LEPROSY RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Annual Report- and Accounts 2021



Research funding and capacity strengthening





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Photo cover page comes from the project "Testing an App supported delivery system for Leprosy Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) services" (NLR India).

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1. Introduction

We were hopeful that in 2021 the impact of COVID-19 on our daily work and life would gradually decline and that we would be able to re-focus our attention on our road towards zero leprosy. However, in 2021 the pandemic continued to have major impact in all areas of society around the world.

Not surprisingly with the continuing pandemic, research projects funded by the Leprosy Research Initiative have experienced disruptions which are highlighted in this annual report. At the same time, despite the pandemic, some projects were able to commence or continue their work by adapting their plans to the situation. We commend all the teams for their commitment and resilience in another challenging year.

The core activities of the Leprosy Research Initiative related to funding and monitoring research projects were not interrupted. The work is always done largely online and as such was not hindered by the pandemic, although we do look forward to meeting our Scientific Review Committee, Steering Committee and grantees face-to-face, hopefully next year.

We currently support 27 research projects, including six projects which were awarded in 2021. In total, \in 600,000 was allocated to these projects in 2021. This is considerably lower than we had anticipated (\notin 1.6 million) and is to an important extent due to COVID-19 related delays in many of the research projects. Included in the allocated amount is a contribution of \notin 130,000 by the Turing Foundation as co-financier of the Leprosy Research Initiative and \notin 24,000 by St Francis Leprosy Guild as associate partner.

A major achievement in 2021 was the successful organization of the first virtual annual Spring Meeting with over 200 attendees. We also continued to support the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy in the implementation of the Global Research Agenda for Zero Leprosy.

We wish to thank everyone who contributed to the work of the Leprosy Research Initiative in 2021 via personal involvement, financial support or co-operation.

Linda Hummel

Bram van Ojik

Director Leprosy Research Initiative Supervisory Board

Chair

2 Vision and Policy

The Leprosy Research Initiative was launched in 2013 to boost scientific research by establishing and maintaining a joint research fund. An efficient, transparent and scientifically sound and rigorous selection process was developed for the selection of research proposals as well as a scientifically high-quality monitoring mechanism of research projects.

Our vision is a world free of leprosy and we aim to contribute to this vision by:

- 1. promoting, facilitating and funding highquality leprosy research;
- 2. strengthening research capacity in endemic countries, and;

3. facilitating translation of research results into policy and practice.

The Leprosy Research Initiative considers it important that research results are applicable to leprosy services or to the wellbeing of persons affected by leprosy in the short or medium term. Based on an evaluation* of the original research priorities formulated in 2013, the partners of the Leprosy Research Initiative have agreed on revised research priorities which came into effect in 2021. Only research proposals that address the research priorities are eligible for funding. Since budget round 2021, the following research priority areas are identified:

1. Diagnostic tests

To develop and test new assays for diagnosis of disease and infection.



2. Disability

To promote prevention, early detection and effective treatment of nerve function impairment and reactions / improve the coverage of prevention of disability activities and their integration in appropriate programmes.



3. Operational research

To improve the efficiency, effectiveness, or reach of available tools, in order to improve health programs and health outcomes.



4. Stigma & discrimination

To reduce stigma as a barrier to zero leprosy and to improve mental wellbeing of persons affected and their families.



5. Transmission

Implementation research on post-exposure prophylaxis and leprosy vaccine studies which have reached the stage of human trials. Basic research including susceptibility for *M leprae*, clinical progression, non-human reservoirs, genetic epidemiology.

More details can be found in our <u>Joint Policy</u> which is published on our website (www.leprosyresearch.org)

*Khazai et al. Leprosy Review (2019) 90, 3-30

Promoting, facilitating and funding high-quality leprosy research 3

A core activity of the Leprosy Research Initiative is organizing our annual call for proposals. The twostage application process involves the submission of initially a Letter of Intent (LoI) outlining the envisaged approach and an indication of budget and time, followed by an elaborated proposal for selected applicants. We have developed a thorough review process that gives applicants the opportunity to improve their application based on the feedback from external reviewers and which results in the selection of the most promising proposals for high quality and impactful research.

3.1 Call for proposals budget round 2021

The submission and review process of applications takes a year; the different steps are shown in the figure below. The Steering Committee (SC) met virtually in March 2021 to discuss their review of the LoIs (step 2). In their review, they looked at whether the proposal addressed one of the priority topics, the relevance and quality of an Lol, its potential impact, the involvement of researchers from endemic countries and persons affected and its value for money. The second review step was done by external reviewers (step 4). This year we approached 68 experts and we are grateful to the 48 experts who accepted to review a full proposal. The external reviewers scored and provided comments on the scientific quality and importance, the potential impact and the requested support. They submitted their review via our online portal and their

feedback was shared (anonymously) with the applicants. Applicants were invited to address the feedback in a rebuttal proposal. The third review step was done by our independent Scientific Review Committee (SRC). Each proposal was reviewed by two (step 6) committee members, using the online portal. The SRC discussed their recommendations during a virtual meeting in October 2021. Also in October, the SC met virtually to discuss the proposals recommended by the SRC and ranked them according to priority (step 6). The final decision was made by the Executives Group (EG) during their meeting in November 2021 (step 7).

(See page 13 for more information about the different committees)



01 - Call for Proposals-Letter of Intent

General call for proposals 70 Letter of Intents

02 – Letter of Intent review

Steering Committee: 24 Lols selected. Success rate: 34%

03 – Full Proposal

24 full proposals submitted.

04 – External review

22 proposals reviewed by two external reviewers; two proposals by one.

Final decision-07

Executive Group: 6 proposals accepted for funding.

Success rate FP: 25% Overall success rate: 9%

Rebuttal review - 06

Scientific Review Committee: 10 proposals recommended for funding.

