



FOREUM

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ANNUAL REPORT

2022

Activity report and financial statement

PROMOTING HEALTH THROUGH EFFECTIVE RESEARCH

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PROMOTING HEALTH THROUGH EFFECTIVE RESEARCH

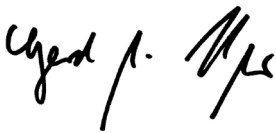
FOREUM Foundation for Research in Rheumatology is devoted to promoting research in rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) as an independent research funding body in rheumatology research. To achieve this goal, FOREUM seeks to raise funds from various donors. Basic and applied research of highest quality will be supported to reduce the burden of disease for people with RMDs. What we have achieved in recent years was only possible thanks to the generous financial support of our loyal as well as new donors. We see this support as a sign of confidence in the value of research funded by FOREUM for the advancement of the field of rheumatology and for society. At the same time, we also see it as a mandate to live up to our high standards of quality in the research supported by FOREUM.

In the future, FOREUM will continue to strive to initiate research of the highest quality, which is oriented towards a broad spectrum of disease patterns and will regularly launch calls for proposals for which research projects will be reviewed. We are very pleased that we were again able to finance the best submitted projects in 2022.

We conclude with a word of thanks - first to our current and future donors, then to EULAR for its continued support, and last but not least to all our committee members, staff and others who contribute to making FOREUM a successful and respected institution in European rheumatology research.

Gerd R. Burmester

President FOREUM Board of Trustees



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General information about the foundation

Purpose of the Foundation pursuant to Art. 2 of the Foundation Charter of 8 May 2013

“The Foundation’s purpose shall be to promote rheumatology research. To this effect, the Foundation shall support rheumatology research projects with financial grants.

The Foundation shall furthermore contribute to

- promote networks in the field of rheumatology research
- facilitate access to research opportunities as well as to activities permitting access to research funding for all European countries.

The purpose of the Foundation is neither commercial nor self-help.”

Tax exemption

By order of the Cantonal Tax Office of Zurich dated 14 October 2013, the Foundation was exempted from state tax and general municipal taxes as well as from direct federal tax with effect from its establishment because of the pursuit of charitable purposes.

Statutes and regulations

Foundation Statute of 8 May 2013

Pursuant to Art. 12 of the Foundation Statutes, the Board of Trustees has issued the “Regulations for the Board of Trustees“ for the attention of the Executive Committee, which set out in detail the tasks and responsibilities, working methods and role of the Board of Trustees and the Scientific Committee. Further regulations are not yet required in this initial and establishment period of the foundation.

Domicile

FOREUM, Foundation for Research in Rheumatology
Seestrasse 240
8802 Kilchberg- Switzerland

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Institution

Board of Trustees (with collective signature of two)

- President Board of Trustees: Prof. Gerd-Rüdiger Burmester (Germany)
- Vice-President Board of Trustees: Prof. Paul Emery (UK)
- Members Board of Trustees:
 - Prof. Jiri Vencovsky (Czech Republic)
 - Prof. Johannes Bijlsma (The Netherlands)
 - Dr. Julia Rautenstrauch (Germany)

Executive Committee

- Chair: Prof. Oliver Distler (Switzerland)
- Treasurer: Prof. Ulf Müller-Ladner (Germany)
- Members of the committee:
 - Dr. Rikke Helene Moe (Norway)
 - Prof. Elsa Sousa (Portugal)
 - Prof. Tore Kvien (Norway)
 - Prof. Seza Ozen (Turkey)
 - Ms. Codruta Zabalán (Romania)
- Non-voting members ex officio:
 - EULAR President
 - Board of Trustees members
 - Chair Scientific Committee

Scientific Committee

- Chair: Prof. Rik Lories (Belgium)
- Members of the committee:
 - Prof. Jérémie Sellam (France)
 - Dr. Diane von de Woude (The Netherlands)
 - Assoc. Prof. Annette de Thurah, HPR (Denmark)
 - Prof. Xavier Mariette (France)
 - Prof. Kimme Hyrich (UK)
 - Dr. Nuria Barbarroja, Spain
 - Prof. Fabrizio de Benedetti, Italy
 - Ms. Heidi Bertheussen, PRP (Norway)
 - Ms. Ana Vieira, PRP (Portugal)

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Management of the foundation

For the administrative tasks, secretarial positions are being held by Dr. Astrid Jüngel, FOREUM Manager (January-December, 100%) and Debora Würsch (January-May, 80%) and Andrea Beljan (May-December, 100%).

The Board of Trustees is responsible for management.

