



MESOTHELIOMA

RESEARCH FOUNDATION
OF AMERICA

Mesothelioma Research
Foundation of America

SPRING 2022
EDITION



Dear Friends of the Foundation,

Looking back at all of the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America events of 2021 and forward to the planning of the 2022 fundraisers, I can't help but to feel honored being part of such a wonderful organization! I am surrounded by people who genuinely care about those afflicted with this disease and want to be part of the solution. The Foundation, its partners and extremely generous supporters had a very successful 2021, raising over \$340,000! This will ensure the continued research and development of new and better treatment options at the mesothelioma research lab at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The California State Building Trades' "Aim to Cure Mesothelioma" Clay Shoot kicked off our efforts on June 4th, at the Birds Landing Hunting Preserve. Through the efforts of Foundation Board Member and retired UA International Representative, Jim Kellogg, and the California Pipe Trades Executive Director, Aaron Stockwell, we saw a record breaking 180 participants! Thanks to the generosity of all who attended, the event raised approximately \$75,000. A special thank you to Jim and Aaron for a job well done!!

On July 12th, The Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 saw another large turnout for the 18th Annual Golf Invitational at the Alta Vista Country Club. Everyone at the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America would like to extend our heart-felt gratitude to

Business Manager, Rodney Cobos, Director of Organizing, John Ferruccio, Doug Wilson, Jerry Elliott, Jerry Torino, Adolph Navarro and all those at District Council 16 who had a part in organizing such a successful event and we are so appreciative! Through their efforts, we saw over 150 golfers, including the return of former Los Angeles Rams legendary quarterback, Vince Ferragamo. Mr. Ferragamo has become a popular regular at the event. He was invited by his very good friend and retired UA Local 582 Business Agent, Bob Modica. Because of the open hearts of our generous participants, donors and supporters, this event generated over \$140,000.

The 19th Annual Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf event followed on September 20th with our return to the pristine Napa Valley Country Club in Northern California. Our appreciation goes to General Secretary Treasurer of the International Association of Heat & Frost Insulators, Doug Gamble, Vice President of the Western States Conference of Heat & Frost Insulators, Mel Breshears, Local 16 Heat & Frost Business Manager, Chris Greaney, Bill Hodges, Mark Plubell, Ben Espinoza, Fortino Curiel, China Soto, Geoff Millar, Mike Patterson, Stan Danielson, Alan Pierce, and all of the volunteers from Local 16. Because of the dedication and generosity of all of those involved, we raised \$91,000!

Our final fundraising event of 2021 was the "Aim to Cure Mesothelioma" clay shoot held at the Moore-n-Moore Sporting Clay facility in Southern California on October 11th. Once again, this event was championed by The Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16. Through the generosity of the participants, donors and sponsors, we were able to raise another \$35,000! While we had a wonderful time on the course, it was also marked as a

day of remembrance for a close friend of the Foundation, and former District Council 16 Business Manager, Mike Layton, who lost his battle with cancer just one week before this event. Mike will be remembered as a great friend, a mentor and a driving force in growing District Council 16 and the events it organizes. Our hearts, prayers and condolences go out to his friends and family.

Throughout the year, we received updates from Dr. Parkash Gill, Chairman of Translational Medicine at USC Norris and Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee for the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America, about the advancements in his research. 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. This year the two successful, non-chemotherapy drugs were working together so well that the treatment has been advanced to the FDA's Phase II clinical trials! Dr. Gill plans to expand the clinical trials beyond USC Norris and continue the collaboration with other Universities and Hospitals, such as UC Davis and the University of Chicago.

I would like to extend our gratitude to all who had a hand in making this year's events possible. As it has been, from the inception of the Foundation, every dollar donated goes directly to research. There are NO costs associated with the Foundation, as they continue to be generously paid for by Jerry Neil Paul, of The Paul Law Firm.

THANK YOU for recognizing the need to help us make a difference in the fight for better treatment options and one day the eventual cure for mesothelioma.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ann Paul
Executive Director



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We're on the web!
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California State Pipe Trades Aim to Cure Mesothelioma Clay Shoot



June 4, 2021, marked the 15th annual California State Pipe Trades' Aim to Cure Mesothelioma sporting

clay shoot event hosted by Jim Kellogg, retired U.A. Pipe Trades International Representative and former California State Fish and Game Commissioner, and Aaron Stockwell, the California State Pipetrades Executive Director. Sponsors and the supporters of the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America converged on the Birds Landing Hunting Preserve and Sporting Clay facility just outside of Concord, California. The event was a huge success, with over 180 shooters participating, helping to raise over \$75,000 for mesothelioma research! The fantastic support and turnout ensures the continued development of new and viable treatment options for mesothelioma. The Foundation was represented by Jerry Neil Paul and Jim Kellogg, both Board Members and Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker.