Steering Committee: 6 proposals prioritized.

Rebuttal proposal - 05

All but one applicant submitted a rebuttal proposal.



3.1.1 New research projects funded in budget year 2021

Six new research projects were accepted for funding in 2021 – with a total budget of € 822,000.

Six new research project					
Project Title:	Diagnostic tests	Project Title: Disability			
Point-of-care immunod	iagnostic tests for	Exploring strategies and identifying effective			
	d Mycobacterium leprae	mechanisms to mobilize persons disabled as a			
infection in high and lov	w endemic areas in the	result of Neglected Tropical Diseases to influence			
South American Amazo	<u>n</u>	policy and programs to ensure person-centered			
Lead applicant:		approach for affected persons in Côte d'Ivoire			
Prof. Annemieke Geluk		Lead applicant:			
Leiden University Medi	cal Center	Dr Julian Ake			
Netherlands		Effect:hope			
		Canada			
Countries: Brazil, Bolivi	a				
Budget: € 305,484		<u>Countries</u> : Cote d'Ivoire			
Co-funding: Turing Four	ndation				
Project Title:	Operational research	Project Title: Operational research			
Assessing Electronic Da	ta Callection Tools	Improving the management of leprosy reactions			
	egration for Leprosy and	and the quality of life of persons affected:			
LF MMDP Data to Impre		developing and testing three interventions in			
	<u>Dve Service Delivery</u>	Indonesia			
Lead applicant:		Lead applicant:			
Dr Paul Saunderson		Dr Ruth Peters			
American Leprosy Missi	ion, USA	UT Ruth Peters VU University Amsterdam			
Countries Tononio Ch		Netherlands			
Countries: Tanzania, Gr	lana				
<u>Budget</u> : € 85,014		Countries: Indonesia			
Project Title:	Transmission				
	od dolivory system for	Project Title: Transmission			
Testing an App support		The Use of Molecular Methods in Subclinical			
<u>Leprosy Post Exposure</u>	Prophylaxis (PEP) services	Murine Models of Leprosy			
Lead applicant:		Lead applicant:			
Dr Ashok Agarwal		Dr Linda Adams			
NLR India		National Hansen's Disease Programs, USA			
<u>Countries</u> : India		Countries: Tanzania, Ghana			
Budget: € 169,812		Budget: € 54,187			
Co-funding: St Francis L	eprosy Guild	Co-funding: Turing Foundation			

For more information see: www.leprosyresearch.org



3.2 Monitoring of research projects

Grantees submit progress reports twice a year, in September and March, on the basis of which the SRC monitors the progress of the funded projects. Using a standard check list, the progress reports are assessed, and financial reports reviewed. The SRC gives recommendations about the continuation of funding to the EG.

The SRC discussed the progress reports in their virtual Spring (April 2021) and Autumn (October 2021) meetings. Research projects funded by the Leprosy Research Initiative have seen disruptions in their work due to measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as lockdown situations with staff unable to travel to work, patients and persons affected by leprosy unable to visit the clinic or research sites and community health workers unable to conduct home visits. As one researcher reported in September 2021: "*The laboratory is under complete shut-down since March 2020, paralyzing all planned experiments*".

Research teams have also shown resilience and adaptability. One researcher mentioned that they had been able to adapt the work to the lock-down situation: *"Project monitoring and support* [..] *has been performed online"*.

Another researcher mentioned "The project was designed with anticipation of the COVID situation."

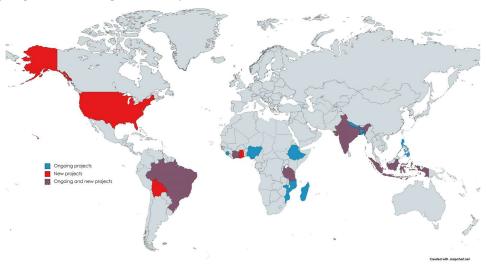
The EG followed the advice given by the SRC to accept no-cost extensions for projects facing delays.

3.2.1 Completed projects

There were no projects which were completed in 2021.

3.3 Geographical distribution funded research projects

Twenty-one projects were ongoing in 2021 and six new project were awarded. The figure below shows the geographical distribution of new and ongoing projects. Multiple projects are ongoing in Brazil, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, India, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Tanzania. Noteworthy is that India, Brazil and Indonesia account for over 70% of new cases.





4 Strengthening research capacity in endemic countries

An important objective of the Leprosy Research Initiative is to strengthen research capacities of researchers, institutions and organisations in endemic countries and to stimulate researchers from endemic countries to apply for funding. Preference is therefore given to proposals from, or in close collaboration with institutions or organisations in endemic countries. The thorough review and monitoring processes, the Spring Meeting and the capacity strengthening workshops, give novice researchers in LRI-funded projects the opportunity to gain scientific knowledge and experience.

4.1 Representation of endemic countries in research

While all project teams include partners from endemic countries, in 14 of the 27 ongoing projects the lead grantee is from an endemic country.

Four of the six projects which were granted in 2021 include research capacity strengthening components of MSc and PhD candidates in the endemic countries and two of PhD/post doc candidates from a non-endemic country. Furthermore, one projects specifically reports strengthening the capacity of persons affected organisations.

4.2 The Spring Meeting

The Spring Meeting is an event during which LRI-funded researchers present the progress and results of their projects to members of the SRC, SC, fellow LRI-funded researchers, associate partners and co-financiers and various other stakeholders from the world of leprosy research. In recent years also R2STOP (The Research to Stop Neglected Tropical Diseases Transmission Initiative) -funded researchers present during the meeting and members of the R2STOP Scientific Review Committee attend. The Spring Meeting took place in a virtual setup on April 8 and April 9 2021 for the first time. This allowed participation of other interested individuals, which resulted in a significant increase of participants: 222 participants from 33 different countries compared to on average 70 participants from about 20 countries in earlier face-to-face editions of the Spring Meeting.

