

## Message from Executive Director

### Elizabeth Ann Paul

One of the most rewarding parts of my role as Executive Director of the Mesothelioma Research Foundation are the people I have the opportunity to meet and speak with. I'm thinking specifically of the victims of mesothelioma and their families, whose resilience and courage in fighting this terrible disease never cease to amaze me.

In this issue, I am excited to bring you two truly inspiring stories. First, we report on the fundraiser organized by Victoria Fout, the daughter of Junior D. Fout, who has been battling mesothelioma

since 2007. The fundraiser and silent auction raised nearly \$5,000, every penny of which will go towards mesothelioma research. I'd like to personally thank Victoria for her hard work and dedication in fighting this disease, both through fundraising and in educating her community. We also bring you the testimonial of John McTaggart, a Local 78 plumber who has been fighting mesothelioma for over two years. I think we should all take Mr. McTaggart's advice: "Talk about it, beat it and don't give up!"

We won't give up. MESORFA continues to fund Dr. Parkash Gill's research at USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Gill has had some exciting news for us too. Veglin is now being offered as a first-line treatment along with chemotherapy for newly diagnosed patients. It is also now being given in pill form as a second-line treatment for individuals who've already tried other treatments that didn't work. Developments like these give me hope that we will make mesothelioma a disease of the past.

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## Mesothelioma Benefit Dinner



Victoria Fout presents Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker and MESORFA with the night's proceeds.

### March 8, 2008-

The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America was the proud beneficiary of a mesothelioma

benefit dinner held at the Foothill Community Church in Angels Camp, California. The evening was very special given the fact it was planned and hosted by high school student Victoria Fout whose father, Junior D. Fout, has been battling mesothelioma since January of 2007.

The evening was kicked off with a delicious dinner and a silent auction to generate additional donations for MESORFA. Victoria Fout then presented the audience with facts on mesothelioma and highlighted the fact that

mesothelioma is more than just a commercial you see on television. It is a cancer that we know little about and one in which there are very few treatment options available, underscoring the necessity of funding organizations such as MESORFA. Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker attended the benefit on behalf of MESORFA and spoke about the advancements being made in mesothelioma research and the treatment options that are now avail-

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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.**

If you do not wish to receive mailings from the Mesothelioma Research Foundation, please contact us at:

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Phone: 1-800-909-MESO (6376) Internet: [www.mesorfa.org](http://www.mesorfa.org)



## Mesothelioma Benefit Dinner (continued)

*Continued from page 1*

able. He thanked all of those in attendance since without the help of private donors mesothelioma research would not move forward and treatment options would remain limited. Victoria Fout then presented Shane Rucker and MESORFA with the nights proceeds, which totaled close to \$5,000 and a fantastic result for a first time fund-

raiser!

The night concluded with Mr. Junior D. Fout giving a sincere and emotional speech highlighting the hardships that cancer brings on the family and friends of cancer patients. It is not just the patients who struggle with cancer. Also affected are those around the patient, known as the support group,

who must watch their loved ones undergo long and difficult treatments. MESORFA was honored to be a part of the event and wants to congratulate Victoria for putting on a great event!

## Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America Racing Car



Jerry and Elizabeth Paul paid for the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America to be noted on this Union Brothers Racing car owned by some members of the Pipetrades Local 442 and raced by Professional racecar driver 442 member, James Jackson. "Heres to you guys!!!!"



## Fundraising Update: How You Can Help Fight Mesothelioma

We here at the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America know that times are tough and everybody is pinching pennies. Yet, many of our supporters have expressed a desire to help us in our fight against mesothelioma. There are a number of ways you can help.

As you may know, thanks to the generosity of Executive Board Members Jerry Neil Paul and Elizabeth Paul, who fund all of our operating expenses, 100% of every dollar we receive goes directly to Dr. Parkash Gill's mesothelioma research at USC/Norris Cancer Center.

Dr. Gill is conducting clinical trials to find better ways to treat mesothelioma. Clinical trials often compare the most accepted cancer treatment (standard treatment) with a new treat-

ment which doctors hope will provide better results. What doctors learn in these trials will help people with cancer now and in the future.

MESORFA raises funds to help pay the costs of these trials in several ways. There are golf tournaments and clay-shoots, large donations and small.

Two years ago, we began our vehicle donation program. We take donations of all types of vehicles, whether they are running or not, including cars, trucks, motorhomes, snowmobiles, jet-skis and boats. In exchange for donating your vehicle and supporting mesothelioma research, you receive a tax deduction. The only requirement is that you have a clear title in your possession.

Gifts in Memory of a loved one can celebrate the memory of a dear one

for the hope of a cancer free future.

Gifts in Honor can recognize and acknowledge cancer survivors or this gift can be in honor of a special milestone in the lives of those to whom you are close.

If you would like to make a donation, either of a vehicle or money, please call one of our volunteers at 800-909-MESO (6376) or visit our website at: [www.mesorfa.org](http://www.mesorfa.org). Just click on "Support Mesorfa" to make your donation.

And if you want to help but can't afford to donate, remember, there is something you can do that is completely free: talk about it! Spreading the word and educating people about mesothelioma is an important step in making it a disease of the past.

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## Southern California Pipetrades District Council 16 Check Presentation to USC Oncologist Dr. Parkash Gill



From Left to Right Front: Jerry Neil Paul, Elizabeth Paul and Dr. Parkash Gill.  
From Left to Right in Back: U.A. International Representative Jim Kellogg and District Council 16 Business Manager Sid Stopler.

