



Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America

December 2013
Winter Edition



Dear Supporters:

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well this holiday season. As we look back at 2013, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize some of the people and organizations who support and contribute to the continued success of the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America.

The 2013 calendar year started with a big change for the Foundation. We moved our office into a brand new building in the heart of Westlake Village, California. So please take some time to note our new address. Shortly after, our fundraising efforts kicked off with the Birdslanding Aim to Cure clay shoot, which witnessed its largest turnout of shooters in its history and netted over \$70,000 for mesothelioma research! A great start to an absolutely unbelievable year. Not only did we raise approximately \$380,000 for mesothelioma research throughout the year, but we also learned of the AMAZING success and promise the new cancer fighting drug, EPH-B4, is showing in clinical trials!

This is truly an amazing time to be a part of the Foundation and I would like to extend my many thanks to Dr. Parkash Gill and the doctors working with him at the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. Without Dr. Gill and his team, there would be far less research being conducted into this terrible disease. As you will read, Dr. Gill has not only reported on the submission of EPH-B4 to FDA Clinical Trials, but is currently treating a patient who is showing no signs of mesothelioma after 9 months of EPH-B4 treatments.

The Mesothelioma Labs in USC/Norris and San Diego, California have ramped up the production of the protein needed to make additional batches of EPH-B4. We are so proud of the fact that the developments made in the laboratory are turning into viable treatment options for patients, who were given little hope once diagnosed.

I can tell you with absolute confidence that we would not be where we are today without the support of our partners at the California State Pipe Trades Council, the California State Building & Construction Trades, Southern California Pipetrades District Council 16, the JOHNS group of San Diego, CA and the Paul Law Firm. These great organizations, and the special people that are tasked with running them, are instrumental in our success each and every year. With the organization of the trades groups and the Foundation's administrations costs privately underwritten by the Paul Law Firm, we are able to provide 100% of the donations received directly to cancer research.

From the Foundation's inception, Retired International Pipetrades Representative and Founding Board Member, Jim Kellogg has been a key force in our fundraising efforts and we cannot thank him enough. The leadership of the Southern California Pipetrades District Council 16 Business Manager, Sid Stolper; District Council 16 Assistant Business Manager, Mike Layton; and District Council 16 Director of Organizing, John Ferruccio strive to ensure that the Aim to Cure Clay Shoots and Golf Invitational are successful every year and continue to grow in popularity. Combined, the events held by the California Pipetrades resulted in approximately \$200,000 for the benefit of mesothelioma research and we are ever so grateful!

A special acknowledgement should be given to retired California State Building & Construction Trades President, Bob Balgenorth. Bob is a very special person who not only volunteered his time to the Roger

Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational but also made a very generous donation to the Foundation after his retirement. We sincerely appreciate his donation as well as everything he has done for us over the years. With his support and the continued support of the newly elected President of the California State Building Trades, Robbie Hunter this year's Golf Invitational was a great success and will continue to be for years to come. I would also like to recognize the Roger Hamilton Event chairwoman, Cindy Hamilton, and committee members Debra Chaplan, Paul Doolittle, Mitch Johnson, and Russ O'Brien for their tireless work and contribution to this successful event. The partnership with the California State Building & Construction Trades has also resulted in a new friendship. For the second year, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, or PhRMA held a Golf Invitational benefitting the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America. In total, these efforts and gracious acts resulted in approximately \$135,000 for mesothelioma research! THANK YOU!

Last, but not least, we would like to thank the JOHNS group of San Diego, California whose camaraderie and heartfelt support of the Foundation and other causes, while acknowledging the lifetime dedication of their brothers, is inspiring. President of the JOHNS, Tom Lemmon, as well as Art Cantu, Kirk Crosswhite, Nico Ferraro, Bill Stuckey, Art Lujan and past JOHNS have done so much for their community while supporting great causes and deserve a round of applause.

Lastly, I would like to thank you, the reader, for your individual support. Whether you supported us through a personal donation, a Union labor leader, or someone who has lost a loved one, we THANK YOU for recognizing the need for supporting the Foundation and having had a hand in something big!