In total 28 progress presentations were given in two parallel tracks: 22 regular and 6 short or so-called pitch presentations. Regular presentations were given on the progress of ongoing studies, whereas the pitch presentations were on research projects that had started recently. In addition to the progress presentation sessions, Dr Erwin Cooreman from the WHO Global Leprosy Programme gave an opening keynote presentation on the global leprosy situation, the current status and future directions. The



plenary keynote presentations on the second day were devoted to updates from Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy (GPZL) working groups (Leprosy Diagnostic Working Group and Country Modelling Working Group) and the developments in the GPZL Research Agenda for Zero Leprosy.





5 Facilitating translation of research results into policy and practice

The Leprosy Research Initiative considers it important that research results are applicable to leprosy services or to the wellbeing of persons affected by leprosy in the short or medium term. In order to achieve such impact it is important that these beneficiaries (staff of leprosy control programmes and persons affected by leprosy) are involved in studies and can develop a sense of ownership. In addition to stakeholder engagement, dissemination of research findings is considered an important part of the research project to contribute to achieving impact. We therefore encourage projects to disseminate the project findings by formulating a dissemination plan focusing on research uptake and by stimulating the publication of findings in open access journals.

With regard to stakeholder engagement, we can report that in three of the projects awarded in 2021 representatives from national programmes are part of the research team – ranging from implementing partners to being a co-applicant. The latter is the case in a project in Côte d'Ivoire which aims to develop an evidence-based intervention strategy to amplify the input and influence of people disabled by NTDs into programs and policies that impact their lives, improving their access to psychosocial, physical and economic rehabilitation services. The National Leprosy Elimination programme manager is coapplicant of this project. Its implementation through the National Leprosy Elimination Programme will facilitate later uptake of the findings if proven successful.

Project Title:

Exploring strategies and identifying effective mechanisms to mobilize persons disabled as a result of Neglected Tropical Diseases to influence policy and programs to ensure person-centered approach for affected persons in Côte d'Ivoire

Lead applicant: effect:hope

<u>Co-applicants:</u> The National Leprosy Elimination Programme of Côte d'Ivoire

<u>Duration</u>: August 2021 – July 2023 <u>Budget</u>: €123,970

Dissemination

In 2021, grantees have reported 10 scientific publications that have published, 8 of which are published in open access journals. Another 7 publication have been submitted and are under review. Other types of publications included viewpoints (2), one letter to editor and one book chapter (1).

Among the numerous meetings and workshops that were reported at least 13 included policy makers.



6 Current and Future perspectives

The December Executives Group meeting always looks ahead to the year to come. Decisions are made about the funding allocation for new projects starting in the next year, the announcement for a new call for proposals is discussed and the annual plan for the coming year is discussed.

For 2022, our focus will, as always, be on the grant cycle, more specifically on the review and selection process of the new applications and the monitoring of the ongoing projects. We are also looking forward to the Spring Meeting which will again be held as a virtual event. However, we are hopeful that it will be possible to attend the International Leprosy Conference in India in November 2022 inperson and to meet and hear from many of our funded researchers, our partners and collaborators.

In 2020 and 2021 we have not organized capacity strengthening workshops because of

the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, but preparations are on their way for a data analysis workshop – virtual or in-person – in 2022. Exciting is also that we are preparing for a new type of call for proposals hopefully to be launched in 2022 which will focus entirely on proposals from novice researchers, preferably from endemic countries, and which will have a strong capacity strengthening component. This call will be published in addition to the regular call for proposals.

Last but not least, collaboration with the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy on the implementation of the research agenda will continue in 2022, maximizing our joint impact in promoting, facilitating and funding highquality leprosy research.



7 Reviewer acknowledgements

We would like to thank all our external reviewers who dedicated their time to the peer review of the 2021 full proposals.

Abhijit Nadkarni Annamma John Arie de Kruijff Astrid Irwanto Bouke de Jong **Cairns Smith** Cita Prakoeswa Diana Lockwood Eliane Ignotti Emmy van der Grinten **Erik Slim Erwin Schurr** Gert Doekes Hemanta Kumar Kar Huib Cornielje leva Leimane Joshua Oraga Karthikeyan Govindasamy Kathy Fiekert Kidist Bobosha Laura Gillini Leslie Zolman Marivic Balagon

Maya Thomas Milton Moraes Mitali Chatterjee Nicole van der Wel Nora Cardona-Castro **Pim Kuipers Pushpendra Singh Rahul Sharma** Rie Yotsu **Roderick Hay** Saba Lambert Samhita Kumar Sarah Stutterheim Shyamala Anand Silmara Pennini Sundeep Chaitanya Vedithi Tanja Barth-Jaeggi **Tanny Hagens Thomas Hambridge** Tjip van der Werf William Faber Wim Brandsma Ximena Illarramendi



8 Who is who in the Leprosy Research Initiative

Executives Group

The Executives Group (EG) consists of the executive directors of the partners.

