



Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America

February 2021 Winter Edition



Dear Friends of the Foundation,

I sincerely hope this newsletter finds you and your families well during this holiday season. This past year has been unlike any other in memory. A year that began with so much hope and optimism, quickly became a place full of lockdowns, isolations and a full-blown pandemic. We went from shaking hands and embracing to wearing masks and social distancing.

Our Foundation had to make many adjustments during the year. Partners like the California State Pipe Trades, the International Heat & Frost Insulators, the Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 and the Heat & Frost Insulators Local 16, helped us with our events that often were in limbo, cancelled, or eventually took on a changed format. We are so blessed to be a part of such of an organization with such gracious and dedicated supporters!

Our Bird's Landing – "Aim to Cure" shooting event, which has taken place for the last 18 years, was scheduled to occur in June. Because of the pandemic, we had to move our event date twice, culminating in the event taking place on August 21st. With boxed lunches; social distancing and masks, a great time was had by all! Our heartfelt thanks to Foundation Board Member and retired UA International Representative, Jim Kellogg, and CA Pipe Trades Executive Director, Aaron Stockwell, for assuring we held a safe event that

had over 130 participants. Through everyone's generosity, we raised approximately \$55,000 for mesothelioma research.

The Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf event, was to be held at the Napa Valley Country Club in Northern California on June 29th was cancelled due to COVID 19. Co-Chairs Doug Gamble, International Heat & Frost Insulators General Secretary-Treasurer, and Mel Breshears, Western States Conference International Vice President along with their team at the Heat & Frost Insulators Local 16 was planning the event and collecting sponsorships. We asked the sponsors what they would like to do with their donations giving them several options, including return or retaining for next years event. ALL of our amazing supporters decided to allow the Foundation to keep the sponsorship checks we had collected! They are well aware that the devastating diagnosis of mesothelioma and the progress that research is making doesn't stop even during a pandemic. Those generous donations totaled approximately \$93,000!

The Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 then pulled off a very successful year end fundraising event with the "Aim to Cure" held at the Moore-N-Moore range, in Southern California, in October! With the unwavering support of Co-Chairs Rodney Cobos, DC16 Business Manager and John Ferruccio, Director of Organizing, we held our final event of the year. We cannot thank the team at DC16 enough for putting the event together! We must also thank DC16's Doug Marian, Doug Wilson, Jerry Trevino and Jerry Elliott for all of their help, dedication and support with all of the event preparation. We saw the largest turnout on record for this event with more than 140 supporters coming out to make a difference. This year the event

made approximately \$70,000 that went directly towards finding a cure for mesothelioma.

The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America and our partners helped to generate approximately \$218,000 in Pandemic 2020! Beginning in 2001 and continuing now, all administrative costs for the Foundation continue to be paid by Jerry Neil Paul of the Paul Law Firm. This insures that 100% of every dollar donated goes directly towards research.

We also heard from the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, Dr. Parkash Gill, of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, about the advancements in his research. You may recall the FDA had previously approved Dr. Gill's mesothelioma treatment, EPH B-4 to be used in combination with Merck's PD-1 Immunotherapy drug in a new FDA approved Phase I clinical trial. The two successful, non-chemo drugs work together to attack both the mesothelioma solid tumor while at the same time cutting off the blood vessels that feed the tumor. Dr. Gill has plans to expand clinical trials beyond USC Norris, with plans to collaborate with UC Davis and then expand nationally.

I would like to extend our gratitude to all who had a hand in making this year's events possible, as well as you, the reader, for your individual support. Whether you supported us through a personal donation, corporate sponsorship, an auction item, or a participant in one or more of our events, we THANK YOU for recognizing the need to help us make a difference in the fight for better treatment options, and an eventual cure.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ann Paul

Executive Director

—HAPPY—
Valentine's
—DAY—

Inside this issue:

<i>Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational</i>	2
<i>California State Pipe Trades Birdslanding Mesothelioma Clay shoot</i>	2
<i>Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 Aim to Cure Mesothelioma Clay Shoot</i>	3
<i>Dr. Parkash Gill: News From the Lab</i>	3

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

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

Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational



This year has been a rollercoaster of shut downs and economic uncertainty and the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America

has not been untouched. Many of our fundraising efforts had been placed on hold or cancelled but our fortunes turned.

Our first event, the Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational, was planned for June 29th, 2020. With the help of International Heat & Frost Insulators General Secretary-Treasurer, Doug Gamble and Western States Conference International Vice President, Mel Breshears and their team at the Heat & Frost Insulators Local 16, we began planning the event and collecting sponsorships shortly before the shutdowns and closures swept across California. After much deliberation and heartache, the Committee decided to cancel the event and let the sponsors decide what to do with their donations, giving them the option. ALL of the amazing supporters

decided to allow the Foundation to keep the sponsorship checks we had collected so they could be donated to research! A total of approximately \$93,000 was gifted to the Foundation, 100% of which will go toward supporting Dr. Parkash Gill's research and clinical trials within the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center with collaboration, per Dr. Gill, with UC Davis, for new and viable treatment options for mesothelioma patients.

This amazing graciousness and turn of fortunes 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. For their dedication and friendship, we owe our greatest 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 who participate year after year.

It is due to this dedication that Dr. Parkash Gill is able to state, "The FDA has approved EphB4 to be used in combination with Merck's PD-1 Immunotherapy drug in new FDA approved clinical trials". The combination, developed at Dr. Gill's lab at USC

Norris Comprehensive Medical Center, attack the Mesothelioma solid tumor, plus cut off the blood vessels that feed the tumor and is seen as an amazing breakthrough in mesothelioma treatment.

