

## Message from Executive Director

### Elizabeth Ann Paul

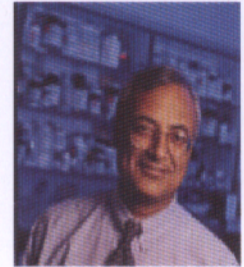
As Executive Director of the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America, I am excited to bring you the latest edition of our newsletter. This edition features the latest news in mesothelioma research, an introduction to the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board, Parkash Gill, M.D., and a new feature, a testimonial from a current mesothelioma patient who is battling this terrible disease.

We have been very busy with fundraising events. Below, we report on the Contra Costa Sherriff's Charity Ball. This event raised \$34,000 for the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America. We would like to thank all who took part in this event.

I also recently had the pleasure of attending the Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational. Board Member Jerry Neil Paul and I both presented Dr. Parkash Gill who gave a

progress report on his latest treatment research with the new cancer-fighting drug EphB4 and announced the expansion of Phase 2 Veglin clinical trials to the U.C. Davis area in addition to USC/Norris in Los Angeles and University of Chicago. I would like to give a special thanks to Chair of the Committee for the Roger Hamilton Golf Invitational Cindy Hamilton, Honorary Co-Chair of the Committee and State Building and Construction Trades Council President Bob Balgenorth, Business Manager of the Alameda Heat & Frost Insulators Local 16 Steve Steele and UA Pipetrades International Representative of California and Hawaii Jim Kellogg for their continued support. We will report more on this event, Dr. Gill's research, and all of the wonderful people who helped make it happen in our special fall fundraising edition.

## Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board Parkash Gill, M.D.



Dr. Gill is a professor of Medicine and Pathology and head of the tumor and vascular biology laboratory at the University of Southern California; his clinical affiliation is with the USC Ambulatory Health Center.

**Dr. Gill's Research Interests include:** tumor cell biology, tumor vessel development & identification; clinical research in Mesothelioma, leukemia, lymphoma, and sarcoma; clinical and molecular features of disease outcome and development of novel therapeutics in Mesothelioma, leukemia, lymphoma, and sarcoma; clinical trials in Rx of Mesothelioma, leukemia, lymphoma and sarcoma.

## Contra Costa Sherriff's Charity Ball

March 29, 2008

Contra Costa County Sheriff Warren Rupf presented U.S. Pipetrades International Representative of California and Hawaii and Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America Board Member Jim Kellogg with a generous donation of \$34,000 for mesothelioma research. As always, 100% of the donation will go directly to the USC Comprehensive Cancer Center for Dr. Parkash Gill's mesothelioma research.

This year's Contra Costa Sherriff's Charity Ball was held at the Blackhawk Automobile Museum in Danville, CA and marked the 29<sup>th</sup> year of giving for the Contra Costa Sheriffs'. Attending on behalf of MESORFA, Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker and his fiancée Stefanie Franklin sat with attendees Jim Kellogg, Kris Frigard-Nunn and her husband Bob Nunn. The event was special for a couple of reasons. First and foremost this year included a 3<sup>rd</sup> beneficiary, the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund, which provides financial assistance to injured Marines and their families. During the festivities an American flag that was flown over Camp Fallujah in Iraq was auctioned off and generated an additional \$10,000 for the Semper Fi Fund.



*Contra Costa County Sheriff Warren Rupf presented U.A. Pipetrades International Representative of California and Hawaii and MESORFA Board Member Jim Kellogg with a check for \$34,000 for mesothelioma research.*

This year's event marked the second year that MESORFA has been a beneficiary of the event. We want to extend our deepest thanks to the Contra Costa Sherriff's for keeping mesothelioma research in the public eye and providing MESORFA with more than \$90,000 in donations over the last two years. A special thank you goes to Sheriff Warren Rupf, Executive Assistant Maurine Wamosh, and International Pipetrades Representative Jim Kellogg who made it all possible.

## Mesothelioma Research Update

USC Keck School of Medicine's publication of *Internal Medicine Ink* featured MESORFA's Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board, Dr. Parkash Gill for his work on a new cancer-fighting drug EphB4. The article highlights the effectiveness of EphB4 on bladder, breast and colorectal cancer calling it "a major step forward in the management of human malignancies". In addition to these cancers, EphB4 has also been shown to be effective on patients diagnosed with mesothelioma and we hope to have it submitted to the FDA this year for Phase I clinical trials. Thank you Dr. Gill for your continued dedication to making mesothelioma and other cancers things of the past.