Mrs Linda Hummel	CEO, NLR (Chair)
Mr Burkard Kömm	CEO, GLRA
Mr Brent Morgan	Director, TLMI
Mr Bill Simmons	President/CEO, ALM
Mr Alex Jaucot	CEO, Damien Foundation
Mr Iñigo Lasa	Director General, Anesvad Foundation

Steering Committee

The Leprosy Research Initiative is guided by a Steering Committee (SC). The SC membership comprises the research consultants or coordinators of the partner organisations (ex-officio) and an independent Chair. The members in 2021 were:

Dr David Scollard	Retired Director of the National Hansen's Disease Programs (Chair)
Dr Wim H. van Brakel	Medical Director, NLR
Dr Peter Steinmann	Project Leader, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute; Chair SRC R2Stop
Dr Christa Kasang	Research Coordinator, GLRA
Mrs Jannine Ebenso	Head of Quality Assurance, TLMI
Dr Sunil Anand	Regional Director Asia, ALM
Dr Lucrecia Lacosta	Associate professor at the University of Michael Hernandez de Elche
Dr Lena Fiebig	Representative Anesvad Foundation Head of programmes, Damien Foundation
DI LEHA HEDIK	riedu of programmes, Dannen i Ounuation

The SC is responsible to EG.

Scientific Review Committee

The quality, relevance and feasibility of submitted research proposals are assessed by the independent SRC, comprising experts in leprosy, clinical medicine, public health, rehabilitation and social sciences. This committee makes recommendations to the EG concerning funding. The SRC also monitors the progress of the ongoing projects. Members serve for a maximum of two terms (eight years). The SRC members in 2021 were:



Dr R.W. Truman (Chair)	Retired Chief of the Laboratory Research Branch of the National Hansen's Disease Program, and Principal Investigator of the Leprosy Research Support program of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease.
Dr Jos H.M. Dekker	Rehabilitation Physician, Heliomare Rehabilitation Centre at Red Cross Hospital, the Netherlands
Dr Gigi J. Ebenezer	Associate Professor, Neurology Department, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, USA
Dr Bassey E. Ebenso	Research Fellow, Leeds University, Institute of Health Science, United Kingdom
Prof. Dr Victor P.M.G. Rutten	Associate Professor at Department of Infectious Diseases and Immunology, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands and Extraordinary Professor at Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases, University of Pretoria, South Africa
Prof. Dr Maria Leide W.R de Oliveira	Professor of Dermatology, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Prof. Dr Françoise Portaels	Professor Emeritus, Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp
	Belgium

LRI Secretariat

Dr Nienke Veldhuijzen	Technical Officer
Ms Nicole Dinnissen	Programme Officer
Ms Samira Musse (until August 2021)	Junior Officer
Ms Chrysa Menexi	Support Officer
(from November 2021) Ms Linda van den Berg (until July 2021)	Secretary
Mr Stephen Labib	LRI Communication Officer



9 Our partners

The Leprosy Research Initiative is a partnership of the following organisations:



We are grateful to the additional financial support that is provided to the Leprosy Research Initiative by the following organisations:







10 Financial paragraph

Summary Budget LRI 2022

Amounts x €1,000/ in Euro thousands

Main Group Income:	Budget 2022	Actuals 2021
 Income from contributors Income for co-financed projects Other income Income in return of goods and services 	1.179 313 0 14	1.179 250 0 43
Sum of income	1.506	1.472
Expenses:	Budget 2021	Actuals 2021
 -Research project costs -Running costs (via NLR) and other operating expenses 	1.705 257	573 262
Sum of expenses	1.962	835
Result	-456	637

Please refer to the annual accounts of LRI for the detailed budget of 2022.

Financial results 2021

In 2021 LRI received a total contribution from partners of € 1.179.000 and in addition to this an amount of € 250.079 was received from Turing Foundation and other partners towards running costs and research projects. The total expenses arrived at € 835.000. The positive result of 2021 amounting to € 637.000 is added to the earmarked reserves of LRI. This increased the total earmarked reserves from € 979.000 to € 1.617.000. The earmarked reserves are formed in accordance with LRI policy, please refer to the notes accompanying the annual account for 2021 for LRI policy.

The freely available funds consist of cash held in the bank account included an amount of € 1.803.000 as per 31 December 2021.

Outlook 2022

LRI will receive a contribution of \notin 1.179.000 from partners, an amount of \notin 313.000 for co-financed projects and \notin 14.000 in return of goods and services. The expected expenditures will be \notin 1.962.000. Looking forward, we expect a certain growth in project activities.

Please refer to the year plan of LRI published on the website for the detailed budget and a detailed description of the activities in 2022.



11 Annual accounts



Annual Accounts 2021

Stichting Leprosy Research Initiative

Version:1.8Date:29 April 2022Status:Draft for Auditors



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I Balance sheet as at 31 December 2021

Amounts in Euros

	Notes	31-d	ec-21			31-d	ec-20		
ASSETS									
Current assets	2.								
Accounts receivable		€	41.041			€	16.796		
Balances and accounts to be received from NLI	R	€	1.108.020			€	0		
Cash and cash equivalents		€	802.606			€	1.581.805		
				€	1.951.667			€	1.598.600
Total assets				€	1.951.667			€	1.598.600
LIABILITIES									
Reserves	3.								
Earmarked reserves	0.	€	1.617.094			€	979.499		
				€	1.617.094		0101100	€	979.499
Short-term liabilities	4.								
Accounts payable				€	334.572			€	394.781
Balances and accounts to NLR				€	0			€	224.321
Total liabilities				€	1.951.667			€	1.598.601



II Statement of Income and Expenditure 2021

Amounts in Euros

	Notes	Realisation 2021		Budget 2021		Realisation 2020
INCOME:	5.					
Income from allied and joint non-profit organisations	€	1.179.000	€	1.179.000	€	1.003.450
Other income	€	250.080	€	346.000	€	94.087
Income in return of goods and services	€	43.396	€	28.000	€	9.986
Total income	€	1.472.476	€	1.553.000	€	1.107.522
EXPENSES:	6.					
Research project costs	€	572.692	€	1.576.000	€	527.364
Staff costs, housing and office costs	€	234.955	€	236.000	€	210.475
Other operating expenses	€	27.233	€	34.000	€	22.499
Total expenses	€	834.881	€	1.846.000	€	760.337
Result of income and expenses	€	637.596	€	-293.000	€	347.185



III Notes accompanying the Annual Accounts 2021

1. General and accounting policies

These are the annual accounts of 2021 of Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI). LRI has been registered since June 1st 2015 as a foundation under Dutch law. These are the annual accounts of LRI presented for the year 2021, which started on the 1st of January and ended December 31st. LRI is registered at Chamber of Commerce no. 3431874.

