



**FOREUM**

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# ANNUAL REPORT

2021

*Activity report and financial statement*

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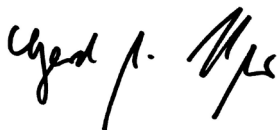
## Mission statement

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 2021.

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



## 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

## 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:
  - Assoc. Prof. Carina Boström (Sweden)
  - 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 der Woude (The Netherlands)
  - Assoc. Prof. Annette de Thurah, HPR (Denmark)
  - Prof. Xavier Mariette (France)
  - Prof. Kimme Hyrich (UK)
  - Prof. Carlo Salvarani (Italy)
  - Prof. Lucy Wedderburn (UK)
  - Ms. Heidi Bertheussen, PRP (Norway)
  - Ms. Ana Vieira, PRP (Portugal)

## **Management of the foundation**

For the administrative tasks, secretarial positions are being held by Caroline Desiderio, Program Manager (January-December, 60%), Patrizia Jud, Program Manager (January-September 2021, 80%) and Astrid Jüngel, FOREUM Manager (May-June 2021, 50%, July-December 100%) and Debora Würsch (Mid July 2021-December 2021, 80%).

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

## Mutations in the foundation

A change in the Board of Trustees took place in the 2021 financial year:  
Prof. Johannes Bijlsma, born 10 September 1950, The Netherlands citizen

**Has replaced:**

Prof. Maxime Dougados, born 13 March 1952, France.

## 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 independent evaluators/scientists 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 2021 is given in the chapter "Income Statement and Balance Sheet 2021". 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) EULAR, which is active in the same field. The aim is to avoid inefficient use of research funds through duplication. 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.



## PROMOTING HEALTH THROUGH EFFECTIVE RESEARCH

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.

## Activities of the foundation in the financial year 2021

### 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



### In 2021 FOREUM was able to

- c) **Approve the budget for upcoming calls**  
Call 22: Topic grant Remission and flare and  
Call 23: Career grant.
  
- a) **Call review and decision**  
Call 20: Fellowship (1 year).
  
- b) **Approve the projects for funding for**  
Call 15: Topic call on Fatigue and pain  
Call 18: Topic call on PsA  
Call 19: Career Research Grant.

# PROMOTING HEALTH THROUGH EFFECTIVE RESEARCH

## Call timeline

	2020	2021	2022
<b>Call 15:</b> Topic call on Fatigue and pain	Call approved- Budget	Projects approval	-
<b>Call 16:</b> Career Grant	Call approved- Budget and Projects approval	-	-
<b>Call 17:</b> Fellowship 1 year	Cancelled	-	-
<b>Call 18:</b> Topic call on PsA	Call approved- Budget	Projects approval	-
<b>Call 19:</b> Career grant	Call approved- Budget	Projects approval	-
<b>Call 20:</b> Fellowship 1 year	Call approved- Budget	Review and decision	Projects approval planned 2022
<b>Call 21:</b> Covid-19	Call approved- Budget and Projects approved	-	-
<b>Call 22:</b> Topic call on Remission and flare	-	Call approved- Budget	Projects approval planned 2022
<b>Call 23:</b> Career grant	-	Call approved - Budget	Projects approval planned 2022

## PROMOTING HEALTH THROUGH EFFECTIVE RESEARCH

Within the framework of topic **Call 15: Topic call on Fatigue and pain** (total of 1.587.074 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:

- 17FP058: Francesco Dell'Accio: ROR2 blockade for cartilage regeneration and pain relief in osteoarthritis; Budget: 599.908 EUR.
- 17FP059: Markos Klonizakis: Exploring the effects of a combined exercise programme on pain and fatigue outcomes in people with systemic sclerosis: A large multi-centre randomised controlled trial; Budget: 387.216 EUR.
- 17FP060: Camilla Svensson: Targeting autoimmune and molecular mechanisms for pain and fatigue in fibromyalgia; Budget: 599.950 EUR.