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 and sponsors for all their support this year. We must also thank Alan Pierce and the Local 16 Retirees Club for their continued support this year. **THANK YOU ALL** for making this possible.



We look forward to joining you in 2021!

California State Pipe Trades Aim to Cure Mesothelioma Clay Shoot



The California State Building Trades Aim to Cure Event, originally scheduled for June, was rescheduled and held on August 21, 2021. With the

unwavering support and leadership of Foundation Board Member, Jim Kellogg and CA Pipetrades Executive Director, Aaron Stockwell we held a safe event that was enjoyed by our friends and supporters.

Once again, the event was held at the Birdslanding Hunting Preserve and netted approximately \$55,000 for mesothelioma research! Despite the corona virus and fires from Southern to Northern California we saw a great turnout of more than 130 supporters of the event. 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 taking our chances at the sporting clays we had a delicious lunch and

Jim Kellogg thanked everyone who attended and highlighted how important it is to stay involved in the events and continue to raise awareness. Jim Kellogg then turned the mic over to Jerry Paul who informed the supporters how Dr. Parkash Gill at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center of Los Angeles was using the donations. Jerry reported that the combination of EphB-4 and PD-1 has been submitted by Dr. Gill to the FDA for approval of a new clinical trial and that it had shown great promise at USC Norris, including their collaboration with UC Davis. Jim then asked Aaron Stockwell to say a few words before raffling off a few items to support the cause.

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 event a success!



International Pipetrades Representative, Derek Kualapai with his brothers from UA Local 342, Business Manager Che Timmons, Jim Kellogg, Steve Mikich and Mike Mikich at their sponsored station.

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 Pipe Trades District Council 16 Aim to Cure Mesothelioma Clay Shoot



The Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 did it again and pulled off a very successful year end fundraising event for 2020! We cannot

thank the team at DC16 enough for putting the event together during these unprecedented times. With the unwavering support and leadership of DC16 Business Manager, Rodney Cobos and Director of Organizing, John Ferruccio we held a safe event that was enjoyed by our friends and supporters! We must also thank DC16's Doug Marian, Doug Wilson, Jerry Trevino and Jerry Elliott for all of their help and support in planning the day.

Once again, the event was held at the Moore N Moore Sporting Clay facility in San Fernando, CA and netted approximately

\$70,000 for mesothelioma research! We saw the largest turnout on record for this event with more than 140 supporters coming out to make a difference, including UA International Pipe Trades Representative, Derrick Kualapai. Representing the Foundation at the event were Retired UA International Pipe Trades Representative, Jim Kellogg, Founding Board Member, Jerry Neil Paul, Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, Dr. Parkash Gill and Assistant Executive Director, Shane Rucker.

After a great day in the Angeles National Forest we had a delicious lunch. Afterward, John Ferruccio thanked everyone who attended and highlighted how impressed he was by the huge turnout for the event. John then turned the mic over to Jerry Paul who thanked everyone for coming out and expressed how excited he was for Dr. Parkash Gill, of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, to share his update. You may recall that the FDA had previously approved Dr. Gill's mesothelioma treatment,

Eph B-4, for clinical trials after development at his lab at USC/Norris. However, the FDA has now approved Eph B-4 to be used in combination with Mercks PD-I Immunotherapy drug in a new FDA approved Phase I clinical trial. The two successful, non-chemo drugs, that together attacks both the Mesothelioma solid tumor and at the same time cuts off the vessels that feed the tumor. Dr. Gill has plans to expand clinical trials beyond USC Norris, with plans to talk with UC Davis and expand from there nationally.

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 clinical trials 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!

Dr. Parkash Gill: News From the Lab



Despite the progress being made in treating patients with immunotherapy drugs, many will

still require further treatments to battle the cancer that are suffering from. One of the treatment being tested and developed by Dr. Parkash Gill and his team at USC Norris is the combination of EphB4 and PD-I, which has shown great promise in preclinical trials.

In these trials, EphB4 was found to induce several inflammatory pathways including key checkpoints such as PD-I, which allows the treatment to attack both primary and secondary tumor sights. This was confirmed during follow up exams and testing as the patients treatment progressed.

Patients showed a reduction in tumor size and the team also observed evidence of tumor-debulking by decreased expression of epithelial markers within tumors and increased infiltration. Meaning the treatment of Eph B-4 had broken down the tumors defense mechanisms to allow the patients immune system to attack the tumor. Additional analysis of the patients RNA provided further support of these findings and the discoveries provide insight into how effective the treatment of EphB4 and PD-I can be to take on mesothelioma.

Dr. Gill spoke about this progress at the few events we were able to hold in 2020, describing the discoveries being made by his team of doctors at USC Norris Cancer Center as breakthroughs, leading to the expansion of the Eph B-4/PD-I treatment into additional facilities across the United States such as UC Davis. Not only have additional facilities taken notice of these findings but the new treatment has been

submitted to the FDA for a new round of clinical trials to begin on a wider base of patients!

We are ecstatic to be hearing Dr. Gill pass along this news and to be associated with such an amazing team of doctors, researchers, and supporters who believe in making a difference. This drive to make a difference will inevitably lead to better treatment options and an eventual cure, and that is something we are honored to be apart of.

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



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