Yours Truly,
Elizabeth Ann Paul
Executive Director



Inside this issue:

- Birdslanding Aim to Cure Clay Shoot* 2
- Southern California Pipetrades District Council 16 Golf Invitational* 2
- Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational* 3
- John S. Lyons Memorial Banquet* 3
- Southern California Pipetrades District Council 16 Aim to Cure Clay Shoot* 4
- California Bio-Pharma Golf Invitational* 4

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

Please remember The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America in your Will

3011 Townsgate Road, Suite 450, Westlake Village, CA 91361
Phone: 1-800-909-MESO (6376) Internet: www.mesorfa.org

Birdslanding Aim to Cure Clay Shoot - June 7, 2013

The June 2013 “**Aim to Cure**” event hosted by Foundation Founding Board Member and International Pipetrades Representative Jim Kellogg (Retired) kicked off this year’s fundraising efforts and was an overwhelming success, seeing a record turnout of participants and netting approximately \$70,000 for mesothelioma research!

It was blistering hot at this year’s Aim to Cure event, but that didn’t stop the participants from coming out in full force to support this great cause. We had a record number of donors contribute and witnessed over 180 shooters participate in the event and support the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America. Once again, the event was held at the Birdslanding Hunting Preserve and Sporting Clay facility in Birdslanding, California which provided a great venue for the event. Representing the Foundation were Board Members Jim Kellogg and Jerry Neil Paul, with Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker.

After making their way through the course, supporters and participants joined together for drinks, a tri-tip lunch, and the always anticipated raffle of gifts. Jim Kellogg opened the festivities by thanking everyone in

attendance and spoke about the importance of staying involved to continue raising awareness of mesothelioma research. Jim then passed the mic to the Foundation’s Assistant Executive Director, Shane Rucker, who talked briefly about the advances being made and our hopes for the future. Under the leadership of Dr. Parkash Gill at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer center, new cancer fighting drugs have become available and are providing hope. Dr. Gill, with the help of the National Cancer Institute, has submitted the new non-chemotherapy drug EPH-B4 to the FDA and has gotten approval to begin Phase I Clinical Trials. Dr. Gill is also hopeful that UC Davis will participate in the clinical trials for EPH-B4 alongside USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. With the support of participants in events such as “Aim to Cure,” advances in mesothelioma treatment options will be a reality.

As always, 100% of the money raised during the “Aim to Cure” events will go towards mesothelioma cancer research. With these sizable donations we can all be assured that Dr. Gill’s research at USC/ Norris Comprehensive Medical Center will continue to move in the right direction. Thank you to all who participated and to Jim Kellogg for putting together a fantastic event!



THANK YOU JIM for all of your hard work and dedication to making mesothelioma a disease of the past!

Southern California Pipetrades District Council 16 11th Annual Golf Invitational-July 15, 2013

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 11th anniversary. Over 140 golfers attended the event to support finding a cure for mesothelioma, helping to generate over \$75,000 for mesothelioma cancer research!

Representing the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America were Board Members Jerry Neil Paul and U.A. International Pipetrades Representative Jim Kellogg (Retired), Executive Director Elizabeth Paul, Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board 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 find a cure for this terrible disease. The evening started off with DC16 Director of Organizing John Ferruccio introducing speak-

ers Jerry and Elizabeth Paul. Jerry Paul first 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 passionately on how important the fundraisers, such as the ones held by DC 16, are in funding research into the development of additional treatment options. Due to the fact that so few people are diagnosed with mesothelioma every year, it is viewed as an orphan cancer receiving very little attention from research facilities. We are here, together, to change that! Dr. Parkash Gill then spoke about the research and development of new medicines by the Mesothelioma Research Lab at USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, which is all a direct result of the donation money received. Dr. Gill relayed the great promise in the fight against this terrible disease with the submission of our second drug, EPH B-4, into FDA Phase I Clinical Trials and how well his patients are doing with very

few side effects. This is all fantastic news and could only be obtained through the dedication of so many!

The Foundation would like to personally thank all of those who attended. Without the support and organizing skills of people such as Jim Kellogg, Sid Stolper and John Ferruccio, along with Committee members Jerry and Elizabeth Paul, this event and its great turnout would not have been possible.