Accounting

CMT Partners AG
Dufourstrasse 147
8008 Zürich, Switzerland

Auditor

KPMG AG
Badenerstrasse 172
8036 Zürich, Switzerland

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Basics of the foundation's activities

The main task of FOREUM is the promotion of research in the field of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases in the form of an independent research foundation. The aim is to initiate high-quality research into a broad range of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases through financial support. Research projects funded by FOREUM are to be carried out in cooperation with proven research centres from various countries. Only applications for research funds that meet these high standards and that have successfully undergone an external peer review process are considered, which means that the evaluation of the submitting scientific work/projects has been carried out by at least one independent evaluator/scientist from the same subject area.

FOREUM seeks financial support from interested commercial and non-commercial donors (fundraising) to achieve its goals. A list of donors and donations in 2022 is given in the chapter "Income Statement and Balance Sheet 2022". Contributions to FOREUM are guided by the conviction that further research and innovation in this field are crucial for further improvements in the prevention and treatment of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases and thus ultimately the living, working and socio-economic conditions of the more than 120 million people in Europe affected by any form of such diseases.

FOREUM is in principle an institution that defines its strategic goals and tasks independently of other institutions. Nevertheless, the intention is to coordinate the research programme with the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (until 31.12.2020 European League Against Rheumatism) Rheumatism League EULAR, which is active in the same field. There are different goals of both organisation, EULAR facilitates research, developing tools, harmonising methods, supporting data bases, while FOREUM funds excellent research. Additionally, FOREUM wants to maintain useful contacts with other research organizations and further circles interested in rheumatism research, where meaningfully.

For the activity of FOREUM three basic experiences or realizations are crucial:

First, the challenges of modern medicine can best be met through an integrative approach to collaboration. In the short to medium term, far-reaching progress in health care in the sense of a paradigm shift is to be aimed for with the use of modern molecular and cell technologies as well as information and database technologies.

Secondly, rheumatology should play a leading role in its implementation, as its interdisciplinary approach enables it to initiate innovations in many areas of medicine. This makes rheumatology an attractive discipline not only for external sponsors, but also for top researchers and the best of the younger generation of researchers.

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Thirdly, important research networks with academic (basic and clinical research) and industrial participation have been established in Europe in recent years. Programmes such as AutoCure, Masterswitch, BTCure, EUROTEAM, PRECISEADS, GLORIA, HarmonicSS, and RTCURE have received significant EU funding. Outstanding research results have been achieved, resulting in sustainable skills, networks, large and well-defined biobanks and world-leading technical know-how.

Rheumatology in Europe has already shown that it is able to work together for the good and benefit of the whole. With a view to the future and since the causes, pathways and above all successful treatment options for many rheumatic diseases have not yet been sufficiently clarified, sustainable financing models are still necessary in the long term. FOREUM has set itself the goal of taking on a significant pioneering role as a committed partner.

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Activities of the foundation in the financial year 2022

Research Funding

In order to approve the projects and determine the amounts, the submitted projects (2 step process: Letter of intent and full proposal upon invitation) are examined and evaluated as usual by the Scientific Committee. Finally, the recommendations of the Scientific Committee are examined and, if necessary, approved by the Executive Committee. The Board of Trustees makes the final decision on the release of the approved project funds.

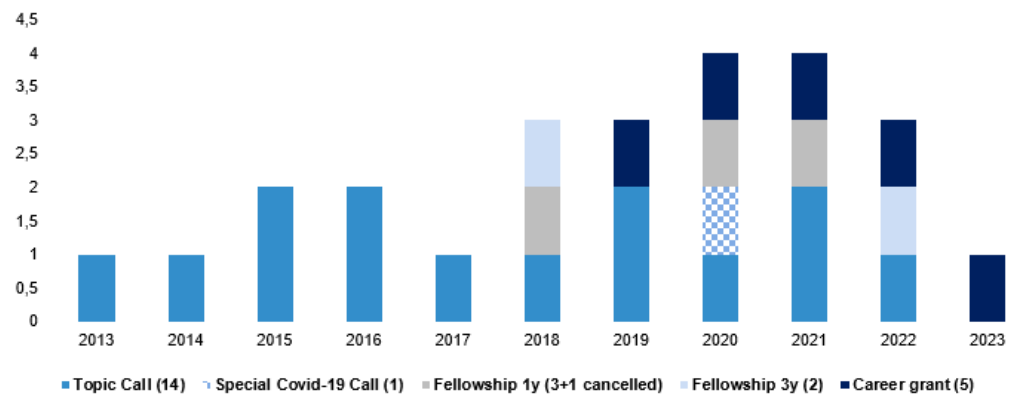
Review process



Topic calls

- 2013: OA
- 2014: SLE
- 2015: SpA
- 2015: Registers
- 2016: Preclinical
- 2016: Ageing
- 2017: Stratified
- 2018: Comorbidities
- 2019: Innovative Medicine
- 2019: Gender Issue
- 2020: Fatigue and Pain
- 2021: PSA
- 2022: Remission and flare
- 2023: E-health

FOREUM-Call launch per year



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In 2022 FOREUM was able to

a) Approve the projects for funding for

Call #20 Fellowship 1y.