General note on the accounting policies

The annual accounts has been prepared in accordance with Guideline C for small non-profit organisations (Dutch: Richtlijn C1 Kleine organisaties zonder winststreven) as published by the Dutch Accounting Standards Board (Raad voor de Jaarverslaggeving) and revised in 2016.

Activities

The Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI) is a leprosy research funding and capacity strengthening organisation. Partners of the LRI contribute to a joint fund which is managed by the LRI and reserved for research that is exclusively or strongly related to leprosy. An efficient, transparent and scientifically sound and rigorous selection process was developed for the selection of research proposals as well as a scientifically high-quality monitoring mechanism of research projects. A comprehensive explanation of our mission and goals and a detailed account of the content of our work can be found in our annual report.

The LRI work proceedings and work activities

The LRI fully delegated all its work proceedings and activities to NLR. NLR runs Leprosy Research Initiative's secretariat and all work proceedings and activities are also performed by NLR. The Supervisory Board of NLR supervises the proceedings and activities as reported by the NLR Director.

Registered address

The registered and actual address of the LRI is Wibautstraat 137k, 1097 DN in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Accounting period

The annual accounts have been drawn up for an accounting period of one year. The financial year is equal to the calendar year. The annual accounts have been prepared on a historical cost basis of accounting.

Accounting policies for the valuation of assets and liabilities and the determination of the result

All amounts in the annual accounts are in Euros or a multiple of 1,000 Euro, or rounded to the nearest amount in Euros. The amounts are compared to the part for research activities and objectives from the formal LRI budget for 2021 (approved by the Supervisory Board of NLR in December 2020).

The annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the principle of continuity.



Income from funding and the allocation of funds

Each LRI partner has committed an annual contribution to the LRI joint fund for research projects and contributes an equal share to LRI running costs. Associate partners and co-financiers contribute to specific projects and/or to the running costs. The income from partners, associate partners and co-financiers are recognised in the year to which the item of income relates and are allocated to the year in question on an actual cost basis. The income is shown gross, before any deduction of associated costs, unless otherwise stated. Necessary costs to realise certain benefits, are presented in the statement of income and expenses as expense.

Grant commitments

The grant commitments are recognised as conditional commitments. The LRI receives from the grantees two progress reports annually, including scientific progress regarding the research project and financial statements: a semi-annual report and an annual report. The semi-annual report must be submitted each year on September 1st. The deadline for submission of the annual report is March 1st. The amounts that are expected to be settled in future years and are accounted for, insofar as expenditures are appropriate within the condition, are included as short-term liabilities. The LRI does not hold any long-term liabilities.

Accounts receivable

Receivables are initially valued at the fair value of the consideration to be received, including transaction costs if material.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash and bank balances represent the balance of the bank account held for the head office of the LRI, in the Netherlands and are immediately accessible. The LRI does not have any borrowings or loans. The LRI does not invest nor does it make use of any financial instruments.

General note on the balance sheet and statement of income and expenses

In general, assets and liabilities are stated at the amounts at which they were acquired or incurred, or current value. If not specifically stated otherwise, they are recognised at the amounts at which they were acquired or incurred. The balance sheet and statement of income and expenses include references to the notes. Notes to the line items of the balance sheet and the statement of income and expenses have been numbered in the financial statements.

Foreign currency

The annual accounts are presented in Euro. Transactions in foreign currency are converted to Euro at the exchange rate of the transaction date.

Reserves

The LRI ensures that contributions are used for the intended cause. If more funds are allocated to a specific research project than the reported expenditure in that particular year for that project, the LRI will allocate the surplus amount to the same project in the remaining grant period. If, upon completion, the actual expenditures of a specific project are lower than the grant awarded, the remaining budget will be deposited in the joint fund. The (earmarked) reserves are the result of



income and expenses and are held in accordance with budgets for grant awards and for the running costs of the LRI for future years.

The result of 2021 is added to the earmarked reserves and used for active and new grant awards as well as running costs to ensure the sustainability of the LRI with a horizon of three years. The LRI holds no investments.

Management of the LRI and remuneration of Supervisory Board and Executive Group

The LRI is managed by the director of NLR, implementing the decisions of the LRI Executive Group and supervised by the Supervisory Board of NLR. No remuneration was paid to the Supervisory Board members and director of NLR, and no loans, advances or guarantees were given. In 2021 no expenses were reimbursed.

Events after the reporting period

In these accounts no significant events after the reporting period occurred which should be included.

Publication

This report is available on www.leprosyresearch.org. The 2021 annual report and the annual accounts are available in a digital format primarily for environmental reasons. A (free of charge) printed copy can be obtained on request.

2. Notes to Balance sheet 2021

In the notes to the balance sheet variances between 2020 and 2021 are elaborated upon further.

1. Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are used for the main activities and entirely held for operational management. The LRI holds no tangible fixed assets and therefore this is not valued in 2021.

2. Current assets

This item includes all receivables which are due within one year, amounts paid in advance and cash and cash equivalents.

	31 December 2021	31 December 2020
	in€	in€
Contributions and amounts due	41.041	16.796
Funds and accounts to be received from NLR	1.108.020	0
Cash and cash equivalents	802.606	1.581.805
	1.951.667	1.598.600

The income from contributions are accounted for once the commitment has been confirmed. The item "contributions and amounts due" relate to the contribution of NLR towards the ALM LepVax research project, this amount is expected but not yet received income.



