



Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America

December 2016
Winter Edition

Message from Foundation Executive Director, Elizabeth Ann Paul



I hope this newsletter finds you and your family recovering

from an amazing Thanksgiving feast with eyes toward the upcoming holiday season. I feel truly blessed for a life filled with family, friends, and wonderful people who go out of their way to help make the lives of those suffering, a little bit better.

2016 marked the fifteenth anniversary of the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America. We are so very proud of the work we have accomplished to date, and know that much of the success is due to the efforts of our partners and friends at the California State Pipe Trades Council and the Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16.

This year saw the return of the Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational. We are so grateful for the leadership of Mel Breshears, Business Manager of Local 16 Heat & Frost Insulators and Doug Gamble, International Vice President of the Heat & Frost Insulators for taking on the task of organizing and hosting the Hamilton Event. They revitalized this tournament, put on a memorable event, created a great atmosphere for the golfers and raised money for the cause. Those at the California State Pipe Trades, Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16, the International Association of Heat & Frost Insulators and Allied Workers continue to go above and beyond the call of duty to

insure that one day we will be able to make mesothelioma a disease of the past. This year, their combined efforts resulted in raising approximately \$275,000 that will go directly towards research. As always, 100% of every dollar donated goes directly towards research, including the funding of clinical trials that are being conducted at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. This would not be possible without the generosity of our donors and the enthusiasm and hard work of our many volunteers. Without the support from these groups and the people who work tirelessly organizing their events, we would not be where we are today. We are very humbled and honored by their efforts.

I would like to say a special thank you to Jim Kellogg, Retired International Pipe Trades resentative, and Greg Partch, Executive Director of the California State Pipe Trades, for doing such a fantastic job organizing the Annual California State Pipe Trades Aim to Cure Mesothelioma Clay Shoot, held in Northern California's Birdslanding Hunting Preserve. Jim has served as Board Member of the Foundation and has spent countless hours making sure his fellow tradesmen got screened and had treatment options for mesothelioma.

A heart-felt thank you goes out to Mike Layton, Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 Business Manager and John Ferruccio, District Council 16 Organizer who have been instrumental in the success of the 14th Annual DC 16 Golf Invitational and DC 16 Aim to Cure Mesothelioma Clay Shoot, held in Southern California's Moore & Moore Sporting Clay Facility. Both of these events have continued to grow in popularity amongst both tradesman, contractors and

vendors. Thank you for all of your hard work, you are both admired and respected.

Many thanks must go out to the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, Dr. Parkash Gill, MD and the doctors working with him at the USC Norris for their dedication to finding a cure for Mesothelioma. Without Dr. Gill and his team, there would not only be less research being done, but there would be fewer treatment options available for patients. We are extremely proud of the developments being made with EPH B-4. It has showed great promise in FDA Clinical Trials.!

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not thank you, the reader, for your individual support in helping to make mesothelioma a cancer of the past. Whether you are an individual, who has donated in memory of a loved one, a tradesman, who was exposed to asbestos while providing for their family, or a Union labor leader who helped to organize and/or participated in one of the events, we THANK YOU for supporting the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America. Together we CAN make a difference!!!

A Very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Blessed New Year to All,

Truly Yours,

Elizabeth Ann Paul

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

We're on the web! www.mesorfa.org

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

Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational



We are happy to announce the return of the Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational! We were overjoyed to hear from

International Vice President of the Heat & Frost Insulators, Doug Gamble, and the Business Manager of Local 16 Heat & Frost Insulators, Mel Breshears, who decided to bring back the event that had become a staple of the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America. The event was held on June 6, 2016 at the always pristine Napa Valley Country Club in Napa Valley, CA. Doug and Mel organized a great event that witnessed a large turnout and generated approximately \$73,000 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, committee members and volunteers who made this event

You may recall that the event was established in 2002 by U.A. International Representative of the Pipe Trades Jim Kellogg, California Building Trades

President Bob Balgenorth, and then California Building Trades Vice President Roger Hamilton, who was also a past Business Manager of the Heat & Frost Insulators. It was Roger's idea to support research into a cure for mesothelioma. Although, Roger had been diagnosed with cancer several months before the first tournament, Roger was determined to make the first event a success while having a great time out on the course. After Rogers passing, Cindy Hamilton had taken over as chairwoman and together with the California State Building Trades Council, grew the event into what it is today. She has done a magnificent job, dedicating many hours of hard work to bring friends and supporters together, and will continue to be an integral part of the event.

After a great round of golf and the always popular putting contest that saw both official and unofficial single putts by Doug Gamble and Elizabeth Paul, supporters came together in the clubhouse for drinks and a delicious dinner. Doug Gamble and Mel Breshears kicked off the event speaking together, thanking sponsors for their continued support and the great support that was received during the planning of the event. They turned the mic over to Elizabeth Paul and Dr. Parkash Gill who informed sponsors of the history of the Foundation while highlighting how the support has helped in the development of progressive treatments

for mesothelioma. They thanked sponsors for their continued support, Local 16 Heat & Frost Insulators for taking over the reins of the event and all of the Local 16 staff and family volunteers who turned out to help make the event a success.

We would like to thank everyone who had a hand in making this year's event a great success! Without Committee Chairman, Doug Gamble, Co-chair Mel Breshears, Stan Danielson, Bill Hodges, Mark Plubell, Ben Espinoza, Jerry and Elizabeth Paul, Chris Greaney, Fortino Curiel, Geoff Millar, Shane Rucker and all of the volunteers form Local 16 who came out to help, this event would not be possible. We truly appreciate your dedication, and efforts that went above and beyond. Your support ensures research into mesothelioma will continue and a cure will be found!