(Right) Dr. Parkash Gill with DC16 Director of Organizing John Ferruccio

Please remember **The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America** in your Will

3011 Townsgate Road, Suite 450, Westlake Village, CA 91361
Phone: 1-800-909-MESO (6376) Internet: www.mesorfa.org

Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational-July 22, 2013



The 12th Annual “**Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational**” was held on July 22nd, 2013 at the pristine Napa Valley Country Club in Napa Valley, CA and once again saw an amazing turnout, generating over \$80,000 for mesothelioma research! As always, 100% of the event’s proceeds will go to mesothelioma research. Everyone at the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America would like to say THANK YOU to all of our supporters, sponsors and committee members who made this event possible.

You may recall that the event was established through the dedication of: California Building Trades Vice President Roger Hamilton; California Building Trades President Bob Balgenorth; and U.A. International Representative of the Pipetrades in California and Hawaii, Jim Kellogg. They came together in 2001 and brainstormed ideas for a fundraiser. It was Roger’s idea to support research into a cure for Mesothelioma while promoting less tobacco use in the building trades. Although

Roger had been diagnosed with cancer several months before the first tournament, he was determined to make the first event in 2002 a success while having a great time out on the course. Cindy Hamilton has since been Chair of the Committee for the annual event and has done a magnificent job, dedicating many hours of hard work to bring friends and supporters together to lead the charge for a cancer cure.

After a great round of golf, supporters gathered in the clubhouse for dinner and to learn how their participation in the event is helping to develop new treatment options for mesothelioma. Newly elected President of the California State Buildings Trades, Robbie Hunter, and event Chairwoman, Cindy Hamilton, thanked everyone in attendance and spoke of the great turnout year after year for this noble cause. Together they introduced the Foundation’s Executive Director, Elizabeth Paul; Assistant Executive Director, Shane Rucker; and Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board, Dr. Parkash Gill.

Shane began by thanking everyone who has had a hand in making the event a success year after year. Without the dedication of people such as Cindy Hamilton, Bob Balgenorth, Robbie Hunter, Jim Kellogg, Steve Steele and Debra Chaplan, we assuredly would not be where we are today in the development of new

treatment options. Elizabeth then spoke of Dr. Gill’s exciting news of submitting EPH-B4 to the Food & Drug Administration for Phase I Clinical Trials and its approval for use in human trials at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. We are all very excited by this news and share in Dr. Gill’s exuberance of this new development. Dr. Gill then gave details of how EPH-B4 works efficiently at attacking the cancerous cells while leaving the healthy cells alone, resulting in very few side effects. Then he relayed the story of a 76-year-old patient with mesothelioma, who came to him with very little hope and as a last effort to save her life. Since beginning the treatment her mesothelioma has disappeared and she is now living in remission, which has been confirmed through regular CT Scans and PET scans. We are all ecstatic by this news. It was met with thunderous applause from the event’s participants and organizers!

We would again like to thank everyone who participated and had a hand in making this year’s event a great success. With dedicated people such as Cindy Hamilton, Robbie Hunter, Bob Balgenorth, Michaela Balgenorth, Jim Kellogg, Steve Steele, Debra Chaplan, Lynn Schorno and Arlene Holm we are elated to be able to share these research milestones. THANK YOU!

John S. Lyons Memorial Banquet– September 7, 2013

For the 31st consecutive year, “The Johns” and supporters joined to raise money for good causes and to honor those who have dedicated their lives to making their community a better place to live. The Johns donated the proceeds of the event to local charities. Choosing the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America, the Salk Institute and the Epilepsy Foundation as the benefactors, while honoring 2013 Labor Leader of the year, Johnny Simpson (of Local 569 Electrical Workers) and the Fellowship Award recipient, Carol Wallace (President & CEO of the San Diego Convention Center Corporation). After the awards were presented, the Mesothelioma Research Foundation was presented with a generous donation of \$5,000, 100% of which will be donated to research in finding a cure for this horrible disease.

