

MESOTHELIOMA
RESEARCH FOUNDATION
OF AMERICA

**Mesothelioma Research
Foundation of America**

**December 2014
Winter Edition**



Dear Supporters:

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well during this holiday season. As we look back at 2014 I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a few of the people and organizations who support and contribute to the continued success of the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America. As you will read, 2014 marked a year of unbelievable fundraising efforts, as well as a year of fantastic news coming from the mesothelioma research lab at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.

This year's fundraising efforts began in April with the California Pipetrades "Aim to Cure" Clay Shoot in Birdslanding, California. Thanks to the organizing skills of California Pipetrades President, Rod Cameron and the continued support and dedication of Retired International Pipetrades Representative and Foundation Board Member, Jim Kellogg, the event witnessed a huge turnout of participants and netted approximately \$75,000 for mesothelioma research! We cannot thank enough, Rod, Jim and all of the participants who came out to take part in the battle against cancer and be a part of the solution in finding new treatment options.

Following the Birdslanding event, the California State Building Trades Council held their 13th Annual Roger Hamilton Golf Invitational, raising approximately \$95,000! As always 100% of the proceeds donated to the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America, go directly towards research. Over the past 13 years the Roger Hamilton Golf Invitational

has generated well over \$1.2 million dollars through the tireless efforts of Roger Hamilton, Event Chairwoman, Cindy Hamilton, Retired California State Building Trades President, Bob Balgenorth and current California State Building Trades President, Robbie Hunter. I would like to take this time to thank them, as well as everyone who has a hand in making this event a monumental success every year, including every one of you who came out and participated! **THANK YOU!**

In July, the Southern California Pipetrades District Council 16 held their Annual Golf Invitational benefitting mesothelioma research and witnessed an unbelievable turnout and effort. Together, District Council 16 and their supporters generated over \$90,000! To date their event has raised nearly \$1.2 million dollars for mesothelioma research and one of our staple events. This could not have been accomplished without people such as Event Chairman John Ferruccio, the continued support of Honorary Chairmen, Jim Kellogg and Sid Stolper, as well as the devotion of Committee Members Mike Layton and Ray Le Vangie. We truly thank you for everything you do!

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 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.

Our final event, the Southern California Pipetrades District Council 16 Aim to Cure Clayshoot saw a great turnout of over 80 shooters and generated over \$31,000. This year, the efforts of the Southern California Pipetrades District Council 16 and the California State Pipetrades have resulted in approximately \$200,000 for mesothelioma

research! This is an amazing result and can be attributed to the dedication and efforts of some very special people. We cannot thank Jim Kellogg, Rod Cameron, Mike Layton and John Ferruccio, enough for what they have done this year and in year's past. **THANK YOU AGAIN!**

As you will read, we began hearing of the AMAZING success and promise the new cancer fighting drug, EphB-4 is showing in clinical trials. Dr. Parkash Gill passed along the news of the continued treatment of a mesothelioma patient he had spoken about at last year's events, noting she has been mesothelioma free after 18 months of treatment! As the success is being repeated in other patient's stories, the Mesothelioma Labs at USC/Norris and San Diego, California have increased the production of the protein needed to make additional batches of EphB-4 by purchasing new equipment with the donation money received. We are so proud of the fact that the developments made in the laboratory are turning into viable treatment options for patients, who are given little hope once diagnosed! I can tell you with absolute confidence that we would not be where we are at today without the support of our partners at the California State Pipe Trades Council, the California State Building & Construction Trades and the Southern California Pipetrades District Council 16.

Lastly I would like to thank you, the reader, for your individual support. Whether you supported us through a personal donation, you're a tradesman who was exposed to asbestos to provide for their family, 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 a hand in something big!

Yours Truly,
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**

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

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California Pipetrades-Birdslanding Clay Shoot



The 2014 "California Pipetrades Aim to Cure" mesothelioma clay shoot, hosted by Foundation Board Member and International

Pipetrades Representative, Jim Kellogg, kicked off a great year of fundraising, netting approximately \$75,000 for mesothelioma research! This year's event saw one of its largest turnouts, with more than 180 shooters and supporters converging on the Birdslanding Hunting Preserve and Sporting Clay Facility. Representing the Foundation at the event were Board Member's Jim Kellogg and Jerry Neil Paul, as well as Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker.

After a cease fire and a delicious lunch, Jim Kellogg thanked everyone who

attended and highlighted how important it is to stay involved in the events and continue to raise awareness. Shane Rucker was then introduced, who first thanked Jim Kellogg and the President of the California Pipetrades, Rod Cameron, for organizing and hosting such a great event, before informing the supporters of where the events proceeds would go and how they are helping to develop new treatments for mesothelioma. Shane highlighted that, under the direction of Dr. Parkash Gill at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, new drug, EphB-4, had been introduced into FDA Clinical Trials and showing amazing promise!

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 mesothelioma cancer research at USC/

Norris Comprehensive Medical Center will be moving in the right direction. Thank you to all who participated and made the events a success!



