

The Spastics Paralysis Research Foundation of the I-I District of Kiwanis

WHAT IS SPASTIC PARALYSIS?

It is not necessarily a disease itself, but a symptom of various diseases or medical conditions of the central nervous system that cause spasticity (stiff or rigid muscles that interfere with walking, movement, or speech). Research has included diseases such as brain tumors, spina bifida, Alzheimer, genetic causes of mental retardation such as fragile x syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome, stroke rehabilitation, neonatal care and developmental disabilities of prematurely born infants. Other research has been purely scientific in the development of medical equipment and techniques used to study the nervous system.

WHAT IS THE SPASTIC PARALYSIS RESEARCH FOUNDATION?

The Spastics Paralysis Research Foundation was organized in 1952. It is a charitable organization as defined under section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS Code, so contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible. A history of the Foundation is available from the District Office or at www.ii-kiwanis.org.

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide financial grants to top level medical and scientific researchers specializing in spastic paralysis and other diseases of the central nervous system. Grant recipients are located in proximity to the I-I District. They make application to the Foundation for financial support of a project, the application is reviewed by the Medical Director, Dr. William Greenough and the Foundation officers. Typical grants are then pledged for \$20,000 a year over a 3 to 5 year period. Each researcher provides annual written reports on the progress of their research to the Medical Director. Grants are given to the researcher, not the institution, with direction that the funds are not to be applied to the administrative costs of the institution, but specifically to the cost of the project. The annual grant budget for the Foundation is about \$300,000 annually. The foundation has its own Board, made up of the I-I District Officers and three Lt. Governors, in addition to three of the medical researchers and the I-I District Key Club and Circle K Governors.



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HOW CAN CLUBS SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION?

The financial commitments of the Foundation are met from various contributions. Clubs make an annual contribution, typically as part of the Parade of Love during the Foundation luncheon at the District convention. Divisions are encouraged to participate in an annual Bowl-a-thon and other fund raising activities which take place at the District Convention. To meet the budget, club contributions averaging \$15 per member are needed in addition to funds raised through the bowl-a-thon (typically \$45,000 to \$65,000 per year) and by the Sponsored Leadership Programs. Many clubs go well beyond these averages. In addition, Key Club, Circle K and even Builders, K-Kids, and Aktion clubs make contributions. Contributions from the Sponsored Leadership Organizations often collectively exceed \$50,000 each year! Individual members often make contributions, and members are now starting to include the Foundation in their estate plans. We received our first bequest last year in the amount of \$40,000!

HOW IS SUPPORT OF THE FOUNDATION RECOGNIZED?

Clubs will receive banner patches each year for their annual general contributions. Clubs participating in the bowl-a-thon will receive recognition at the Bowl-a-thon Breakfast on Saturday morning at District Convention. Lt. Governors who achieve a divisional contribution of at least \$15 per member from general club contributions and the bowl-a-thon are also recognized. The Lt. Governor who achieves the highest per capita contribution from general contributions and the bowl-a-thon, will receive the George Sharringhausen award.

A complete history of the Spastics Research Foundation can be found at www.iikiwanis.org

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WHO ARE THE SPASTICS RESEARCHERS?

Dr. William Greenough, the Spastics Foundation Medical Director, is Professor and the Beckman Institute, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Greenough's awards are numerous as is his scientific publication in the field of genetics. It is believed that memory involves modification of connections in the brain cells. Application of these discoveries may lead to treatments for many diseases. Also Dr. Greenough is working in the area of fetal alcohol syndrome research and is considered a leader in this field.

Dr. Janet Rowley is a Professor at the University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine. She is working in the area of Cytogenetics. By studying the chromosome abnormalities, she anticipates being able to predict, with a high degree of accuracy, possible future pathological conditions such as Down's Syndrome, leukemia and spasticity.

Dr. T.S. Park is Neurosurgeon-in-Chief St. Louis Children's Hospital at Washington University School of Medicine. He is operating on spastic paralysis patients, on the spinal canal to alter pathways, to trim and alter spinal cord flow and reduce rigidity and spasticity.

Dr. David G. McLone is Professor and Head of the Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the Children's Memorial Hospital affiliated with Northwestern University in Chicago. His research focuses on the cause and improved methods of treatment for spina bifida, hydrocephalous and myelomeningocele.

Dr. Andrew Morgan is Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Chief of the Section of Child Development, Peoria School of Medicine. His research is in dealing with the area of premature births and the follow-up of high risk newborns to determine the evolution of abnormal developmental patterns. Follow-up work is done at clinics in Ottawa, Champaign, Galesburg and Rock Island-Moline. Dr. Morgan and his wife Kathy are also the founders and directors et al of the Penguin Project Foundation, which is supported in part by the Don Miller Chairman's Special Project Endowment Fund of the Spastics Foundation.