In attendance for the Foundation, and

seated at The Paul Law Firm sponsored table, was Founding Board Member Jerry Neil Paul; Medical Director, Dr. Parkash Gill; and Assistant Executive Director, Shane Rucker, who enjoyed the company of Retired Business Manager of Plumbers & Pipefitters Union Local 230, Nico Ferraro and his wife Lynn. After dinner we heard from the Salk Institute’s Dr. Kathy Jones, who spoke of the research into new treatments for colon cancer. Dr. Parkash Gill was then given an opportunity to speak. He highlighted the importance of donations in developing new cancer fighting drugs, pointing to the development of EPH-B4 and its submission to the FDA for Phase I clinical trials. Dr. Gill also gave an update on how promising EPH-B4 is, bringing up the case of a 76-year-old patient currently in remission after being given little hope of survival. We all applaud Dr. Gill’s efforts, as well as those of others, fighting for a cure.

Everyone at MESORFA would like to congratulate those who were honored at this year’s banquet and would like to thank The Johns and their supporters for their commitment in making Mesothelioma a disease of the past. A special thanks to the President of the San Diego County Building Trades Council, Tom Lemmon; Business Manager of Plumbers & Pipefitters Union Local 230, Kirk Crosswhite; Retired Business Manager of Plumbers & Pipefitters Union Local 230, Nico Ferraro; Retired Business Manager of Ironworkers Union Local 229, Bill Stuckey; and Business Agent of the Plumbers & Pipefitters Union Local 230, Jim Cunningham for their graciousness and hospitality at this year’s event.

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

3011 Townsgate Road, Suite 450, Westlake Village, CA 91361

Phone: 1-800-909-MESO (6376) Internet: www.mesorfa.org

Southern California Pipetrades District Council 16 Aim to Cure Clay Shoot- October 28, 2013



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

District Council 16 who worked so hard to make the event possible. Once again, supporters gathered at the Moore 'N Moore Sporting Clays facility in the foothills of the Angeles National Forest and had their hand in generating approximately \$25,000 for mesothelioma research! As always, 100% of the money raised at the event will go directly to mesothelioma research to help find a cure for this terrible disease.

While the weather gave shooters a few "duck for cover" moments, everyone enjoyed themselves moving from station to station before gathering for a delicious tri-tip BBQ and the coveted raffle. Congratulations

to UA Local 78 Business Manager Gary Cook for bringing home the grand prize! Before kicking off the raffle, DC 16 Assistant Business Manager, and event coordinator, Mike Layton thanked everyone who came out to support the event and spoke of the support and progress being made on this terrible disease by Dr. Parkash Gill at the USC Norris Cancer Center. The importance of donations and these fundraising events are paramount in developing new cancer fighting drugs and establishing treatment centers around the world.

The Foundation would like to personally thank all of those who organized and supported this year's Aim to Cure Clayshoot. Without the support and organizing skills of people such as DC 16 Business Manager Sid Stolper, DC 16 Assistant Business Manager Mike Layton, DC 16 Director of Organizing John Ferruccio and International Pipetrades Representative Jim Kellogg (Retired), these types of events would not be possible. **THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND DEDICATION!!!**



Mike Layton addresses shooter safety in a tailgate meeting. **THANK YOU** Mike and everyone at DC16 who made this event possible!

California Bio-Pharma Golf Invitational-October 28, 2013



The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America was blessed with a sixth and final event to round out our 2013 fundraising efforts. The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America held a Golf Invitational at the Napa Valley Country Club and, with the help and support of the California State Building and Construction Trades, the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America was the benefactor of the event! The

event's proceeds totaled approximately \$16,000, 100% of which will go towards mesothelioma research!

Participating in the event on behalf of the Foundation was Founding Board Member and International Pipetrades Representative Jim Kellogg (Retired) who teamed up with the Executive Director of the California State Pipetrades, Rodney Cameron. After a great day on the course, Jim Kellogg was given the opportunity to inform the supporters on where their donations were going and the new treatment options they are helping to develop.

Everyone at the Foundation would like to thank Chuck Center and PhRMA for organizing the event and for choosing us as the benefactor. We hope this is the beginning of a new relationship and continued support! We would also like to thank Robbie Hunter, Cindy Hamilton, Lynn Schorno, and Michaela Balgenorth at the California State Building and Construction Trades for their tireless pursuit in finding a cure for this terrible disease. With their support the Foundation is able to continually fund ground breaking research!



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