Cash and cash equivalents are cash and bank balances in Euros in the Netherlands held by the LRI office in Amsterdam. The LRI holds its main current account at ING Bank (NL). The balance of cash and cash equivalents are available immediately.

The cash and cash equivalents balance at ING Bank for the year ended 31 December 2021 is € 802.606. An amount of 1 million euro has been temporary deposited in the account of NLR as part of the LRI's cash management strategy and is included in the amount of € 1.108.020 being funds and accounts to be recveived from NLR.

3. Reserves

The LRI ensures that contributions are used for the intended cause. If more funds are allocated to a specific research project than the reported expenditure in that particular year for that project, the LRI will allocate the surplus amount to the same project in the remaining grant period. If, upon completion, the actual expenditures of a specific project are lower than the grant award, the remaining budget will be deposited in the joint fund. The (earmarked) reserves are the result of income and expenses and are held in accordance with budgets for grant awards and for the running costs of the LRI for future years.

The LRI's reserves are as follows:

	31 December 2021	31 December 2020
	in€	in €
Earmarked reserves	1.617.094	979.499
	1.617.094	979.499

General notes on the reserves

- For the budget of 2021, a deficit of € 293.000 was accounted. Many of the research projects funded by the Leprosy Research Initiative have seen disruptions in their work due to measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in delayed implementation and progress. The LRI Executives Group has accepted requests from projects for no-cost extensions to continue activities related to the grant award. The positive result of 2021 arrived at € 637.596 and is added to the earmarked reserves of the LRI.
- The LRI ensures that contributions are used for the intended cause. If more funds are allocated to a specific research project than the reported expenditure in that particular year for that project, the LRI will allocate the surplus amount to the same project in the following year. If, upon completion, the actual expenditures of a specific project are lower than the grant award, the remaining budget will be deposited in the joint fund. If, upon completion, the actual expenditures of a specific project award, the remaining budget will be deposited in the grant award, the remaining budget will be added to the earmarked reserves. While partners contribute to the joint fund, associated partners and co-financers contribute to specific projects. Some of the funds received in 2021 for specific projects remained unspent. This has been re-allocated to the 2022 budget.



• The LRI holds no continuity reserve.

	Continuity reserves in €	Earmarked reserves in €	Total in €
Balance as per 1 January 2021	0	979.499	979.499
- Movements	0	0	0
- Withdrawals and additions	0	637.596	637.596
Balance as per 31 December 2021	0	1.617.095	1.617.095

4. Short term liabilities

All current liabilities fall due in maximum four years from date of signature. The fair value of the current liabilities approximates the book value due to its short-term character.

Accounts payable

	31 December 2021	31 December 2020
	in €	in€
Accounts payable/creditors	334.572	394.781
	334.572	394.781

Accounts payable are mainly amounts payable to the amount of € 49,000 for (scientific) research in 2021, not yet formally invoiced by the researchers and institutes concerned. The amounts received in advance (€ 286.000) are also calculated under this item, which are unspent funds from Turing Foundation and other contributors towards research projects.

<u>Deposits</u>

In 2021 no amounts were deposited.

Balances and accounts to NLR

	31 December 2021	31 December 2020
	in €	in€
Balances and accounts to NLR	-1.108.020	224.321
		0
	-1.108.020	224.321

he amount of € 1.108.020 represents an deposit of € 1 million euro's. Further claims of contribution as well as debts of salaries, charged support costs and other costs paid in advance by NLR. Compared to the outstanding balance in 2020, the realisation in 2021 was a debt.

Commitments not included in the balance sheet

The LRI has made commitments for 2022 for running research projects for a total value of € 1.705.000. The total budgetted research costs for the years 2022-2025 are € 3.958.000. See annex 3 for details.



Events after balance sheet date

COVID-19 response measures have impacted the whole environment. The LRI is also confronted with the consequences. The response measures might affect the realisation of the budget for the year 2022. The impact is difficult to quantify at this stage. The reserve and liquidity position are considered to be sufficient to compensate for possible negative consequences. As a result, it does not affect the annual accounts 2021 and the continuity of the LRI.

3. Notes to the Income and Expenditure 2021

5. Income

Each LRI partner has committed an annual contribution to the joint LRI research fund and contributes an equal share to the LRI running costs. In 2021 the partners were: American Leprosy Missions (ALM), German Leprosy and Tuberculosis Relief Association (GLRA/DAHW), The Leprosy Mission International (TLMI), Damien Foundation, NLR and Anesvad Foundation. The breakdown of the total income is as follows:

	Realisation 2021	Budget 2021	Realisation 2020
	in €	in €	in €
Income from allied and joint non-profit organisations			
ALM	168.000	168.000	165.000
effect:hope	-	0	33.450
GLRA/DAHW	188.000	188.000	185.000
TLM International	138.000	138.000	135.000
Asesvad Foundation	200.000	200.000	0
NLR	350.000	350.000	350.000
Action Damien	135.000	135.000	135.000
Other income			
Turing Foundation	129.731	301.000	90.259
Others co financial projects	119.894	45.000	3.828
Others	454	0	0
Income in return of goods and services			
Others	43.396	28.000	9.986
	1.472.475	1.553.000	1.107.523

The total amount of income available for allocation in line with the objectives for 2021 arrived at € 1.472.475.

The realisation of the total income in 2021 was 5,5 % lower than budgeted. As per agreement, Turing Foundation contributed five % of their actual co-funding on project funding towards runnings costs as realised at the end of the year 2021. For 2021 we received a contribution from Turing Foundation of \notin 129.731 towards specific research projects. The amount under other income from others consists of surplus funds after completing projects. An amount of \notin 43.396 under others is a contribution of the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy towards salary cost of the LRI coordinator for a specific assignment in their behalf. An amount of \notin 11.367 being the contribution of Turing Foundation for the running costs is included in "others co financial projects".



