



International Rotary
Fellowship of
Healthcare Professionals

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1 JULY 2023

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT – ROTARY YEAR 2022-23

1. A YEAR TO CELEBRATE

For the Fellowship, the last Rotary year (2022-23) has been a significant year. We have grown in number and in impact.

There is much to celebrate. I'll mention some of our achievements in this report.

2. THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

Last Rotary year – July 2022 to June 2023 – was a year of major geopolitical changes.

We certainly had some good news – Covid was well and truly under control, but the devastating effect on the economy is still evident, in particular in low- and middle-income countries.

None of us imagined that we would still be in a state of war in Europe.

The humanitarian situation in countries like Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Yemen remains desperate without any signs of a resolution in the underlying conflicts.

Some 32 million people around the world currently are refugees, meaning they have fled their native country because of persecution, conflict, or violence.

Whilst these tragedies have hit the headlines there are also many thousands who suffered silently.

Amongst them, about 287 000 women who died during and following pregnancy and childbirth in 2020. Almost 95% of all maternal deaths occurred in low and lower middle-income countries in 2020, and most could have been prevented.

3. ROTARIANS IN ACTION

It was also a year in which thousands of Rotarians engaged in programs to help those in need by over 47 million volunteer hours and 333 million USD worth sustainable humanitarian programs.

I'm delighted to report that the Fellowship played its role in reaching out to those in need.

4. GOVERNANCE OF THE FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship is governed by its elected Board. We met online 10 times during the year.

During these meetings we had meaningful discussions about the day-to-day management of the Fellowship and also explored health issues affecting people in different parts of the world.

I'm grateful to the Board for the support I received during the year, in particular the support of our International Secretary Rainer Moosdorf and Vice Chair Herbert Ederer.

With our increasing range of activities, we are at a point of transition.

I thank the outgoing members of the Board and wish the new Board all the very best.

In particular I want to place on record my heartfelt thanks to Herbert and wish him all the best.

5. NEW BOARD 2022-23

The list of nominees for the new Board (2022-23) has been previously circulated. The procedure for nominations is set out in the constitution.

I'm pleased to say that the nominations include four new members.

2023-24				Responsibility	2023-24	
Herbert Ederer	Austria	Europe	1	Chair		Re-elect
Amal El Sisi	Egypt	Africa	2	Vice Chair	Signatory	Re-elect
Ann Evans, USA	USA	North-America	3	SG: TENA		Re-elect
Rainer Moosdorf	Germany	Europe	4	Secretary		Re-elect
Jennifer Orth, USA	USA	North-America	5	Vice Secretary		Re-elect
John Philip	UK	Europe	6	Treasurer	Signatory	Re-elect
Gillian Pearce, UK	UK	Europe	7	Vice Treasurer	Signatory	Re-elect
Demetress Harrell, USA	USA	North-America	8	Vice Chair		new
Richard Kalungi	Uganda	Africa	9	Continent		new
Drago Pausek, Croatia	Croatia	Europe	10	SG: PR-SM		Re-elect
Stefan Braunecker, UK	UK	Europe	11	SG: PR-SM		Re-elect
Olha Palichuk, Ukraine	Ukraine	Europe	12	SG: Ukraine		new
PR Public relation SM Social medias SG Subgroup MD Medical devices						

6. SUPPORT TO UKRAINE

In my last report I mentioned that the Fellowship was one of the first Rotary groups to mobilize medical aid for Ukraine. The war broke out on 24th February. Our first meeting to plan medical aid was on 5th March.

A task group was formed with Herbert as Chair, Rainer and me as members. We met colleagues from Ukraine, some countries in Europe, Rotarians from the US and from Canada – initially on a weekly basis and later two weekly.

I also represented the Fellowship in a Ukraine task group of Rotary and Great Britain and Ireland (RGI), which coordinated response from the UK.

Our regular contacts with members of the Fellowship in Ukraine helped us to target aid to the point of greatest need.

Direct donations – Our policy has been to fund the purchase of medical equipment in Europe. Of late, we have funded the purchase of some equipment in Ukraine. We've so far directly funded the purchase of medical equipment worth £410,640 thanks to the amazing generosity of Rotarians and non-Rotarian from GBI, the US, Australia, Croatia and Canada.

