

Message from Executive Director Elizabeth Ann Paul

2011 is off to a great start here at the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America. We've been busy preparing for several upcoming fundraising events. 2010 was a good year for fundraising, and we're hoping 2011 will be even better!

We've also been working to spread the word about mesothelioma and the need

to support research for a cure. Founding Board Member Jerry Neil Paul and Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker travelled all over the state to meet with union members and retirees to share the latest news about our work. We also observed National Asbestos Awareness Week in early April. The most exciting news I have to share with you comes from Chairman of

the Medical Advisory Board Dr. Parkash Gill: per Dr. Gill, he is planning to apply in June to the FDA requesting Eph-B4 be allowed to begin clinical trials Phase I. In this newsletter, you will find more information and resources about the clinical trials process. We couldn't do any of this work without the dedication and generosity of all of our supporters. Thank you all!!!

Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 Check Presentation



From Left to Right: Sid Stolper (DC 16 Business Manager), Michael Layton (DC 16 Assistant Business Manager), Dr. Parkash Gill (MESORFA Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board), Elizabeth Ann Paul (MESORFA Executive Director), Jerry Neil Paul (MESORFA Board Member) and John Ferruccio (DC 16 Director of Organizing)

A special thank you goes out to the representatives from Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 whose names are

described in the above caption. This past Winter they presented Executive Director Elizabeth Ann Paul with a check for an amazing

\$410,000 to help support Dr. Gill's mesothelioma research!

We here at the foundation are grateful to all of the individual union locals of California Pipe Trades District Council 16 and their contractors and vendors who have all contributed to our fundraising efforts and made this amazing success possible.

A special thank you also goes out to Board Member and U.A. International Pipetrades Representative Jim Kellogg. Your dedication and hard work have been invaluable in the fight against this horrible disease. Thank you all!

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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.

District Council 16 Cure Meso Clayshoot

October 11, 2010

Everyone at the Mesothelioma Research Foundation would like to congratulate and thank those at the Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 for organizing another successful event to help find a cure for mesothelioma. This year's Cure Meso Clayshoot was held at the Moore N Moore Sporting Clays facility in San Fernando Valley, CA and was a huge success generating approximately \$30,000 for mesothelioma research. Representing the Foundation were Founding Board Member Jerry Neil Paul, Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board Dr. Parkash Gill and Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker who had a great time at the event. As always, 100% of the money generated at the event will go directly to mesothelioma research to help find a cure

for this terrible disease.

After a nice day in the California sun and enjoying the picturesque canyons of the Angeles National Forest the shooters gathered for a delicious lunch and to learn a little bit about where their generous donations were going. Speaking on behalf of D.C. 16 was Business Manager Sid Stolper who thanked everyone who came out to support the event and those who volunteer their time at MESORFA including Dr. Parkash Gill, Jerry N. Paul Elizabeth A. Paul and Shane Rucker. Speaking on behalf of the Foundation was Jerry N. Paul who also thanked everyone in attendance and those who had a hand in making the event such a success. He then introduced Dr. Parkash Gill who was there to spread the good news coming from the laboratory at USC Norris Cancer Center. Per Dr.

Gill, he hopes to continue finishing up Phase II clinical trials and hopefully applying with the FDA for a second drug, Eph-B4, to be in human trials as soon as possible. This is fantastic news and highlights the importance of donations and fundraising events in getting cancer fighting drugs into treatment centers around the world.

The Foundation would like to thank all of those who organized and supported this year's events. Without the support and organizing skills of people such as DC 16 Business Manager Sid Stolper, DC 16 Assistant Business Manager Mike Layton, DC 16 Director of Organizing John Ferruccio and International Pipe Trades Representative Jim Kellogg these types of events would not be possible.

U.A. Local 342 Plumbers & Steamfitters Retirees Meeting



(From Left to Right): U.A. Local 342 Pension Trustee/Asbestos Liaison Vern Gosney, Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker and U.A. Local 342 Plumbers & Steamfitter Business Manager Jay Williams

March 23rd 2011

Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker was invited to the U.A. Local 342 Retirees Luncheon to speak about Veglin's success in FDA clinical trials and to meet a few of the Foundation's biggest supporters. U.A. Local 342 Pension Trustee/Asbestos Liaison Vern Gosney has been instrumental in his support for the Foundation and finding a cure for mesothelioma, participating in almost every fundraiser held since our inception.

During his visit, Shane Rucker, highlighted the importance of private donations and the upcoming fundraisers in 2011 to ensure Veglin makes it into Phase III of the FDA approval process

per Dr. Gill. With the current economic situation the upcoming events are crucial. Shane also spoke about the progress being made in developing new treatment options for mesothelioma and how Veglin is proving to be effective in prolonging a patient's life after being diagnosed with this terrible disease.

We would like to personally thank Vern Gosney, the Retirees, Business Manager Jay Williams and the Local 342 Officers for the opportunity to talk to the very people the Foundation may be called upon to help. It was an honor to meet and have lunch with all of you.

Please remember The Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America in your Will

5716 Corsa Avenue, Suite 203, Westlake Village, CA 91362

Phone: 1-800-909-MESO (6376) Internet: www.mesorfa.org

What Are Clinical Trials?