Call #22 Remission and Flare.

Call #23 Career Grant.

b) Approve the budget for upcoming calls.

Call #24 Fellowship 3y.

Call #25 E-health.

Call #26 Career Grant.

Call timeline	2020	2021	2022	2023
Call 20: Fellowship 1 year		Call Approved	Projects approval	
Call 21: Covid-19 and RMDs	Call approved and Projects approved			
Call 22: Topic call on Remission and flare		Call Approved	Projects approval	
Call 23: Career grant		Call Approved	Projects approval	
Call 24: Fellowship 3y			Call Approved	Projects approval Planned 2023
Call 25: Topic call on E-health			Call Approved	Projects approval Planned 2023
Call 26: Career grant			Call Approved	Projects approval Planned 2023

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Within the framework of topic **Call 20: Fellowship 1y** (total of 150.000 EUR), three projects were selected by the Scientific committee, approved by the Executive Committee, and approved for funding by Board of Trustees at the request of the Executive Committee. These are the following projects:

- **20FS1068: Albin Björk**, Center for Molecular Medicine (CMM), Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, 171 76 Stockholm, Sweden. Title: “Amlexanox as a potential novel therapeutic option for SLE”. Budget: € 50.000.
Host Center: Dept Immunology, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, the Netherlands.
- **20FS1069: Gerlando Natalello**, Institute of Rheumatology, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart Rome, Italy. Title: “Deciphering the interactions between gut microbiome components and the host during spondyloarthritis: insights from a Gut-on-Chip model”. Budget: € 50.000.
Host Center: Inserm unit U1173 “Infection and Inflammation” - Équipe IRIS “Inflammatory Response and Immune System”, laboratory of Excellence INFLAMEX, at Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, Montigny-Le-Bretonneux, France.
- **20FS1070: Melpomeni Toitou**, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, University Hospital of Heraklion, 71003 Voutes Heraklion, Greece. Title: “Characterization of Synovial Fibroblast Subtypes”. Budget: € 50.000.
Host Center: Center of Experimental Rheumatology, Department of Rheumatology, University Hospital of Zurich, Switzerland.

Within the framework of topic **Call 22: Remission and Flare** (total of € 1.799.512), three projects were selected by the Scientific committee, approved by the Executive Committee, and approved for funding by Board of Trustees at the request of the Executive Committee. These are the following projects:

- **22RF071: Kenneth Baker**, Newcastle, UK. Title: “Sustained drug-free remission in rheumatoid arthritis: immunological and patient perspectives”. Budget: € 599.536.
- **22RF072: Ulrich Scherer**, Leiden, The Netherlands. Title: “Signs of danger: extrafollicular, auto-reactive B cell responses as drivers of disease flares in AAV”. Budget: € 600.000.
- **22RF073: Stefano Alivernini**, Rome, Italy. Title: “Dissecting the cellular and molecular atlas of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) in sustained remission to identify pathways maintaining Remission and Triggering Flares”. Budget: € 599.976.

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Within the framework of topic **Call 23: Career grant** (total of € 797.7680), four projects were selected by the Scientific committee, approved by the Executive Committee, and approved for funding by the Board of Trustees at the request of the Executive Committee. These are the following projects:

- **23CG074: Elizabeth Rosser**, Centre for Adolescent Rheumatology at UCL, UCL and GOSH and UCL Centre for Rheumatology, Division of Medicine, UCL London, UK. Title: "Gut-derived metabolites and modulation of pathogenic B-cell responses in JIA". Budget: € 198.350.
- **23CG075: Serena Colafrancesco**, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy. Title: "Harnessing cell energy metabolism to suppress salivary gland inflammation in Sjögren Syndrome". Budget: € 200.000.
- **23CG076: Muriel Elhai**, Department of Rheumatology, University Hospital Zurich, University of Zurich, Switzerland. Title: "Deciphering synovitis in systemic sclerosis". Budget: € 200.000.
- **23CG077: Aurelie Najm**, Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, College of Medical Veterinary and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow, UK. Title: "EPI-ILD: Epigenetics aspects of rheumatic diseases associated interstitial lung disease". Budget: € 199.418.

Meetings Board of Trustees and Executive Committee

The Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee held two meetings on the course of business in the period under review:

- Ratification of the Executive Committee's proposed allocations for three projects (**Call 24: Fellowship 3y**) totalling € 450.000.
- Ratification of the Executive Committee's proposed allocations for three projects (**Call 25: E-health**) totalling € 1.800.000.
- Ratification of the Executive Committee's proposed allocations for four projects (**Call 26: Career grant**) totalling € 800.000.