IRFHP EXPENSE ALREADY INCURRED

				GBP
16/03/2022	Ukraine/Poland	Medications		£5,005.00
28/03/2022	RC Kosice	VAC pumps		£16,375.00
08/04/2022	Ivana Langova	Tourniquets	6000	£31,254.27
20/04/2022	RC of Leoban	Medications		£6,170.80
06/05/2022	RC of Leoban	Infant Resuscitator		£9,136.96
27/05/2022	Ivana Langova	Tourniquets	2000	£10,662.00
24/06/2022	Ivana Langova	Tourniquets	4000	£21,430.58
06/07/2022	Stryker	Ortho instruments		£123,874.46
26/07/2022	Ivana Langova	Tourniquets	4000	£21,071.82
20/09/2022	Ivana Langova	Tourniquets	4000	£22,854.69
19/10/2022	MCAI	Perinatal care		£71,691.89
04/11/2022	MCAI	Perinatal care		£23,658.32
05/04/2023	Lviv International club	Mobile clinic		£15,200.00
04/05/2023	D2232 (Olha)	Operating equipment		£7,481.00
15/06/2023	Kangaro Mother Care	Premature babies		£19,840.00
15/06/2023	Disabled children			£4,934.00
SUBTOTAL (DIRECT FROM IRFHP)				£410,640.79

INDIRECT (ONLY SOME!)

The most significant items we donated are 20,000 tourniquets each with the potential of saving a life (£107,271), orthopaedic instruments (£123,874) for emergency surgery and the supply of equipment to improve perinatal care (£95,349).

The supply of equipment to improve perinatal care was a particularly poignant moment for me as I felt that I could not rely on third parties to deliver them to contacts in Ukraine and hence I travelled to the Polish border with the supplies.

Indirect donations – Many Rotary and non-Rotary groups have contacted the Fellowship for advice about appropriate donations. From within RGBI, there has been a significant flow of medical aid to Ukraine – many such donations were made with our direct help.



Particular mention must be made of the donation of 7000+ knitted hats for newborn babies from well-wishers in the UK – they are waiting to be sent to Ukraine.

Publicity and moral support – The Fellowship has made efforts to publicise the situations in Ukraine through its network and in many meetings. As ‘Ukraine’ fades from the headlines, we play a small role in keeping alive the ongoing suffering of the people there.

7. SUBGROUP – HEALTH OUTCOMES AND PATIENT SAFETY (HOPS)

Chair – RI Director Pat Merryweather-Arges

Our Webinar on 14 Dec was well attended. Patient safety is a global mission for Governments and many non-Governmental agencies. Rotary is a key player in providing healthcare to many low- and middle-income countries and

we hope to play our part in ensuring patient safety in all our programmes.

8. SUBGROUP - SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE MEDICAL SUPPLY (SASMES)

Chair – DG Demetress Harrell

The Rotary Foundation is placing considerable emphasis on sustainable medical equipment donations. We hope to continue our efforts in ensuring that all Rotary funded donations follow good practice.

9. REMERGE



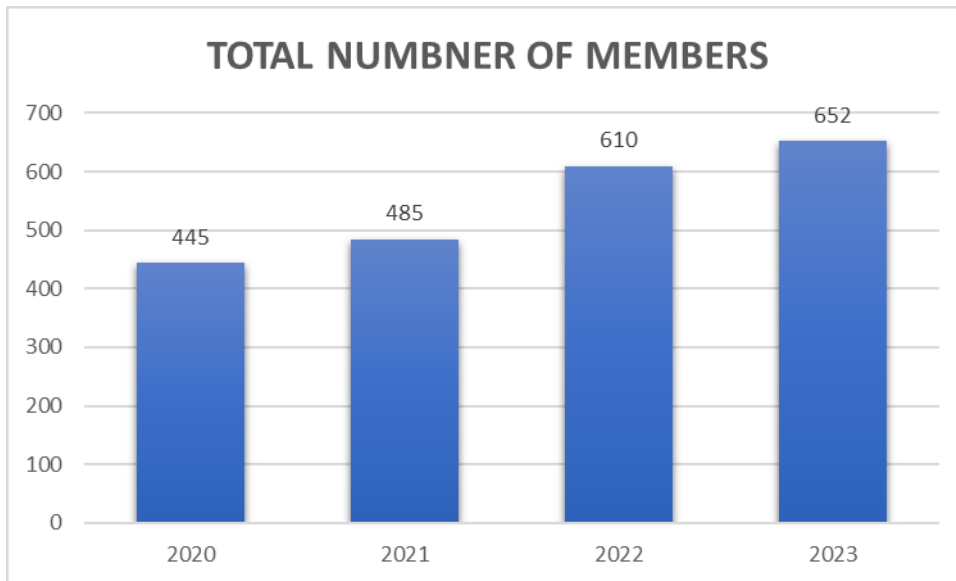
I must congratulate Jennifer Orth and her team who carried out research into the complex issues surrounding the environmental impact of reprocessing of medical equipment. Their research paper was published this year.

Our international secretary Professor Rainer from Germany is mentoring this research group. The Fellowship would like to continue to engage this group and point them in the right direction for further research.

Website: <https://www.mdpi.com/2078-1547/14/2/21>

PDF Version: <https://www.mdpi.com/2078-1547/14/2/21/pdf>

10. MEMBERSHIP



There are 652 members from 70 countries. The corresponding figures for 21-22 was 610.