**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.**

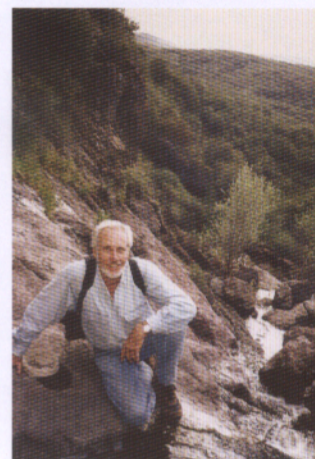
## In Memory of Dr. Robert Hertz July 5, 1931– October 30, 2007

Dr. Robert Stuart Hertz was a respected oral surgeon in private practice in Westwood Village for 40 years. During his life he was many things: a founding professor at UCLA Dental School, author of novels, short stories and scholarly articles, sculptor and inventor, admirer of architecture, decedent of Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollyhock and Ennis Houses, and President of the Board of Directors of the Adamson House and Malibu Lagoon Museum.

With his parents Bill and Betty Hertz, he owned Hertz-Paramount Ranch and designed and built movie sets that are now a part of the National Park Service. He was an Air Force Captain in the Korean War. He was a member of the Mountain Bike Unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. A volunteer and guest speaker for Heal the Bay, he was a Recipient of Heal the Bay's Superhealer

Award and 2007 Jean Howell Award for extraordinary passion and dedication. Always learning and always teaching, Bob lived life with unequalled passion and enthusiasm. Bob passed away due to complications of mesothelioma on October 30, 2007, due to his asbestos exposure from dental molds.

Bob had been married 48 years to his wife Joanne, who passed away in January 2007. Bob will be deeply missed by all who loved him. He is survived by his two sons, David and Bradley; daughters-in-law Stacey and Laura; grandchildren; Samantha, Collin, Sophie, Brian, Max and Jenna; and so many friends.



## Patient Testimonial—Floyd Messenger, Jr.

Q: Where were you exposed to asbestos?

A: In the early 50's I worked on brakes and clutches in an automotive shop. Then, in the late 50's I started working with my uncles in a floor covering business. We did a lot of sanding on the tile and would breathe in a lot of the asbestos dust. Also, the linoleum had asbestos on the back of it.

Q: How did you learn that you had mesothelioma?

A: They sent me to a lung doctor who told me that I had liquid on my lung and they would like to drain it. They drained 2.5 liters of fluid and I was in the hospital for a week. They did biopsies and tested the fluids and found nothing. A year later, July 2002 the doctors found more fluid in my lungs and drained 1.5 liters of fluid. Again, they ran more tests and biopsies and this time I was told that I had a microscopic cancer. And they confirmed from the tests that it was mesothelioma due to asbestos exposure.

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

A: They only found mine through x-rays during a physical. Then, biopsies were taken and sent to a lab for diagnosis.

Q: How much time did the doctors give you?

A: The doctor told me I should be able to live 6 months to 1 year with chemotherapy treatments.

Q: What type of operation did the doctors recommend?

A: Surgeons had a meeting to discuss whether or not I was too old to have an operation removing my lung. While they were discussing this option they sent me over to take a test to see if I could live without a lung. The tests came back positive. The doctors then removed my left lung and they told me that they felt that they had removed it all. However, the doctors said that there was always a 5% chance that it would still be there.

Q: What advice would you give to others who have been recently diagnosed with meso-

thelioma?

A: Speak with others who have been diagnosed with mesothelioma. Learn their stories and what worked for them. I think a support group of mesothelioma patients would be really beneficial.

Q: What treatments are you currently seeking?

A: In about three weeks, I'll be starting a new treatment. I'll be taking a new drug NYRX-5843, through USC. This new drug is not chemotherapy - I had never looked into this type of treatment until I received the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America's newsletter.

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

A: I get hope from the fact that they were able to take my lung out and remove the cancer. It's been four years now, and with these new drugs out there, I have even more hope.

## How Patients Are Diagnosed With Mesothelioma

Mesothelioma diagnosis typically begins with a sufferer's visit to the doctor complaining of chronic chest pain. This pain is caused as a result of a buildup of fluid inside the pleural space; this is called pleural effusion and is the most common presenting symptom of malignant mesothelioma.

Preliminary mesothelioma detection can

be achieved through a chest imagery scan (CT scan, x-ray); however, mesothelioma is often misdiagnosed as viral pneumonia at this stage because of certain symptomatic similarities between the two. The only way to definitively verify a suspected case of malignant mesothelioma is through a biopsy.

A biopsy is a relatively minor procedure (dependent on the location of the tumor)

during which a small section of suspect tissue is removed. The removed section is examined by a histopathologist, an expert in the study of diseased tissue. Histopathological examination can confirm a case of malignant mesothelioma while also typing and staging it. Understanding the type and stage can help doctors suggest the best form of treatment.

Please remember The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America in your Will

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