California State Pipe Trades: Birdslanding Clay Shoot



The June 2016 Aim to Cure event hosted by Foundation Board Member and Retired International Pipe Trades Repre-

sentative Jim Kellogg saw another great turnout of over 100 supporters. The event netted over \$51,000 for mesothelioma research, 100% of which will be used in the research and development of new mesothelioma treatment options! Shooters and supporters of the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America converged on the Birdslanding Hunting Preserve and Sporting Clay facility near Concord, California to raise awareness and donations for

mesothelioma cancer research. Representing the Foundation were Board Members Jim Kellogg and Jerry Neil Paul and Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker.

After a great day of strolling through the Birdslanding Sporting Clay facility, where supporters took their chance at breaking 100 sporting clays, Jim Kellogg thanked everyone who attended, as well as all of the sponsors who have a hand in making this event such a success year after year. Founding Board Member, Jerry Neil Paul, then spoke on behalf of the Foundation, providing a history of the Foundation and the advances being made by Dr. Parkash Gill at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. He noted the development of mesothelioma treatments, such as

EphB-4, currently being administered to mesothelioma patients and a pharmaceutical company currently providing support, as being milestones we can all be proud of. With the support of participants and continued support from our event sponsors, advances in the development of mesothelioma treatment options are becoming a reality.

Everyone at the Foundation would like to thank the event sponsors, volunteers, participants for supporting this great event. We would also like to acknowledge and thank Jim Kellogg for all of his hard work and dedication in making the Aim to Cure event a success year after year! THANK YOU JIM!

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Southern California DCI6: Mesothelioma 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! The 14th Annual Golf Invitational witnessed a huge turnout of over a 140 golfers, who came together to support the cause while generating approximately \$105,000 for mesothelioma research! As always, 100 % of the donations received will go directly toward research into clinical trials and treatment options for mesothelioma. District Council 16 has done an amazing job with this event year after year and we cannot thank them enough for the years of support and dedication. THANK YOU!

Participating in the event on behalf of the Foundation was Executive Director Elizabeth Ann Paul, 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 and Elizabeth Paul spoke together, first thanking everyone for supporting the event year after year, and then highlighting the developments made at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Gill then spoke of the successful treatment of mesothelioma patients with EPH-B4 and the recognition it is receiving amongst his peers and pharmaceutical companies. These accomplishments would not have been possible without events such as the DC16 Golf Invitational and the dedication of its supporters.

The Foundation would like to personally thank all of those who organized

and supported this year's event. Without the support and organizing skills of people such as Tournament Director and DC16 Director of Organizing John Ferruccio, Committee Member and DC 16 Business Manager Mike Layton, UA Local 398 Business Manager, Ray LeVangie, UA Local 484 Business Manager Rodney Cobos, 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 ALL FOR YOUR DEDICATION!!!



Southern California DC16: Moore N' Moore Clay Shoot



The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America would like to congratulate everyone at the Southern California Pipe Trades

District Council 16 for organizing another amazing event! Business Manager Mike Layton and Director of Organizing John Ferruccio did an outstanding job of making this a successful and fun event. Once again, we returned to the Moore 'N Moore Sporting Clays facility in the San Fernando Valley, CA, which witnessed a great turnout, generating approximately \$32,000 for mesothelioma research! District Council 16 has done a fantastic job in organizing and hosting the event year after year and we cannot thank them enough! Participating in the event on behalf of the Foundation were Board Member Jerry Neil Paul, Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker and Attorney Rhett Francisco, who all had a great time at the event. As always, 100% of the net

proceeds of the event will go directly to mesothelioma research!

Mike Layton held a tailgate meeting, passing along the event rules and safety standards for shooters. We all then spent a relaxing day walking the picturesque canyons of the Angeles National Forest, taking their chances at breaking sporting clays, before gathering for a delicious lunch. Supporters then heard where their generous charitable donations would be used and how they are helping to find better treatment options and hopefully an eventual cure. Event organizer and speaker, DC16 Director of Organizing John Ferruccio, began by thanking those who come out to support the events, as well as those who volunteer their time. Elizabeth and Jerry Paul spoke on behalf of the Foundation, thanking sponsors who continue to support the cause and have been instrumental in not only the success of the events but in the development of new treatments as well. Without the sponsors, DCI6 and the volunteers, we would not have such amazing events, and we thank you all! MESORFA Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee Dr. Parkash Gill then spoke about the

research and development of clinical trials for Eph-B4. Eph-B4 is showing amazing promise and continued to move forward in its march to becoming a first line treatment for mesothelioma!

The Foundation would like to personally thank all of those who organized and supported this year's event. Without the support and organizing skills of people such as DC16 Director of Organizing John Ferruccio, DC 16 Business Manager Mike Layton, Retired DC16 Business Manager Sid Stolper and Retired International Pipe Trades Representative Jim Kellogg, this event and the 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 ALL FOR YOUR DEDICATION!!!



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



The Foundation's Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, Dr. Parkash Gill, has spoken at a number of the Foundation's

events over the last year and consistently highlights the development of Eph-B4 and the promise it has shown. With the continued development and results seen in mesothelioma patients, Eph-B4 is moving forward in its march to becoming a first line treatment for mesothelioma!

Dr. Gill and his team at USC Norris continue to search for new therapeutics, including Eph-B4, with the goal of extending a patient's survival much longer.

Mesothelioma tumors treated with Eph-B4 alone, as well as in conjunction with a biologic agent such as Bevacizumab, have both shown to shrink tumors in many of the mesothelioma tissues evaluated. The reduction in size has been evaluated in both epithelioid and sarcomatoid subtypes of mesothelioma. While the use of Eph-B4 alone has continued to show promise, the combination of Ep-B4 and Bevacizumab, has led to complete tumor regression!

Eph-B4 is currently progressing through FDA Clinical Trials and continues to be 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