I'm pleased with the progress we have made but I am aware that we have not reached out effectively to thousands of healthcare professionals in the family of Rotary. I appeal to anyone here who is not yet a member to join us now and to our members to encourage colleagues.

11. REGISTERED CHARITY

Two years ago, we obtained Charitable status (Trust) with the Charity Commissioners in England and Wales.

The Trust is subservient to the Board and can act only on its advice. The charitable status provides the Fellowship credibility and gives it some tax advantages in the UK. In order to benefit from these privileges, the Trust has its own governing documents and Trustees who report to the Board regularly

12. CROWD FUNDING USING GLOBALGIVING

The Fellowship has currently two projects on the Crowd funding platform GlobalGiving.

- Heart 2 Heart to support children with congenital heart diseases in Egypt has raised \$11,680 against the goal \$30,000
<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/children-with-heart-defects-give-them-a-chance/>
- To provide quality palliative care and pain management to orphaned and abandoned young children with a loving, homely environment at no cost in South Africa
<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/palliative-care-for-orphaned-children/>

13. THE FELLOWSHIP AT THE RI CONVENTION IN MELBOURNE



The Fellowship had a robust presence at the RI Convention in Melbourne.

The booth was staffed by Chris and myself all the time – we also had help from Amal and Ann, as well as our member David Goldsmith from Melbourne.

We all felt that there was considerable interest in who we are and what we do. We were recognised for our projects, our fundraising and our joined up, multidisciplinary approach to health programmes.

The contacts and conversations convinced me that we have huge potential to increase our portfolio of programmes.

I was invited to speak in the WASH world summit on the topic of Water and Sanitation in Healthcare Facilities, which is an area, I hope, we would be able to explore further.

An NGO (Projectrozanna) which has extensive medical training programmes reached out and would like to liaise with us – I hope to set up a meeting with them soon.

I was also invited to attend a meeting of representatives from a number of medical NGOs who appear to be looking up to us to play a central role in sharing information and learning from one another. One important suggestion that came from this group is that the Fellowship could set up a Directory of Rotary connected Health Programmes. This group may grow and evolve, in which case the Fellowship will have a key role. I'll follow this up and report to the Board with more information.

We visited the massive warehouse managed by Australian Rotarians which repurposes and supplies medical equipment to many low-income countries. The initiatives by our Medical Equipment Subgroup led by Demetress Harrell received considerable attention and quite a few new connections.



We were given a room for a 'networking meeting'. Over 110 people attended the two-hour meeting moderated by Ann. We heard presentations from Demetress, Olha, Amal, David, Juliet Altens and Ann. It was attended by representatives from some Action Groups and NGOs.

At the opening ceremony the RI President Jennifer Jones announced that the proposal from our Vice Chair Amal El-Sisi had been chosen for the next Programme of Scale Grant – this is a four-year multimillion dollar programme to prevent cervical cancer in Cairo. Amal is grateful for the support of the Fellowship and looks forward to closer work.

Our Annual Dinner was a grand occasion. We met in a private dining room and were treated to a champagne reception and a fabulous dinner in style. Judith Diment, RI's warden for all diplomatic representatives spoke in appreciation of the Fellowship.

14. BRANCHES

UKRAINE

10 JAN 2022

<http://www.rotaryhealthprofessionals.org/>

Combine Rotary clubs and Districts service projects together with Vocational service to take action to create lasting changes in the world and in ourselves – District 2232 experience

MD, PhD, Prof. Olha Paliychuk
D2232 Rotary Service Community
Committee Chair

MD, PhD, Prof. Roman Mitsoda
Assistant Governor, Ukrainian
Fellowship of Healthcare
Professionals Chairman

This was our first branch – our members in Ukraine have faced unprecedented challenges during the year – and still continue to do so.

We stand by our colleagues and offer them our wholehearted support.

Olha Palychuk told gave us an update about the ongoing challenges faced by the people of Ukraine and appealed for support (please see the PowerPoint for ore details).

EGYPT

The branch in Egypt is very active – the Heart2Heart Programme led by Vice Chair Amal is bringing hope to many children with congenital heart diseases.

I congratulate Amal and her team in Egypt who were awarded the third TRF Programme of Scale Grant of \$2 million.

Dr Jacqueline Wilson, Vice Chair presented an update about the Egypt Chapter



15. THE YEAR AHEAD

We do not know what challenges lie ahead. I believe that there has never been a greater need for Rotarians to innovate and roll up their sleeves.

We are now a strong organisation with a remarkable portfolio of programmes. We look forward to expanding our reach and increasing our impact under the leadership of Herbert and a new Board

There are thousands of health professionals in Rotary who are willing to serve others at this time of great need. We need to find a way to engage them and channel our collective energy for the benefit of others.

I hope you will have a safe and fulfilling year ahead. Thank you for your support.

John Philip
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