After the shoot had concluded, Jim Kellogg thanked attendees, expressing his

gratitude for the huge support after a year of uncertainty. Next, Jerry Paul spoke of the importance of staying involved in the fight to raise awareness, highlighting the fantastic development from Dr. Parkash Gill. Shortly before the event, Dr. Gill passed along the wonderful news that his treatment, a combination of immunotherapies EphB-4 and PD-1, had been introduced to the FDA for Phase 2 Clinical Trials! This is a huge milestone. The treatment is currently being administered to mesothelioma patients with support from the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and in collaboration with UCLA and UC Davis. Jerry Paul then passed the mic to Aaron Stockwell to say a few words before raffling off a few items to support the cause.

As always, 100% of the funds raised at the Birdslanding event will go directly towards mesothelioma cancer research at Dr. Parkash Gill's lab at USC Norris Comprehensive Medical Center. 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 with the goal of expanding the clinical trials to other interested universities. Thank you to all who participated and made the event a success!

Foundation Board Member and Retired UA Representative Jim Kellogg thank you everyone for their overwhelming support! Thank you Jim and everyone who comes out to make a difference!



California State Pipe Trades Executive Director Aaron Stockwell overseeing the always popular raffle



Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 Golf Invitational



Everyone at the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America would like to congratulate the Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16

for organizing an amazing event! We saw a huge turnout for the 18th Annual Golf Invitational at the Alta Vista Country Club, with over 150 golfers, including the return of former LA Rams legendary quarterback, Vince Ferragamo. Vince has become a regular at the event, who was invited by his very good friend and retired UA Local 582 Business Agent, Bob Modica. Together we generated over \$140,000 for mesothelioma research!

The leadership of District Council 16, including Tournament Director and Director of Organizing John Ferruccio, Committee Member and Business Manager Rodney Cobos, and Assistant Business Manager, Doug Marian, goes above and beyond in planning an event that everyone looks forward to. We

cannot thank them enough for the years of support and dedication. THANK YOU!

Participating in the event on behalf of the Foundation was, Board Member Jerry Neil Paul, Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, Dr. Parkash Gill, and Assistant Executive Director, Shane Rucker. After a great day of golf, Jerry gave a heartfelt thank you to everyone for supporting and highlighted the new treatment options coming from the lab at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Parkash Gill, Chairman of the Foundation's Medical Advisory Committee then reported the great news that USC continues to successfully treat mesothelioma patients with the combination of immunotherapy drug PD-1 in combination with EphB-4! Dr. Gill added that there have been several recent research collaborations in addition to the treatment being submitted to the FDA for Phase 2 clinical trials!

The Foundation would like to personally thank all of you who support and turn out for this great event. With the participation from UA International Pipe Trades Representative, Derrick Kualapai and California

Pipe Trades Executive Director, Aaron Stockwell, and the organizing skills of people such as DC16's John Ferruccio, Rodney Cobos, Doug Marian, Foundation Executive Director Elizabeth Ann Paul, Board Member Jerry Neil Paul and Assistant Executive Director, Shane Rucker, this event and great turnout would not be possible. They have all done a fantastic job, year in and year out, and we cannot be more proud of working with these great people. THANK YOU!



DC16 Assistant Business Manager Doug Marian, UA Administrative Assistant to the General President Derrick Kualapai, DC 16 Business Manager Rodney Cobos and UA Local 484 Business Manager Shane Boston

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

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Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational



On September 20, 2021, the Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational returned for its 19th presentation at the Napa Valley Country

Club, to raise funds for mesothelioma cancer research and further the development of new treatment options. This year's event saw a full field of golfers, who came together to raise over \$91,000! As always, 100% of the funds generated will go toward supporting Dr. Parakash Gill's research at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The Roger Hamilton Event would not be possible without the continued support of Doug Gamble, Secretary Treasurer of the International Assoc. of Heat & Frost Insulators, Mel Breshears Vice President of the Western States Conference International and Chris Greaney, Business Manager of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 16. We thank them all, as they have taken it upon themselves to ensure the success of the

event and honor Roger Hamilton's memory. To date, the Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational has raised approximately 2 million dollars for mesothelioma research! We also owe our gratitude to Cindy Hamilton and the Hamilton family, along with all of the building trades, contractors and vendors who continue to support the battle to defeat mesothelioma cancer.

