



Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America

January 2020 Winter Edition



Dear Friends and Family,

I sincerely hope this newsletter finds you and your family celebrating this blessed and joyous Holiday season with all who share the values of your heart. We are enjoying our newest addition, Cadence Mae Paul, and seeing Christmas, once again, through the eyes of a child.

2019 marked the 18th anniversary for the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America. It also witnessed a record \$330,000 raised through events and private donations. We are very proud of the work we have accomplished. As you read on, you will find it was not the only exciting news for the year. Much of the year's success is due to the efforts of our partners and friends.

We would like to give heart-felt thanks to the Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16, Local 16 Heat and Frost Insulators and its Western Conference, the California State Pipe Trades Council, and all of the local union's retirees' groups who so graciously support our cause. We could not accomplish all that we do without your generosity of efforts, money and time.

This year we began our fundraising season with the California State Pipe Trades' "Aim to Cure" clay shoot in Birdslanding, California. Jim Kellogg, retired UA International Pipe Trades Representative and MESORFA Board Member, along with Greg Partch, Executive Director of the California State Pipe Trades, did an outstanding job organizing both an enjoyable event and a successful fundraiser.

With the recent retirement of Greg Partch, we saw Mike Layton promoted to Executive Director of the California State Pipe Trades Council. Mike is a longtime friend of the Foundation and we look forward in continuing to work with him and the California State Pipe Trades in 2020.

Following Birdslanding's "Aim to Cure" was the always popular Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational at the pristine Napa Valley Country Club. We are so thankful for the exceptional leadership of Mel Breshears, Business Manager of Local 16 Heat & Frost Insulators, and Doug Gamble, International President of the Heat & Frost Insulators Western Conference. Mel, Doug and their army of volunteers at Local 16 put together an extraordinary event filled with comradery while generating a record setting event total of \$83,000 for mesothelioma research!

We closed out 2019 with two events organized by the Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16. The DC 16 Golf Invitational at Alta Vista Country Club and the Southern California "Aim to Cure" event at Moore-N-Moore sporting clay facility both saw huge turnouts of labor leaders, tradesmen, contractors and vendors. We are grateful for the leadership and support of Rodney Cobos, Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 Business Manager and John Ferruccio, Director of Organizing. Together with their team, DC 16 and the California State Pipe Trades broke yet another record raising \$240,000! These kind of results can only be achieved by tireless work and enthusiastic participation.

The Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16, Local 16 Heat & Frost Insulators and its Western Conference, and the California State Pipe Trades continue to go above and beyond the call of duty. Without the devoted support from these groups and the people who work so hard organizing their events, we would not be where we are today.

In addition to a record setting year of fundraising, we were blessed with an announcement by the Foundation's Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, Dr. Parkash Gill, on the progress of EPHb-4 and the antibody PD-1. You may recall from past newsletters, combinations of the two treatments were showing great promise in lab studies. Results from the research were so promising that Dr. Gill has formally announced the treatment's submission to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for "Breakthrough Designation". This designation speeds the FDA Clinical Trials process and moves the treatment into additional treatment facilities, expanding the patient base on its road to becoming a viable, first line treatment option for mesothelioma and other cancers. This is truly amazing news and is a testament to Dr. Gill and the doctors working with him at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. Their dedication and tenacity towards finding a cure for mesothelioma is admirable.

I must extend my personal gratitude and thanks to my hero, my husband, Founding Board Member Jerry Neil Paul, of The Paul Law Firm. It was his mission back in 2001 to be part of finding treatment options, and one day hopefully a cure for mesothelioma. Thank you for making the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America a reality and for continuing to sponsor ALL costs associated with it. Thank you to my assistant, Shane Rucker, for being my right hand at the Foundation.

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank you, the reader, for your individual support. We know there are so many worthy causes in need of funding, and are humbled you would consider supporting us. This terrible disease predominantly affects brothers and sisters in the trades, so working together, we can make a difference. Please...help us try and make mesothelioma a disease of the past.

God Bless,  
*Elizabeth Ann Paul*  
Executive Director



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**If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with this horrible disease and would like help, please call 1-800-909-MESO (6376) and speak with one of our volunteers.**

**We're on the web!**  
[www.mesorfa.org](http://www.mesorfa.org)

## California State Pipe Trades Aim to Cure Mesothelioma Clay Shoot



The 2019 “**California Pipe Trades Aim to Cure**” mesothelioma clayshoot, hosted by Foundation Board Member and Retired International Pipe Trades Representative, Jim

Kellogg, kicked off a great year of fundraising, netting approximately \$55,000 for mesothelioma research! We witnessed a huge turnout of over 170 shooters and supporters at the Birdslanding Hunting Preserve and Sporting Clay Facility. Representing the Foundation at the event were Board Member’s Jim Kellogg and attorney Jerry Neil Paul, as well as Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker.

