed inevitable to raise registration fees along with inflation.
 - o The guiding principle is to keep costs down to invite as many students as possible. Especially for labs that aren't so close with the ISMRM.
 - o The OC should also check public funding (NWO, FWO) for conferences and events.