After a great day on the course, we joined in the clubhouse for drinks, dinner, and catch up with friends. Doug Gamble and Mel Breshears thanked the sponsors, and the volunteers for their roles in making the event run smoothly and successfully. Jerry Neil Paul, one of the Foundation's founding board members and CFO gave a short history of the event and how much it means to us that the event is as strong as ever after 19 years. Shane Rucker, Assistant Executive Director of the Foundation then provided an update from Dr. Gill, USC Senior Professor, Board Certified Oncologist, Hematologist and head of various FDA approved clinical trials. Dr. Gill is also Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee of the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America. Dr. Gill, in his Clinical Trials, has shown the ability to identify mutated cancer genes and the development of treatment options that can

target and kill cancer cells. There has been great progress thanks to the success of the Hamilton event, which can be seen in the development of immunotherapy treatments EphB-4 and PD-1 and their submission to the FDA Clinical Trials process and collaboration with doctors affiliated with facilities such as UC Davis and University of Chicago.

We wish to express our greatest appreciation to Committee Chairman Doug Gamble, Co-Chair Mel Breshears, Chris Greaney, Mike Patterson, Stan Danielson, Bill Hodges, Mark Plubell, Ben Espinoza, Fortino Curiel, China Soto, Geoff Millar, Alan Pierce, Jerry and Elizabeth Paul, and Shane Rucker. Without your efforts and energy this event would not have been possible!



Doug Gamble and Mel Breshears have gone above and beyond. We cannot thank them and their team enough for their dedication.

Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 Aim to Cure



The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America would like to congratulate and thank the Southern California Pipe Trades District

Council 16 for organizing a fantastic event to help find a cure for mesothelioma. This year's DC16 Aim to Cure Mesothelioma event was held at the Moore N Moore Sporting Clays facility in San Fernando, CA and was successful in generating approximately \$35,000 for mesothelioma research! Representing the Foundation was Founding Board Member Jerry Neil Paul and Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker.

The event began with a somber tone, after the sad news that former DC16 Business Manager Mike Layton had passed away a few weeks prior. Mike was a fantastic person, a great friend to many of us at the Foundation and a driving force behind bringing the clayshoot to Southern California. John

Ferruccio oversaw a moment of silence for our good friend, Mike, before we headed out on the course with him in all of our hearts. Our thoughts go out to the entire Layton Family.

We had some noteworthy guests who joined us in support of the Foundation and DC 16's mission. UA Administrative Assistant to the General President, Derrick Kualapai, UA Local 342 Business Manager, Che Timmons, UA International Representative for California and Hawaii Aaron Stockwell and UA Vice President of District 5 Sid Stolper, who was instrumental in the growth of the DC16 events when he served as Business Manager.

After a beautiful day in the Angeles National Forest, the event's supporters gathered for a great BBQ lunch and the always popular raffle. Before giving away some amazing prizes, sponsors and supporters learned where their hard earned money was going and how it was being used to fight this terrible disease. Speaking at the event on behalf of the Foundation was Board Member and CFO, Jerry Neil Paul. After thanking John Ferruccio for organizing another fantastic event, as well as everyone in attendance, Jerry spoke about the

roots of the Foundation and the massive efforts taken in developing new drugs for the treatment of mesothelioma. He then passed along the news from Dr. Gill's Lab at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Medical Center that the immunotherapy treatments EphB-4 and PD-1 were submitted to the FDA Clinical Trials process with collaboration with doctors affiliated with facilities such as UC Davis and University of Chicago.

The Foundation would like to personally thank all of those who organized and supported this year's events. This would not be possible without the support and organizing skills of people such as DC 16 Business Manager Rodney Cobos, DC 16 Director of Organizing John Ferruccio. THANK YOU!!



Mike Layton, an inspiring leader, a loved family member and a friend to many. Rest in Peace Mike.

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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 combination with Merck's PD-1 Immunotherapy drug in a new FDA approved Phase II 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