

Highlight events 2027

With four flagship events lined up, we look forward to interacting with grantees and other stakeholders in 2027:

12 May
2027

Y15 Anniversary Gala
Zurich, Switzerland

4-8 June
2027

American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
Chicago, United States

17-21 Sep
2027

European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO)
Barcelona, Spain

September
2027

Co-Creation Forum – Europe
Location to be announced

November
2027

Atlas Network's Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner
New York City, United States

Patient Arts for Health Global Exhibition

Share your artwork! To participate, visit our exhibition application page, and submit your personal piece of art. Any modality is welcome: painting, poetry, music, video, photography, or mixed media.



Share your artwork

Contact

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**Annual Brochure
2026**

Freedom in Practice

Venezuela Rising Fund

For many years, RTF has supported partners working to strengthen freedom, agency, and opportunity in Venezuela. In January, that work gained new urgency amid the clearest opening in a generation to rebuild a free and prosperous society. In response, we launched the Venezuela Rising Fund, a USD 1.5 million initiative to help restore Venezuela's institutions. The response was remarkable: over 200 applications, reflecting determination, commitment, and creativity. We also hosted a special Co-Creation Forum, held in Madrid, bringing together entrepreneurs and reformers to accelerate promising projects and turn their vision for Venezuela's future into action.



Rising Tide Summit 2026

In August, over fifty RTF partners gathered at Schloss Marbach for our largest Summit to date. Coming from all over the world, we were united by a shared conviction: people flourish through freedom and their own agency. Drawing on the diversity within our community, we placed mutual learning and collaboration at the heart of the program. Over four days, we learned from one another's experiences and efforts to put freedom into practice. This openness sparked ideas and connections none of us could have imagined alone. Fittingly, the Summit also provided an opportunity to announce a new collaboration fund that will help grantees build on these discoveries and bring joint projects to life.



Venezuela Emergency Fund

Alongside this long-term effort, RTF responded to devastating earthquakes that struck Venezuela on June 24. For communities already strained by years of instability, that day brought new loss and uncertainty. Yet local organizations moved quickly, guided by local knowledge, trusted relationships, and a determination to help. Through an Emergency Fund, we supported this bottom-up response with over USD 1 million across more than 20 projects. From shelter and medical care to continued education and structural assessments, these initiatives showed what becomes possible when local actors are empowered to lead their own recovery.



Mission

Promote freedom to improve quality of life everywhere



Shawn Stephenson
Board Chairman of
Rising Tide Foundation

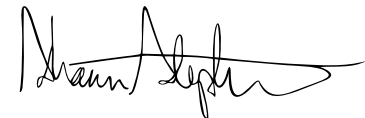
A word from our Chairman

This year marks a special milestone: fifteen years of Rising Tide. When I reflect on what our foundations have achieved together since 2011, I am struck by a single truth that has defined every chapter of our journey. None of it was accomplished alone. Over the past fifteen years, we have supported more than 330 projects that have touched the lives of millions of people and empowered them to live on their own terms, across both of our core fields: improving patient outcomes through better treatment and care, and igniting sparks of freedom around the world.

At first glance, our work in societal freedom and our work in patient-centered cancer care may appear distinct. Yet they are united by a single conviction: that people thrive when they are given the freedom, dignity, and opportunity to take responsibility for their own lives. Whether it is an individual overcoming the barriers that limit human agency or a patient taking an active role in their own health journey, the underlying principle is the same.

Similarly, the success of both our foundations rests on community. The researchers and patient partners, the entrepreneurs and reformers, the grantees and collaborators who bring our mission to life are the true heroes. Our role has been to support and bring these actors together, and to create the conditions in which collaboration can flourish. Whether convening patient partners and researchers around a shared clinical goal or uniting innovators behind a free and prosperous future, our greatest strength has always been the people we bring into the room.

Fifteen years is both a moment to celebrate and a foundation to build upon. To everyone who has been part of this story, thank you. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the years ahead.



Vision

To be the partner that empowers individuals to live on their own terms



Wendelin Zellmayer
CEO of Rising Tide GmbH

A message from our CEO

As we mark fifteen years of Rising Tide, this milestone is both a moment of reflection and a time to strategize on our foundation's future.

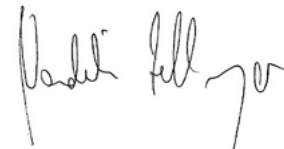
Over time, we have grown from solely a funder of promising projects into a focused partner, convener, and catalyst. Today, this evolution of Rising Tide is visible in how we work: we are more intentional in what we support, more effective in how we engage, and more committed to strengthening an ecosystem that expands agency and removes barriers.