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Information on the amount of the research grants

As explained in the previous chapter, FOREUM 2022 has approved research grants, some of which have already been paid out. In detail these are:

Call 20: Fellowship 1y. Budget: € 150.000.

- 20FS1068: Albin Björk, Budget: € 50.000.
- 20FS1069: Gerlando Natalello, Budget: € 50.000.
- 20FS1070: Melpomeni Toitou, Budget: € 50.000.

Call #22: Topic grant: Remission and Flare. Budget: € 1`799`512.

- 22RF071: Kenneth Baker, Budget: € 599.536
- 22RF072: Ulrich Scherer, Budget: € 600.000.
- 22RF073: Stefano Alivernini, Budget: € 599.976.

Call #23: Career Grant. Budget: € 797.768.

- 23CG074: Elizabeth Rosser, Budget: € 198.350.
- 23CG075: Serena Colafrancesco, Budget: € 200.000.
- 23CG076: Muriel Elhai, Budget: € 200.000.
- 23CG077: Aurelie Najm, Budget: Budget: € 199.418.

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Foundation assets

The foundation assets on 31 December 2022 amounted to 9.916.981 EUR and are invested with UBS and ZKB Zurich in current accounts in EUR and CHF and in securities with a stock market price.

The foundation assets are managed by the Board of Trustees. The Treasurer, as a member of the Executive Committee, is regularly informed by the Secretariat about payments and account balances.

The Treasurer reports to the Board of Trustees at regular intervals on the financial situation of FOREUM.

Expenditure planned is examined and approved by the Board of Trustees in full knowledge of the financial situation of the Foundation. The details are set out in the appendix to the annual report.

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Income statement and balance sheet 2022

Income statement

The 2022 income statement ends with a negative result of 1.277.320 EUR, with donations received last year amounting to 2.125.000 EUR. There were personnel expenses of 241.635 EUR and operating expenses (such as negative interest) of 157.669 EUR.

Balance sheet

The balance sheet at the end of 2022 includes assets of 9.916.981 EUR in the form of cash and cash equivalents and invested in securities. Shareholders' equity of 1.737.442 EUR is made up of 100.000 EUR endowment capital, 2.914.762 EUR retained earnings, and 1.277.320 EUR net loss for 2022.

	2022	
EULAR	500.000	
Pfizer (paid in 2020)		500.000
UCB	500.000	
AbbVie	250.000	
Janssen	250.000	
Novartis	250.000	
BMS	100.000	
Boehringer Ingelheim	50.000	
Galapagos	100.000	
Lilly	50.000	
Roche	50.000	
Vifor Pharma	25.000	
Total	2.125.000	2.625.000

Donation of Pfizer about 1.500.000 EUR were booked and paid in 2020 but considered as donations for 2021 and 2022 (each 500.000 EUR). Boehringer Ingelheim donated in two instalments of 50.000 EUR (06-12.22 & 01-06.23).

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Platinum Donors	 EUROPEAN ALLIANCE OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR RHEUMATOLOGY  
Gold Donors	  PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES OF <i>Johnson & Johnson</i> 
Silver Donors	
Bronze Donors	  
Donors	  

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Resolution of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees approved the activity report and annual financial statements for 2022 in June 2022 and adopted unanimously. The auditors for the coming 2022 financial year were also confirmed.

DocuSigned by:

Gerd Burmester

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Prof. Dr. Gerd R. Burmester,
President Board of Trustees

DocuSigned by:

Julia Rautenstrauch

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Dr. Julia Rautenstrauch
Member Board of Trustees

Kilchberg, 20 May 2023

Prof. Dr. Gerd R. Burmester



Dr. Julia Rautenstrauch



PROMOTING HEALTH THROUGH EFFECTIVE RESEARCH

Appendix risk evaluation and management

As part of its duties, the Board of Trustees regularly reviews all organs and processes of the foundation to identify risks and, as far as possible, avoid or at least mitigate them. At its meetings on 18 January and 31 May 2022, the Board of Trustees reviewed and approved the decisions and recommendations of the Executive and the Scientific Committee and found the decision-making processes to be good. In its assessment of the financial situation of FOREUM, the Board of Trustees reviewed the revenues and planned expenditures and approved them in accordance with the foundation's assets. No financial risks are discernible regarding the current activities of the foundation. To avoid financial risks in the future, the Board of Trustees reserves the right to make adjustments at any time. The principle only applies that donations are made for which the financial framework is 100% guaranteed.

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Contact information

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