Clinical trials are a three stage process by which new drugs and treatments obtain approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) before they can be used in treatment for a particular disease. There are three phases to clinical trials:

Phase I: In this initial phase, researchers test a drug or treatment in a relatively small group of people, often fewer than 100. They study the effects of the drug to determine its safety and to learn about side effects. They evaluate how the drug should be administered, including dosage and frequency. Once it has been established that the drug is safe and a determination as to how it should be used, researchers can move to Phase II.

Phase II: In Phase II, the study is expanded to a larger group of people. Researchers continue to evaluate the safety of the drug or treatment and

gather evidence on its effectiveness. Veglin is currently in Phase II Clinical Trials, and Dr. Gill is very optimistic and excited about the results he has seen.

Phase III: Upon successfully completing Phase II Clinical Trials, researchers may move on to Phase III. At this stage, it has been determined that the drug is safe and effective; the question now is how well it works. The study is expanded to an even larger group of people, anywhere from several hundred to several thousand. Researchers gather additional information about the effectiveness and monitor side effects. This information is used to evaluate how well the drug or treatment works and how well its side effects are tolerated in comparison to standard treatments for a particular disease. This is the final stage before a drug or treatment is approved by the FDA for stan-

dard use in treatment of a particular disease.

If you would like to help or are looking for more information, please contact us at **1-800-MESO (6376)** or visit our website at **www.mesorfa.org**.

For additional information about Clinical Trials, we suggest you visit one of these online resources:

Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America—Current Clinical Trials

<http://www.mesorfa.org/trials/index.php>

National Cancer Institute—Clinical Trials Information

<http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials>

ClinicalTrials.gov—A service of the U.S. National Institutes of Health

<http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/>

National Asbestos Awareness Week

The first week of April 2011 marked National Asbestos Awareness Week, a week dedicated to educating the public about the dangers of asbestos exposure and to raising awareness of asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma. Introduced by Senator Max Baucus and passed unanimously by the Senate, Senate Resolution 63 urges the Surgeon General to warn and educate people about the public health risk of asbestos exposure. The week was marked by non-profit groups like the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America (MESORFA).

Here at the Mesothelioma Research

Foundation of America, our goal is to make mesothelioma a disease of the past. Mesothelioma is a rare cancer causing an estimated 2,000—3,000 deaths per year. Though it may be less common in comparison to other types of cancer, it is extremely deadly: many oncologists project the average post-diagnostic survival time is anywhere from six months to two years.

Traditional treatments have produced limited successes, making it essential that research into new treatments continue. Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board Dr. Parkash Gill has

been conducting research into several promising new treatments at the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. With this new hope for a cure, it is vital that we continue to keep mesothelioma in the spotlight. We ask our supporters to help us in this mission by simply spreading the word: talk about asbestos and mesothelioma; pass this newsletter along to anyone who may be interested; share our website www.mesorfa.org or toll free number (800) 909-MESO with friends or loved ones seeking more information.

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.

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The 9th Annual Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational

The 9th Annual "**Roger Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational**" was held June 21st, 2010 at the Napa Valley Country Club in Napa Valley, CA and yet again saw an amazing turnout, generating over \$80,000 for mesothelioma research! Everyone at MESORFA would like to say thank you to all the supporters, sponsors and committee members who made this event happen.

You may recall that the event was established through the dedication of U.A. International Representative of the Pipetrades in California and Hawaii Jim Kellogg, California Building Trades President Bob Balgenorth, and then California Building Trades Vice President and International Representative of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Roger Hamilton, who came together in 2001 to brainstorm ideas for a fundraiser. It was Roger's idea to support research into a cure for Mesothelioma while promoting less tobacco use in the building trades. Although, Roger had been diagnosed with cancer

several months before the first tournament, Roger was determined to make the first event in 2002 a success. Cindy Hamilton has since been Chair of the Committee for the annual event and has done a magnificent job, dedicating many hours of hard work to bring friends and supporters together to lead the charge for a cure.

After a beautiful round of golf, supporters came together in the clubhouse for drinks and a delicious dinner. They had the opportunity to listen to a mesothelioma survivor and patient of Dr. Parkash Gill's who shared his experiences with this awful disease. His story was truly inspiring and served as a reminder to all of the supports and sponsors where their donations are going. Bob Balgenorth and Cindy Hamilton spoke of the great support everyone has shown each year in helping fund progressive treatments and an eventual cure for mesothelioma. They thanked everyone for their continued support and introduced Jerry and Elizabeth Paul who highlighted how

everyone's involvement has ensured progress by introducing Dr. Gill's patient who had just finished a round of golf. This gentleman paid homage to Roger and Cindy Hamilton who he felt helped save his life by choosing to support mesothelioma research. He then told all of the supporters his story of survival and thanked everyone for their support of him and the Foundation.

A special thanks to Insulators Local 16 Business Manager, Steve Steele, Bob and Michaela Balgenorth, Cindy Hamilton, Bob Arns, Debra Chaplan, Paul Doolittle, Jim Kellogg, Russ O'Brien, and Jerry and Elizabeth Paul for their outstanding efforts helping to make this memorable Hamilton event most important in supporting the mission to cure cancer!

We are all very excited that the 10th Annual Hamilton Memorial Golf Invitational is taking place on June 6th, 2011!



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800-909-MESO

**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.

This Newsletter has been

Sponsored by Paul & Hanley LLP.

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