Above, Jonny Paul, Foundation Assistant Executive Director, Shane Rucker and Foundation Founding Board Member, Jerry Neil Paul.

Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational



Once again the "Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational" was a monumental success, generating approximately \$95,000 for mesothelioma research! This year marks the 13th year of the annual event and was held on June 30, 2014

at the pristine Napa Valley Country Club. Representing the Foundation at the event were Board Member, Jerry Neil Paul, Medical Director Dr. Parkash Gill and Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker.

As many of you know the event was established through the brainstorming of California Building Trades Vice President and International Representative of the Insulators Roger Hamilton, U.A. International Representative of the Pipetrades in California and Hawaii Jim Kellogg and the California Building Trades President Bob Balgenorth. Roger felt the need to support research into a cure for mesothelioma while promoting less tobacco use in the building trades. Since Roger's untimely passing his wife, Cindy Hamilton, has taken over as Chair of the Committee and has done a magnificent job in consistently promoting and managing the event every year. She has dedicated many hours of hard work to the event, which has brought friends and supporters together in memoriam of Roger and helped lead the charge for a cure.

To date the event has generated approximately \$1.2 million for mesothelioma research. **THANK YOU ROGER AND CINDY HAMILTON!**

After a great day on the course, winding through the hills of Napa Valley, golfers joined for dinner and to hear how their donations were being used to help research into this terrible disease. California State Buildings Trades Council President, Robbie Hunter, began by introducing the Foundation's Assistant Executive Director, Shane Rucker. Shane thanked the Committee Members for their dedication and hard work towards making the event a success year after year, before thanking the participants for their continued support. He then talked about the advances being made in mesothelioma research and highlighted that 100% of the event's net proceeds would go towards mesothelioma research, thanks to the costs being underwritten by Jerry & Elizabeth Paul. The Foundation's Medical Director, Dr. Parkash Gill was then introduced who spoke about the fantastic results that the new drug Eph-B4 had shown in lab research before being submitted to the FDA for Phase I Clinical Trials. Dr. Gill highlighted the treatment of a 78 year old woman who is currently being treated with Eph-B4 and has been given a new lease on life after given no hope when first diagnosed. Dr. Gill then relayed the fantastic news that other university research facilities across the United States have expressed interest in his research and are willing to administer Eph-B4 treat-

ments in their facilities!

We want to thank everyone who had a hand in making this year's event a great success. Without the help of Chairwoman, Cindy Hamilton, California State Building Trades Council President, Robbie Hunter and Committee Members, Mel Brashears, Debra Chaplan, Paul Doolittle, Mitch Johnson, Geoff Millar, Elizabeth & Jerry Paul and Lynn Schorno this event would not be possible. Your support ensures research into mesothelioma will continue and a cure will be found!



Above, Retired California Buildings Trades President, Bob Balgenorth, Foundation Founding Board Member, Jerry Neil Paul, In Memoriam Roger Hamilton, Foundation Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board, Dr. Parkash Gill and Assistant Executive Director, Shane Rucker

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Southern California Pipetrades DC 16 Golf Invitational



The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America would like to thank and congratulate the Southern California Pipetrades District Council 16 for organizing another outstanding, successful event. This year's DC 16 Golf Invitational was truly amazing in the amount of support and dedication to the cause, with this year's event proceeds topping \$90,000. The DC16 Golf Invitational has raised nearly \$1.2 million for mesothelioma research over the last 12 years! As always, 100% of the event's net proceeds will go directly to Mesothelioma Research thanks to the Foundation's costs being privately underwritten by Jerry and Elizabeth Paul.

Representing the Foundation at the event was Executive Director, Elizabeth Paul, Board Member, Jerry Neil Paul, Medical Director, Dr. Parkash Gill and Assistant Executive Director, Shane Rucker. After a great day on the golf course Elizabeth and Jerry Paul

thanked those who came out to support the Foundation as well as John Ferruccio for his tireless work in making the event a success. Dr. Gill then highlighted the successes being made in the laboratory with the development of Eph-B4 and it being a direct result of the support seen at events such as the Invitational. Dr. Gill also reported the GREAT news that Eph-B4 is not only being administered in FDA approved Phase I Clinical Trials but that it is prolonging the lives of patients who were given little to no hope. This was fantastic news that was met with a huge applause and hope for future treatment options.

The Foundation would like to personally thank all of those who organized and supported this year's event. Without the dedication and organizing skills of people such as Event Chairman John Ferruccio, the continued support of Honorary Chairmen, Jim Kellogg and Sid Stolper, as well as the devotion of Committee Members Mike Layton, Ray Le Vangie and Jerry and Elizabeth Paul, this event and great turnout would not have been possible. **WE WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PARTICIP-**

ATION AND DEDICATION TO MAKING MESOTHELIOMA A DISEASE OF THE PAST!!!



Above, Foundation Executive Director, Elizabeth Ann Paul accepts her auction prize from former Los Angeles Rams quarterback and event supporter, Vince Ferragamo.