After everyone had taken their best shot at the sporting clays, Birdslanding provide a delicious tri-tip lunch before Jim Kellogg thanked everyone who attended and highlighted how important it is to stay involved. Jerry Neil Paul was then introduced, who thanked Jim Kellogg and the Executive Director of the California State Pipetrades, Greg Partch, for organizing and hosting such

a great event year after year. Jerry then informed the supporters of how the proceeds of the event would go towards the continued research and development of new mesothelioma treatment options. He also noted the fantastic news of the discussions between Dr. Parkash Gill and other University cancer treatment facilities in working together to expand the use of treatment of PD-1 and EphB-4 along with USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. The mic was handed over to Trial Attorney Joshua Paul for the always popular raffle and his masterful and comical performance generated laughs and more donations for the Foundation!

With the Foundation’s administrative costs underwritten by the Paul Law Firm, 100% of the event’s net proceeds will go towards mesothelioma cancer research. With these sizable donations we can be assured that Dr. Gill’s research and clinical trials for better treatment options continue moving in the right direction.

We want to wish Greg a very happy retirement and look forward to continuing our work with newly promoted Executive Director of the California State Pipetrades Council, Mike

Layton. Mike is a longtime friend of the Foundation, serving as the Southern California Pipetrades District Council 16 for the last 10 years and hosting many of the Foundation’s events. Thank you to all who participated and make our events possible!



MESORFA Foundation Board Member, Retired International Pipe Trades Representative and event host, Jim Kellogg with Board Member and Attorney Jerry Neil Paul, speaking to supporters on the importance of staying involved.

## Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Tournament



On June 24, 2019, the **Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational** was hosted by the Insulators International Vice President, Doug Gamble and Heat and Frost

Insulators Local 16 Business Manager, Mel Breshears at the pristine Napa Valley Country Club. We witnessed a great turnout with a full field of golfers joining sponsors and volunteers to generate awareness, and raise over **\$83,000!** 100% of the donations will go toward supporting Dr. Parkash Gill’s research and clinical trials within the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center for new and viable treatment options for mesothelioma patients.

This event would not have been possible without the leadership of, Doug Gamble and Mel Breshears and all of the people working behind the scenes at Heat & Frost Insulators Local 16. You may recall that 3 years ago the Insulators took it upon themselves to ensure not only the continuation of the event, but the honoring of Roger Hamilton’s memory through fund raising and

awareness efforts. For their dedication and continued success, we owe our gratitude to the Western States Conference Heat and Frost Insulators, the Local 16 Heat and Frost Insulators, as well as all of the building trades groups who come out and participate year after year.

After a great round of golf, the supporters reconvened in the clubhouse for dinner, and to learn where and how their donations were being used. Doug and Mel kicked off the festivities, thanking both the sponsors and the event’s volunteers for making the event possible. Elizabeth Ann Paul, the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America’s Executive Director, informed the sponsors of the Foundation’s history, pointing out its critical help in the development of better treatment options for mesothelioma. Dr. Parkash Gill, Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, then gave a progress report on the promising results of the PD-1 and EphB-4 treatment option and its expansion into additional treatment facilities across the United States, including UC Davis.

We cannot be more proud of the results we are seeing in the lab and the continued success of the Hamilton event. Committee Chairman Doug Gamble and Co-Chair Mel Breshears, thanked Committee Members Stan

Danielson, Bill Hodges, Mark Plubell, Ben Espinoza, Chris Greaney, Fortino Curiel, Geoff Millar, Jerry and Elizabeth Paul, Shane Rucker and their volunteers, sponsors and the building trades who supported this event. Without their energy and leadership we would not see these amazing results. **THANK YOU ALL** who have a hand in making this possible.



Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, Dr. Parkash Gill with Doug Gamble and Mel Breshears, giving a progress report on the promising results of the PD-1 and EphB-4 treatment option.

Please remember [The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America in your Will or Trust](#)

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## Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 Golf Invitational



This year's Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 Annual Golf Invitational was held at the beautiful Alta Vista Country Club in Placentia, CA and marks the event's 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Over 144 golfers attended the event to support finding a cure for mesothelioma, helping to generate over \$135,000 for mesothelioma cancer research!

Representing the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America were Founding Board Member and Attorney Jerry Neil Paul, Executive Director Elizabeth Ann Paul, Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee Dr. Parkash Gill and Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker.

After a great day out on the course, golfers and supporters joined for a bite to eat and to learn how their donations are helping to fund better treatment options for mesothelioma and an eventual cure. The evening was kicked off by DC16 Director of Organizing John Ferruccio. John over the last decade has

been the MC, Master of Ceremonies extraordinaire. John then introduced speakers Jerry and Elizabeth Paul. Jerry Paul thanked everyone in attendance and expressed how grateful the Foundation is for being associated with such a supportive group of people. Elizabeth Paul then spoke on the importance of the fundraisers in funding research and the development of more effective treatment options. Elizabeth expressed how we are all volunteers, with the Paul Law Firm paying 100% of the administrative costs so 100% of donations can go to Dr. Gills research and clinical treatment development. Dr. Parkash Gill then spoke about the research and development of new medicines by the Mesothelioma Research Lab at USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Gill highlighted the promising results of the PD-1 and EphB-4 treatment and its expansion into additional treatment facilities across the United States as UC Davis and UCLA.