Within the framework of topic **Call 18: Topic call on PsA** (total of 1.791.810 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:

- 18PsA061: Maria Armaka: The contribution of Stromal cells in shaping the Synovial MicroEnvironment of Psoriatic arthritis: pathogenetic mechanisms, Heterogeneity, and prognosis (StroPHe); Budget: 591.960 EUR.
- 18PsA062: Erik Lubberts: The contribution of Stromal cells in shaping the Synovial MicroEnvironment of Psoriatic arthritis: pathogenetic mechanisms, Heterogeneity, and prognosis (StroPHe); Budget: 600.000 EUR
- 18PsA063: Mariola Kurowska-Stolarska: Identifying the mechanisms and biomarkers of transition from Psoriasis (PsO) to Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA); Budget: 599.850 EUR

Within the framework of topic **Call 19: Career grant** (total of 797.124 EUR), 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:

- 19Car064: Wendy Dankers: Failing maternal-fetal tolerance in SLE: finding the molecular mechanisms behind pregnancy complications; Budget: 200.000 EUR.
- 19Car065 Emanuel Della Torre, Pro-fibrotic role of IgG4 antibodies in the pathogenesis of IgG4-related disease; Budget: 200.000 EUR.
- 19Car066: James Gwinnutt, Cognitive phenotypes in immune mediated inflammatory diseases: a trans-diagnostic approach; Budget: 197.124 EUR.
- 19Car067: Mattias Svensson, Role of Innate Lymphoid Cells in Rheumatoid Arthritis; Budget: 200.000 EUR.

## 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 15: Topic call on Fatigue and pain**) totalling 1.587.074 EUR.
- Ratification of the Executive Committee's proposed allocations for three projects (**Call 18: Topic call on PsA**) totalling 1.791.810 EUR.
- Ratification of the Executive Committee's proposed allocations for four projects (**Call 19: Career grant**) totalling 797.124 EUR.

## Information on the amount of the research grants

As explained in the previous chapter, FOREUM 2021 has approved research grants, some of which have already been paid out. In detail these are:

### **Call 15: Topic call on Fatigue and pain** (total of 1.587.074 EUR)

- 17FP058: Francesco Dell'Accio, Budget: 599.908 EUR.
- 17FP059: Markos Klonizakis, Budget: 387.216 EUR.
- 17FP060: Camilla Svensson, Budget: 599.950 EUR.

### **Call 18: Topic call on PsA** (total of 1.791.810 EUR)

- 18PsA061: Maria Armaka, Budget: 591.960 EUR.
- 18PsA062: Erik Lubberts, Budget: 600.000 EUR.
- 18PsA063: Mariola Kurowska-Stolarska, Budget: 599.850 EUR.

### **Call 19: Career grant** (total of 797.124 EUR)

- 19Car064: Wendy Dankers, Budget: 200.000 EUR.
- 19Car065: Emanuel Della Torre, Budget: 200.000 EUR.
- 19Car066: James Gwinnutt, Budget: 197.124 EUR.
- 19Car067: Mattias Svensson, Budget: 200.000 EUR.

## Foundation assets

The foundation assets on 31 December 2021 amounted to 11.381.386 EUR and are invested with UBS 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.

## Income statement and balance sheet 2021

### Income statement

The 2021 income statement ends with a positive result of 358.353 EUR, with donations received last year amounting to 2.952.215 EUR. There were also personnel expenses of 242.672 EUR and other operating expenses of 83.399 EUR, which are completely covered by a part of the EULAR donation.

### Balance sheet

The balance sheet at the end of 2021 includes assets of 11.381.386 EUR in the form of cash and cash equivalents and invested in securities. Shareholders' equity of 3.014.763 EUR is made up of 100.000 EUR endowment capital, 2.556.410 EUR retained earnings, and 358.353 EUR net profit for 2021.

### Donations received in detail:

Donor	Amount in EUR in 2021
AbbVie	500.000
Amgen	100.000
Boehringer	100.000
EULAR	500.000
Galapagos & Gilead	251.000
Janssen	150.000
Lilly	300.000
Novartis	500.000
Pfizer	51.214
UCB	500.000
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>2.952.214</b>

BMS donation of 200.000 EUR and Pfizer donation of 500.000 EUR were booked and paid in 2020 but considered as donations for 2021.



# PROMOTING HEALTH THROUGH EFFECTIVE RESEARCH

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

## **Resolution of the Board of Trustees**

The entire Board of Trustees approved the activity report and annual financial statements for 2021 in June 2022 and adopted unanimously. The auditors for the coming 2022 financial year were also confirmed.

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

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Dr. Julia Rautenstrauch, Member Board of Trustees

Kilchberg, 27 June 2022

## 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 14 January and 30 June 2020, 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.

## Contact information

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