John S. Lyons Memorial Banquet



The 32nd Annual John S. Lyons Memorial Banquet was held on September 6, 2014 in San Diego, California and raised \$5,000 for the Mesothelioma Research

Foundation of America. Every year the JOHNS come together to honor an old friend, by recognizing today's Labor Leader of the Year, and to raise money for the cancer research conducted by local charities. The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America is honored to be chosen as one of the benefactors of this year's event and in years past.

The Foundation's Assistant Executive Director, Shane Rucker spoke at the event and gave supporters an update on the progress being made by the Mesothelioma Lab at

USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. Shane first reminded attendees that 100% of the donations received go toward research thanks to the Foundation's costs being privately underwritten by Jerry and Elizabeth Paul. He then spoke about the development of a new treatment option for mesothelioma, Eph-B4, and the fantastic results that the new drug had shown in lab research before being submitted to the FDA for Phase I Clinical Trials. Shane then highlighted the current treatment of a woman who has been given a new lease on life after given no hope when first diagnosed.

Everyone at the Foundation would like to thank President of the JOHNS and the San Diego Buildings Trades Business Manager, Tom Lemmon, past JOHNS recipients Nico Ferraro and Kirk Crosswhite, and the rest of the JOHNS for their commitment to making mesothelioma a disease of the past!



Above, San Diego Building Trades Council Business Manager, Tom Lemmon and Foundation Assistant Executive Director, Shane Rucker.

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.

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Southern California DC16 Aim to Cure Clay Shoot



The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America would like to congratulate and thank the Southern California Pipetrades District Council 16 for organizing

another fantastic event to help find a cure for mesothelioma. This year's District Council 16 Aim to Cure event saw a great turnout of over 80 participants and generated over \$31,000 for mesothelioma research! With the Foundation's costs privately underwritten, 100% of the money generated will go directly to mesothelioma research! Representing the Foundation at Aim to Cure were Founding Board Members Jim Kellogg and Jerry Neil Paul, Executive Director Elizabeth Ann Paul, Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board Dr. Parkash Gill and Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker.

After a great day of shooting sporting clays in the foothills of the Angeles National Forest participants gathered for lunch, the always popular raffle of prizes and to learn

how their hard earned donations are being used. Foundation Executive Director Elizabeth Ann Paul began by thanking everyone in attendance and John Ferruccio for picking up where newly elected District Council 16 Business Manager, Mike Layton, had left off, in organizing another fantastic event. Elizabeth then informed the participants of how their support was helping to develop new treatments for mesothelioma with the introduction of new drugs to the FDA Clinical Trials. Dr. Parkash Gill continued by updating the supporters on the development of Eph-B4 and how it has proven to be a safe and viable treatment option for mesothelioma, with very few side effects and helping to prolong the lives of patients fighting this terrible disease. He then relayed the fantastic news that research facilities in Northern California, Maryland, Colorado and Illinois are interested in providing their mesothelioma patients with the option of Eph-B4 as a treatment.

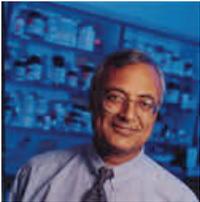
The Foundation would like to personally thank all of those who organized and supported this year's Aim to Cure events. Without the support and organizing skills of people such as DC 16 Business Manager Mike Layton, DC 16

Director of Organizing John Ferruccio and Retired International Pipetrades Representative Jim Kellogg these types of events would not be possible. **THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND CONTINUED DEDICATION!!!**



Above, Foundation Board Member Jerry Neil Paul, Foundation Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board, Dr. Parkash Gill, DC16 Business Manager Mike Layton, Foundations Board Member Jim Kellogg and DC 16 Organizer John Ferruccio.

Report from the Lab: Eph-B4 as a Therapy for Mesothelioma



Malignant pleural mesothelioma often develops decades following exposure to asbestos. Currently, the best therapy produces a response in only half of the patients, and the median survival with the current therapy remains under a year. A search for novel targets and therapeutics is underway, and recently identified therapeutics includes Eph-B4.

The mesothelioma research lab at USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, where our donations go, has investigated the use of Eph-B4 in human mesothelioma tissues by immunohistochemistry. Xenograft tumors established with human mesothelioma cells were treated with an Eph-B4 inhibitor, as well as with a combination effect of Eph-B4 and a biologic agent. Eph-B4 was overexpressed, or shrunk the size of the tumor, in 72% of the mesothelioma tissues evaluated, with 85% of epithelioid and 38% of sarcomatoid subtypes demonstrating overexpression. The Eph-B4 inhibitor was highly active as a single agent to inhibit tumor growth and the

combination of Eph-B4 and a biologic agent, Bevacizumab, was superior to each agent alone and led to complete tumor regression!

Since the study, Eph-B4 has been submitted to the FDA for Phase I Clinical Trials and is currently being offered to patients at the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. Doctors from facilities such as, the University of Chicago, University of California, Davis, University of California, San Diego and Georgetown University, want to work with USC/Norris in treating more patients by offering their patients Eph-B4.



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