

Report on Scandiatransplant Board Members' Visit to Pauls Stradins Hospital, Riga 6–7 February 2025

Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital (PSH) in Riga, Latvia, is the only hospital in Latvia performing solid organ transplants. Following a decision by the Scandiatransplant (SCTP) Council in Reykjavik in August 2022, the SCTP Board has maintained communication with representatives from PSH regarding the hospital's potential future membership in SCTP.

Since 2022, transplant professionals have visited other SCTP transplant centers, and several issues identified and discussed at PSH in 2022 have been addressed. To continue the follow-up process, delegates from the SCTP Board visited PSH on 6–7 February 2025. The delegation included Alan Rasmussen (Chair of the Board), Marko Lempinen (Helsinki University Hospital), and Are Martin Holm (Oslo University Hospital).

The primary contact at PSH was Ms. Egija Lapina, the acting head of the Transplant Coordination Department. The visit's agenda was coordinated with her in advance. During the visit, the SCTP representatives met with transplant professionals from various disciplines corresponding to current SCTP groups (e.g., kidney, liver, thoracic, coordinators, etc.). Discussions focused on the current state of transplant activity in Latvia and the hospital's connections with SCTP centers. Representatives from the hospital management and political authorities were also present. Additionally, the delegation toured key facilities, including the ICU, operating theatres, and immunology laboratory. Notably, Latvian national television interviewed the SCTP representatives, and a report on organ transplantation and the potential for PSH's membership in SCTP aired nationally two days later.

Key Conclusion: The organ transplant program at PSH has made significant progress since the last visit in 2022. Transplant logistics from donor to recipient appear to align with SCTP practices. There is a consistent commitment among both the administration and clinicians to maintain and continuously improve the transplant program, as well as to participate in SCTP collaboration. Although the laboratory is not yet fully accredited according to formal standards, it is highly likely that this will be achieved in the near future.

Further Progress:

1. Professor Mats Bengtsson (Uppsala University Hospital) and representatives from the PSH Laboratory have agreed to collaborate on achieving full accreditation for the PSH Laboratory. Once this accreditation is obtained, there will be no formal barriers to the exchange of organs between Latvia and the SCTP countries.
2. Transplant clinicians at PSH will continue to collaborate with their counterparts at SCTP hospitals and actively participate in SCTP group meetings.
3. The SCTP Board will continue to monitor PSH's progress toward SCTP membership, in close collaboration with PSH representatives and in alignment with the SCTP Council's directives.

On behalf of the Riga delegation from the SCTP Board,

Are Holm
Oslo, 2 April 2025