6. Expenses

Research

The expenses mainly consist of funding of (scientific) research project costs in line with the active grant awards. A total of 27 research projects received funding in 2021. Please refer to Annex 1 for full details of the project expenses.

	Realisation 2021	Budget 2021	Realisation 2020
Research	in€	in€	in €
Research projects funding	572.691	1.576.000	527.363
	572.691	1.576.000	527.363

The LRI spent a total of € 573.000 (2020: € 527.000) on research funding excluding the running costs.

The actual research project costs were 36 % of the budgeted project costs. This is below budget due to the impact of the unusual circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition two projects were temperarily put on hold and most newly granded projects started activities in the second half of 2021, while the budget foreseen was for a full calender year. The LRI Executives Group has accepted requests from projects for no-cost extensions to continue activities related to the grant awarded.

Running costs

	Realisation 2021	Budget 2021	Realisation 2020
Running costs	in€	in€	in €
Staff expenses	196.955	200.000	175.475
Housing expenses	21.000	20.000	19.000
Office expenses	17.000	16.000	16.000
Other operating expenses	27.233	34.000	22.499
	262.189	270.000	232.974

The LRI running costs consist of staff costs for the LRI officers, housing expenses and other operating expenses that cannot be directly allocated to the research projects. The realisation of housing and office expenses of 2021 was in accordance with the budget, other operating expenses were below budget.

Towards the running costs Turing Foundation contributed € 11.367 which is presented according to the classification as other income (note 5).

Staff expenses

In 2021 on average 2.9 fte's (2020: 2.4 fte's) were employed via NLR in the secretariat of the LRI in Amsterdam. The LRI has no staff employed abroad during 2021. For the LRI officers the NLR standard terms, benefits and conditions of employment apply.

The LRI has no staff members on the payroll; all staff is employed by NLR and the expenditure is recharged to the LRI. The total staff costs of the LRI amount to € 196.955 and consist of wages & salaries, pension costs (insured with Pensioenfonds Zorg en Welzijn), social security charges and other personnel costs.



GPZL contributed € 9.625 towards staff costs for 2021 is according the classification presented under Other income.

	Realisation 2021	Budget 2021	Realisation 2020
Staff expenses	in €	in €	in €
Wages and salaries	153.587	154.000	136.767
Social security costs	24.453	24.000	21.948
Pension contributions	16.981	18.000	14.894
Other personnel costs	1.950	4.000	1.867
	196.955	200.000	175.475

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: the supervisory board and the management of Stichting Leprosy Research Initiative.

A. Report on the audit of the financial statements 2021 included in the annual report.

Our opinion

We have audited the financial statements 2021 of Stichting Leprosy Research Initiative based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Stichting Leprosy Research Initiative at 31 December 2021 and of its result for 2021 in accordance with the 'RJ-Richtlijn C1 Kleine organisaties zonder winststreven' (Guideline for annual reporting C1 'Small not-for-profit organisations') of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board).

The financial statements comprise:

- 1. the balance sheet as at 31 December 2021;
- 2. the statement of income and expenses for 2021; and
- 3. the notes comprising of a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing . Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report.

We are independent of Stichting Leprosy Research Initiative in accordance with the Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assuranceopdrachten (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore we have complied with the Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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B. Report on the other information included in the annual report.

The annual report contains other information, in addition to the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

The other information consists of:

- the Management Board's report;
- Annex 1: Overview of research projects;
- Annex 2: Budget 2022;
- Annex 3: Multi Annual Budget 2022-2025;
- Annex 4: Management Board and Executives Group.

Based on the following procedures performed, we conclude that the other information is consistent with the financial statements and does not contain material misstatements.

We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and understanding obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements.

By performing these procedures, we comply with the requirements of the Dutch Standard 720. The scope of the procedures performed is substantially less than the scope of those performed in our audit of the financial statements. Management is responsible for the preparation of the other information, including the Management Board's report in accordance with Guideline for annual reporting 'RJ-Richtlijn C1 Kleine organisaties zonder winststreven' (Guideline for annual reporting C1 'Small not-for-profit organisations').

C. Description of responsibilities regarding the financial statements

Responsibilities of the supervisory board and the management board for the financial statements.

The management board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting 'RJ-Richtlijn C1 Kleine organisaties zonder winststreven' (Guideline for annual reporting C1 'Small not-for-profit organisations'). Furthermore, the management board is responsible for such internal control as the management board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, the management board is responsible for assessing the foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, the management board should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the management board either intends to dissolve the foundation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

2

The management board should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the foundation's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

The supervisory board is responsible for overseeing the organisation's financial reporting process.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit engagement in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion.

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements.