This year in Freedom in Practice, our commitment to collaboration, strengthening innovative ideas, and building community is exemplified by the biennial Rising Tide Summit, the launch of the Venezuela Rising Fund, and co-creation forums. In Clinical Cancer Research, our initiatives, such as the Amplify Award, the Early Career Investigator in Supportive Care, and convening patient advocates at ASCO 2026 to discuss patient voice in early-phase trials, underscore our commitment to collaboration, patient partnership, and the next generation of research leaders.

Across our work, what matters most is the community and momentum that make lasting change possible. We see this when a patient input helps reshape the standard of care, when an early-career investigator leads a landmark trial, or when a policy change removes barriers and enables individuals to flourish. These moments remind us why we do this work—and they are only possible because of the people and partnerships behind them.

The next chapter of Rising Tide will be defined by focus, courage, and disciplined execution. I am deeply grateful to our Boards, partners, and team for making this possible.

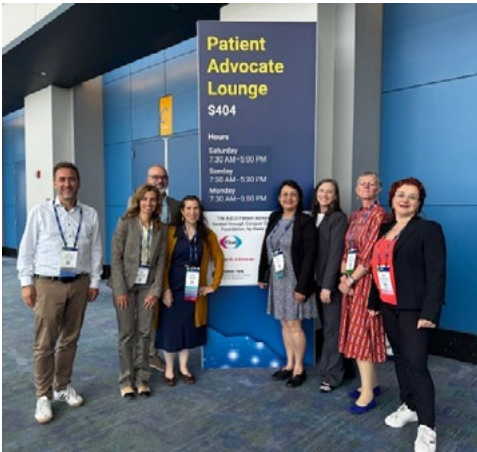
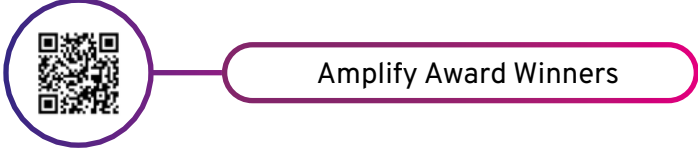
Together, we are shaping the conditions for lasting freedom, agency, and human flourishing.



Clinical Cancer Research

Amplify Award - The Power of Community in Research

RTFCCR proudly announced the LYMPH Trial as the recipient of the Amplify Award, recognizing outstanding partnership between patient partners and researchers. Selected from 62 ongoing projects, the trial highlights the power of community in advancing cancer research. Through a formal patient co-leadership role and a focus on outcomes most meaningful to people living with lymphedema, the team demonstrated how genuine collaboration strengthens research, drives innovation, and amplifies patient voices. The award celebrates the impact achieved when researchers and patients work together as equal partners.



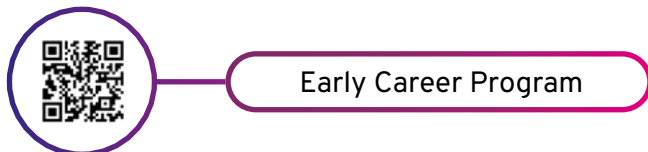
Patient Expert Roundtable: Amplifying Patient Voice in Early-Phase Trials

During the ASCO Annual Meeting 2026, RTFCCR brought together leading patient advocates for a Patient Expert Roundtable on strengthening early-phase clinical trials through patient partnership. Discussions highlighted the importance of involving patients from the outset to shape study design, endpoints, eligibility criteria, and reduce trial burden. Participants emphasized the value of ongoing engagement and patient-reported outcomes in improving research relevance and feasibility. The roundtable reflected how patient voice can help to create studies that advance science while addressing the real-world needs of people living with cancer.



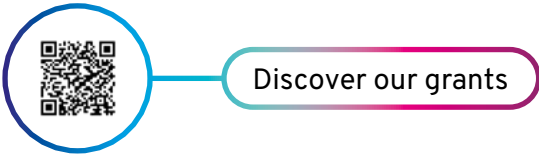
Early Career in Supportive Care Program

RTFCCR launched the second edition of its Early Career in Supportive Care Program, investing in the next generation of clinical researchers dedicated to improving the lives of people affected by cancer. Through direct funding for early-career investigators leading interventional clinical trials, the program strengthens an often underfunded but essential area of oncology. By fostering innovation, collaboration, and patient-centered research, it helps build a stronger supportive care community and advances a future where focus on quality of life is an integral part of cancer care.



A world of difference

TOTAL FUNDED PROJECTS
2011 - 2026



RTF

228
FUNDED
PROJECTS

72 ACTIVE GRANTS
156 SUCCESSFULLY
COMPLETED GRANTS

RTFCCR

148
FUNDED
PROJECTS

62 ACTIVE GRANTS
57 SUCCESSFULLY
COMPLETED GRANTS