The Foundation would like to personally thank all of those who sponsored, supported and attended the event. Without your support and the organizing skills of people such as Rodney Cobos, Mike Layton, John Ferruccio, Doug Wilson, DC 16 Staff and Committee members Jerry and Elizabeth Paul, this event

and great turnout would not have been possible. **THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR DEDICATION!!!**

(Right) MESORFA Executive Director Elizabeth Ann Paul with Attorney Jerry Neil Paul thanking everyone who has a hand in making this event



(Left) Former Rams Quarterback Vince Ferragamo and DC16 Director of Organizing John Ferruccio auction off an autographed football to benefit mesothelioma research.

## Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 Aim to Cure Mesothelioma Clay Shoot



The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America would like to thank everyone who attended this year's Cure Meso Clayshoot and those at the Southern

California Pipe Trades District Council 16 who make this event possible year after year. We returned to the Moore 'N Moore Sporting Clays facility in San Fernando Valley, CA. We saw a large turnout of shooters who joined to raise over \$50,000 for mesothelioma research! Attending the event on behalf of the Foundation were Executive Director Elizabeth Ann Paul, Founding Board Members Jim Kellogg and Attorney Jerry Neil Paul, Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, Dr. Parkash Gill and Assistant Executive Director, Shane Rucker. As always, 100% of the money generated at the event will go directly to mesothelioma research to help find a cure for this terrible disease.

Shooters were blessed with beautiful Southern California weather as we took our best shots at the sporting clays flying over the picturesque canyons of the Angeles National Forest. Sponsors and supporters then gathered for a delicious BBQ and to learn how their donations are helping in the fight against his horrible disease. District Council 16 Director of Organizing John Ferruccio thanked everyone who came out to support the event and those who volunteer their time at MESORFA. Speaking on behalf of the Foundation were Jerry and Elizabeth Paul who first thanked everyone in attendance and those who had a hand in making the event such a success. Elizabeth Paul talked about the humble roots of the Foundation and how proud we are to see the new developments coming from the lab. Dr. Parkash Gill then spoke about the progress being made by his team of doctors at USC Norris Cancer Center and the promising results of PD-1 and EphB-4 treatment and its expansion into additional treatment facilities across the United States as UC Davis and UCLA.

The Foundation would like to personally thank all of those who organized and supported this year's "Aim to Cure" Meso Clayshoot. Without the support and organizing skills of people such as DC 16 Business Manager Rodney Cobos, DC 16 Director of Organizing John Ferruccio and International Pipe Trades Representative Jim Kellogg these types of events would not be possible. **THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND DEDICATION!!!**



Assistant Executive Director, Shane Rucker, Executive Director, Elizabeth Ann Paul, Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, Dr. Parkash Gill and Founding Board Member and Attorney, Jerry Neil Paul would like to thank everyone who participates and volunteers their time at the events.

**Help Us Update Our Mailing List—To help us update our mailing list and to be cost-effective, please notify the office if you change your address or if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter.**

Please remember [The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America](http://www.mesorfa.org) in your Will or Trust

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## Report from the Lab: Eph-B4 and PD-I Submitted to the FDA



Over the course of 2019, the Foundation's Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, Dr. Parkash Gill, had spoken at a number of our events, consistently highlighting the promising results of Eph-B4 and PD-I as a potential treatment option. We learned how the treatment reacted with the proteins encasing a tumor cell to make it visible to a person's immune system and allow it to fight the cancer with very few side effects. It wasn't until the closing of the year that Dr. Gill formally announced that the research was so promising that it was being packaged for its presentation to the Food & Drug Administration.

Not only is it going to be submitted, but it is being submitted as a potential "Breakthrough Therapy". The FDA has defined breakthrough therapy as "a process designed to expedite the development and review of drugs that are intended to treat a serious condition and preliminary clinical evidence indicating that the drug may

demonstrate substantial improvement over available therapy."

With the designation, Dr. Gill hopes to see it become a first line treatment option for mesothelioma patients and move into facilities across the United States. We cannot be more proud of Dr. Gill and his team of brilliant doctors for all they have accomplished. It is truly an honor to be associated with such gifted and dedicated people!



The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America has a mission: fund research that will lead to the quickest cure for mesothelioma. Mesothelioma, a cancer of the lining of the lungs caused by asbestos exposure, has very few treatment options at this time. Since the year 2001, the Foundation has funded the opening of the Mesothelioma Laboratory under the supervision of Dr. Parkash Gill at the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center in Los Angeles. Since the lab's inception Dr. Gill has received FDA approval from the U.S. Government to conduct Clinical Trials using new mesothelioma treatments he has developed in the laboratory, whose research is 100% funded by the Foundation. A recent example of the research being done by Dr. Gill, and the direct results of the donations received, is the submission and approval from the FDA to use EPH-B4 in Phase I Clinical Trials. We are all very excited at the possibilities of a more effective treatment for patients suffering from mesothelioma!

For tax purposes, we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, I.D. #33-0956493