Our audit included among others:

- identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to
 fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit
 evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a
 material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may
 involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control;
- evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management;
- concluding on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a foundation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures; and
- evaluating whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

3

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Amsterdam, 30 June 2022

Dubois & Co. Registeraccountants

A.P. Buteijn RA

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V Annexes

1. Overview of research projects

Amounts in Euros

Desite at a second second	Paris de la constanción	Budget	Realisation
Project number	Projects names	2021	2021
703.15.41	TLM Nepal/Helminth influences in leprosy (1 sept 2015 - 31 Aug 2019)/Hage	20.000	0
704.16.57	IDRI/Integration of rapid diagnostic tests to facilitate case management of reprosy	14.767	0
704.16.59	MSU/Biomarkers for early detection of leprosy, India/US /Singh (1 Jan 2017/ 31 December 2020)	11.000	0
704.16.71	ENLIST MTX - two randomised controlled trials in ENL, Walker (1 Nov 2016- 31 Oct 2022)	259.133	0
705.17.30	ENAPAL/Family-based approaches self-management of disab. due to leprosy, podoconiosis and LF/Ethiopia	0	58
706.18.46	FUSM/ILEP Promoting inclusion where it matters most: Building resilience in individuals and families, Brazil/India	19.644	1.962
706.18.29	SIHR&LC/Design a customized offloading devices to promote healing of plantar ulcers – India	0	709
706.18.45	Athena Institute/A qualitative and participatory research to improve the management of ENL – Indonesia/India	0	841
707.19.02	Erasmus MC/Monitoring effect of prophylactic interventions, Bangladesh	71.250	52.500
707.19.20	IRDBP/Implementation of Dapsone Hypersensitivity Syndrome, Indonesia/Nepal	39.002	16.095
707.19.45	DF/Assessing the effectiveness of IECS, Bangladesh	33.650	16.500
707.19.60	NLTB/Collaboration traditional healers, Sierra Leone	2.600	26.054
707.19.62	NCGM/Integrated approach skin camp, eSkin Health app, Côte d'Ivoire	39.363	48.851
707.19.21	BLP/Clofazimine for MB cases at high risk of ENL, Bangladesh/India	45.293	22.726
707.19.64	ALM/LepVax	62.500	45.000
707.19.98	PEP workshop / seed funding		10.000
709.00.20	SRC/LRI spring & autumn meetings	85.000	9.691
706.18.99	Workshop on operational research	34.000	0
708.20.04	Efficacy and Tolerability of Adjunct Metformin in Multidrug Treatment	55.084	29.727
708.20.09	Molecular Mechanisms of Immunomodulation Imparted by Mycobacterium indicus pranii (MIP)	71.440	0
708.20.12	Informing (generic) approaches to reduce stigma: Capturing culture-specific stigma dynamics by understanding 'What matters most'	111.872	0
708.20.14	Leprosy Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance in Post Exposure Prophylaxis Setting in Tanzania (LARS)	33.109	43.900
708.20.15	Improving mental health and Quality of Life of Persons affected by Leprosy or Buruli ulcer in Southern Nigeria	62.625	31.313
708.20.17	Assessing the long-term outcomes and sustainability of family-based approaches	81.194	29.787
708.20.18	Genotyping of Mycobacterium leprae strains in leprosy patients and their close contacts for a better understanding of transmission	25.934	0
FP21.08	The Use of Molecular Methods in Subclinical Murine Models of Leprosy	50.000	
FP21.10	Point-of-care immunodiagnostic tests	107.057	77.254
FP21.14	Improving management of leprosy reactions and quality of life of persons affected	59.998	0
FP21.17	Assessing Electronic Data Collection Tools, Pathways and HMIS Integration	49.935	49.935
FP21.20	Testing an App supported delivery system for Leprosy Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) services	68.542	24.967
FP21.26	Exploring strategies and identifying effective mechanism, Cote d'Ivoire	61.990	34.821
		4 575 000	F73 CO1
	TOTAL PROJECTS	1.575.982	572.691



2. Budget 2022

Budget Stichting Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI) 2022

Amounts x €1,000/ in Euro thousands	Budget 2022	Actuals 2021	Budget 2021
Income			
Income from contributors			
ALM	168	168	168
Action Damien	135	135	135
Effect:hope	0	0	0
GLRA/DAHW	188	188	188
TLM International	138	138	138
The Mission to End Leprosy	0	0	0
Anesvad Foundation	200	200	200
NLR	350	350	350
Other income			
Turing Foundation	236	130	301
Income for co-financed projects	77	120	45
Income from others	0	0	0
Income in return of goods and services	14	43	28
Sum of income	1.506	1.472	1.553

<u>Expenses:</u>	Budget 2022	Actuals 2021	Budget 2021
Research project costs	1.705	573	1.576
	1.705	573	1.576
Running costs	257	262	270
	257	262	270
Sum of expenses	1.962	835	1.846
Result	(456)	638	(293)



3. Multi annual budget 2022 – 2025

Amounts x €1,000/ in Euro thousands	Budget 2022	Projection 2023	Projection 2024	Projection 2025
Income:				
Income from contributors	1.179	1.124	995	995
Income for co-financed projects	313	325	187	37
Income in return of goods and services	14	0	0	0
Sum of income	1.506	1.449	1.182	1.032
Expenses:	Budget 2022	Projection 2023	Projection 2024	Projection 2025
Approved Leprosy research projects (ongoing)	1.397	1.031	526	83
Funding of new research projects	308	318	193	102
	1.705	1.349	719	185
Running costs	257	260	263	270
	257	260	263	270
Sum of expenses	1.962	1.609	982	455
Result	(456)	(160)	201	577



4. Management Board and Executive Group

Management Board

#	Name	Title	Role	From	Until
1	L. Hummel	Chief Executive Officer; NLR	Chair	1-1-2021	now

Executives Group

The LRI Executives Group (EG) consists of the executive directors of the LRI partners

#	Name	Title	Role	From	Until
1	L. Hummel	Chief Executive Officer; NLR	Chair	1-1-2021	now
2	B. Simmons	Chief Executive Officer; American Leprosy Missions	Member	1-6-2015	now
3	B. Kömm	Chief Executive Officer; German Leprosy Relief Association	Member	1-6-2015	now
4	B. Morgan	Chief Executive Officer; The Leprosy Mission International	Member	1-6-2015	now
5	A. Jaucot	Chief Executive Officer; Damien Foundation	Member	1-1-2020	now
6	I. Lasa	General Director; Anesvad Foundation	Member	1-11-2020	now