

Policy plan

Herman Bouma Fund

2016 - 2020

Policy Plan HB Fund 2016 - 2020

Introduction:

At several consecutive meetings in the period 2015 - 2016, the Board of the HB Fund discussed the future of the fund. A direct reason for this is the declining return on the modest capital of the fund. This return is declining due to the continuing low interest rate. Because the Board does not want to engage in high-risk investments, which could possibly achieve a higher return, the interest rate determines the return on the capital. The Board considers the available capital to be insufficient to invest with sufficient risk spread. In addition, the Board also sees no opportunities to increase the fund capital. The loan at the International Society for Gerontechnology (ISG), for which a reasonable interest payment was agreed, was fully repaid in 2014. Now, the total available capital is on a bank savings account. Given this situation, the amount available in the yearly capacity is less than € 100,=. The efforts of the Board and the effect that can be achieved with this amount are not in balance. For this reason, the Board decided in 2015 to amend the articles of association and to delete the restrictive clause, which stated that only the increases of the capital could be used. This leaves the road free to spend more money every year and actually affect the development of the gerontechnology field.

Assumptions

The starting point is laid down in the objective, as formulated in the Articles of Association: The aim of the foundation is to facilitate the practice of gerontechnology in national and international terms, in particular to support the development of young scientists in this field and, moreover, everything directly or indirectly related, all in the broadest sense of the word.

The Board wishes to adhere to the principles of the Fund, as stated in the Articles of Association. The activities of the HB Fund do not only concern activities in the Netherlands. The Board also wants to attract international attention to the HB Fund. The fund stands for itself, but a good entrance for profiling is the ISG. Within this community, researchers, students and companies active in the field of gerontechnology meet once every two years. In addition, this community publishes a magazine four times a year.

The Board has also stated that it wants to have an impact on the development of the gerontechnology field and will use the capital available to achieve this. The Board realizes that this means that this impact is of finite duration because the capital will gradually decrease. With a withdrawal of an average of € 10,000 a year, the fund will be phased out in 5 years. This is the time window that the Board has in mind.

Regular management meetings

The Articles of Association state that there should be one meeting per year. The Board indicates that it wants to meet once every a quarter. Two meetings will be held through telephone calls or Skype meetings, and two meetings will be held face-to-face. For discussions in between the meetings, there will be contact through e-mail or by telephone.

Ambition

Travel grants

The Board wants to continue making available travel grants in the coming policy period. Conferences and other visits are stimulating for and to young researchers (young means young in the field). Mostly, grants will be supplied for visiting the ISG's biennial congress, but it is not limited to it. The opportunity to apply for travel grants will be actively promoted.

HB fund award

Running a Best Poster Award for the best poster presented by PhD students at the ISG's master class will be continued. The Best Poster Award is to reward the best graphically explained research in gerontechnology. The award consists of a certificate and a book about gerontechnology. In addition, the winner will be invited to write a student paper in Gerontechnology journal.

Research fairs / scholarships

In addition to scholarships for visiting a conference, scholarships will also be made available for conducting research or for visiting and / or working with a foreign research group.

Symposium

Because it will contribute to the knowledge of the field and the dissemination of knowledge, the Board also wants to financially support the organization of symposia during or at the defense of a PhD program. Therefore, a grant application may be submitted.

Book

The Board would find it a nice conclusion to the HB fund if a book could be issued on that occasion. At the time of the start of the fund, the book "Gerontechnology, Why and How" was published. Now, 15 years later, the development of the subject could be made visible in a new book or a special issue of a journal. Because making and publishing a book or special issue will be a considerable effort, the Board will examine the possibilities and put it into a plan. The decision will be taken at a time that will give sufficient preparation time.

Website of the HB Fund

The website has been recently updated and meets the criteria of an accessible website. The website is mainly in English, but also provides a summary of the most important information in Dutch. The application form for travel grants is available on the website.

Testimonials

Applicants who have received a scholarship from the fund are asked to write a testimonial about what the scholarship meant for them. This will be posted on the website. This brings more attention to the fund. For this digital report, a format is available that is issued upon approval of the stock exchange application.

Advertisements

At least once a calendar year, the Board places an advertisement of the fund in Gerontechnology journal. The time of placement will depend on the time of the biennial congress and of the various master classes in the world.