### November 20, 2008 –

We are grateful to Dr. Parkash Gill and of all the medical oncologists and doctors who offer their strength, compassion, care, and comfort to their patients fighting this horrible disease of mesothelioma.

This year at the District Council 16 annual check presentation for Dr. Parkash Gill and his colleagues, we learned that Dr. Gill's team is making many advances in treating both newly diagnosed patients and those who have

failed their previous treatment programs. All in attendance were moved by Dr. Gill and his team's collective experience, their generosity of time and energy, and the spirit that it takes for this work. What great determination it takes on their part to try and put an end to this vicious disease as well as other forms of cancer! We are looking forward to the hopeful new trials that may come available in 2009 from this great team of oncologists!

A surprise guest, Clinton Ruben spoke of his survival of Peritoneal Mesothelioma and his confidence in his oncologist Dr. Gill. He expressed that when he began to lose weight that he felt as though he had lost a part of his soul. Now with Dr. Gill's treatments, it is as though he has a new lease on life. Mr. Ruben feels that the biggest gift would be to find a simple test to detect mesothelioma in its early stages.

To end the ceremony, District Council 16 Business Manager Sid Stopler and U.A. International Representative Jim Kellogg presented a \$135,000 check to Dr. Parkash Gill to help support his mesothelioma cancer research. What a wonderful opportunity for the leaders of the Unions and Trades, as well

as the medical research teams to come together to learn from each other and to learn of additional resources to combat mesothelioma.

The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America appreciates all the hard work and tireless efforts that go into fundraising. Without the dedication and support of those volunteering to put on a fundraiser each year, this research would not be advancing as quickly as it has. Thank you!



From Left to Right: Dr. Parkash Gill, Clinton Ruben and Jerry Neil Paul.

## Inspirational Quotes

Singer Olivia Newton John once said, "My cancer scare changed my life. I'm grateful for every new, healthy day I have. It has helped me prioritize my life." If everyone would simply live each day as if it were their last, perhaps we would all prioritize our lives.

Another cancer quote comes from one of the most inspirational champions who has continued to overcome the battles of cancer, Lance Armstrong. He said, "If children have the ability to

ignore all odds and percentages, then maybe we can all learn from them. When you think about it, what other choice is there but to hope? We have two options, medically and emotionally: give up or fight like hell." Lance Armstrong obviously has not given up. He has fought with vigor and unstoppable belief in his recovery.

Margaret Mead said, "We are continually faced with great opportunities which are brilliantly disguised as un-

solvable problems." People with cancer have often turned their cancer into great opportunities. Many people use their cancer to reach out to others in need and still others find a way to finally let others reach out to them. Very often, cancer changes people for the better even when things couldn't look much worse.

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## Patient Testimonial—John C. McTaggart

**Q:** How were you exposed to asbestos?

**A:** In 1952 I began my 50 year career as a plumber. At first I worked for Local 55 in Cleveland, and then I made the move to Local 78 here in California. As a plumber I worked on dockside ships with boilers and asbestos insulation. Also, at one point in order to keep lead from running out of joints we would be installing we used asbestos rope. When repairing plumbing sometimes I would use an asbestos repair patch as well.

**Q:** How did you learn that you had mesothelioma?

**A:** March 2, 2007 I ran out of breath while I was walking. I thought I was having a heart attack so I went to the hospital. At the hospital they did a thoracentesis and removed 2 liters of fluid. A couple of weeks later they removed another liter. April 10, 2007 they did a biopsy and the surgeon came into the room and told me that I had mesothelioma. This diagnosis was then confirmed by two other doctors,

but I was treated for NSLC (lung cancer).

**Q:** What advice would you give others who suspect that they may have mesothelioma?

**A:** In 1996, I was diagnosed with Interstitial Fibrosis and didn't follow up with my doctor. Then, in 2007 the mesothelioma diagnosis hit me like a ton of bricks. I believe everyone should have annual exams if they have a diagnosis early on like I did.

**Q:** How much time did the doctors give you?

**A:** They told me that I had Stage 3B Cancer and gave me 4 to 10 months to live. Mesothelioma was diagnosed by pathology of biopsy materials.

**Q:** What type of operation did the doctors recommend?

**A:** They told me that it was non-operable.

**Q:** What advice would you give to

others who have been recently diagnosed with mesothelioma?

**A:** The most important thing is to have a positive attitude. Talk about it, beat it and don't give up! Have a good mental attitude. Also, I feel that the best thing that helped me when I was first diagnosed is that I became part of the Atlas Trial. I took a combination of Carboplatin, Gemzar and Avastin. Even though it was a difficult combination to handle, it has helped me so much. Three other Chemo-cocktails since the first and 6 weeks of radiation.

**Q:** What treatments are you currently seeking?

**A:** Currently I am on no chemotherapy treatments or pain medications.

**Q:** What has given you hope despite living with this horrible disease?

**A:** My father lived to be 102 years old. So, I have always thought I am going to live to be 100 years old. And I don't plan on cashing in my chips early.



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**Our Goal is to Make  
Mesothelioma a Disease of the  
Past!**

**We're on the web!  
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. Gill at the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center in Los Angeles. In the process, Dr. Gill (a board certified oncologist and hematologist) has received FDA approval from the U.S. Government to do Phase I Clinical Trials on a new mesothelioma treatment drug called Veglin, whose research was 100% funded by the foundation. It proved successful in Phase I and Phase II of the clinical trials for Veglin began July 30th, 2004. Dr. Gill is also in the process of getting approval for Phase I clinical trials for a new molecule, EphB4. We are all very excited at the possibilities of a more effective treatment over what presently is available for mesothelioma victims.**

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