Dr. Thomas Woolsey is the Director of the James L. O'Leary Division of Experimental Neurology and Neurological Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. The aim of his research is to ascertain the importance of sensory nerves and the relationship to spastic symptoms and possible relationship to Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Elliott J. Roth, Chairman of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Northwestern University and Medical Director of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, focuses his research activity in the area of nutritional problems after stroke and the impact on rehabilitation outcomes.

Dr. Rodger J. Elble is Professor and Chair of Neurology at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, Illinois. His research is in studying essential tremors to determine the underlying defect and effect treatments.

Dr. Stephanie Ceman is at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She works in the area of Fragile X Syndrome, the most common cause of mental retardation. Her study is now working with song birds, which also carry the fragile X gene, to determine similar links in the human genetic system.

Dr. Michael Pranzatelli at SIU School of Medicine at Springfield, Illinois works with spastics quadriplegia to ataxia, identifying immunological abnormalities and developing therapies.

Dr. Daniel Tranel, Professor of Neurology and Psychology and Director of the Postdoctoral Residency in Clinical Neuropsychology at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, is involved in the research of Diagnosis, Management and Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease.

Dr. Grayson Holmbeck is the Director of Clinical Training at Loyola University's Department of Psychology in Chicago. Dr. Holmbeck also works with Dr. McLone, one of the Spastics Researchers at Children's Memorial Hospital. Together, they are working on occupational and emotional therapy to provide greater independence to spina bifida survivors who are now living well into adulthood as a result of our research!

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TRIBUTE TO DR. LUIS V. AMADOR 1920-2007



Dr. Luis V. Amador established the Pediatric Neurosurgery Department at Children's Memorial Hospital in 1952. The department was the first of its kind in Chicago and only the third such department in the country. In addition to being a world renowned pediatric neurosurgeon, Dr. Amador was beloved by many patients because of his compassion and altruism which affected and changed the lives of many people.

Dr. Amador received his medical degree from Northwestern Medical School in Chicago and completed his post-graduate training at St. Luke's Hospital and the University of Illinois Hospital. Later he became a Fellow in Neuropathology at the University of Illinois. He contributed extensively over the years to the neurosurgical literature, and is a contributing author of six medical textbooks and a total of 57 publications.

In 1952, Dr. Amador was named the first Medical Director of the Spastic Paralysis Research Foundation established by the Illinois and Eastern Iowa District of Kiwanis International. He served in that position for over 50 years. During the 1950's and 60's, and with financial assistance of Kiwanis, Dr. Amador invited and trained pediatric neurosurgeons from other countries, most notably England, India, Japan and Germany. As medical director to the Kiwanis Spastic Paralysis Research Foundation, Dr. Amador sought out world renowned researchers located in Illinois and Iowa whose research in spasticity and other diseases of the central nervous system could benefit from the financial support of Kiwanis.

In 1960, and with the financial assistance from Kiwanis, Dr. Amador's publication "Atlas of the Brain" was distributed to neurosurgery departments worldwide. Later, in 1994, the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District of Key Club, the high school organization of Kiwanis, assisted with placing Dr. Amador's "Brain Atlas" on DVD's to provide neurosurgeons access in the operating room to computerized three-dimensional pictures of the brain during surgery.

In 1996, the work of Dr. Amador and the Kiwanis Spastic Paralysis Research Foundation was noted in the American Medical Association Journal: "Epitomizing the Kiwanis conscience... 'it is the unselfish effort, helpfulness to others, that ennobles life, not because of what it does for others, but more because of what it does for ourselves...' is the Spastic Paralysis Research Foundation in Chicago. It is the major project of, and completely supported by the Illinois Eastern Iowa District of Kiwanis." Dr. Amador passed away April 30, 2007 at his home in California after battling a long illness.



**Dr. Luis V.
Amador
Medallion
Award**

In 1992, Kiwanis honored Dr. Amador after many years of service by establishing the **Dr. Luis V. Amador Medallion Award**. This award honors the contributions of our first Medical Director and allows Kiwanis

Clubs and Divisional Councils to extend special recognition to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service within his or her community. A minimum contribution of \$500 is made to the endowment fund of the Spastic Paralysis Research Foundation in the name of the recipient. Each Division may award one medallion during an administrative year.

Complete details are available from the District Office or at the I-I District website at www.iikiwanis.org.

The income from the Amador Award Endowment Fund is utilized by the Spastic Paralysis Research Foundation to continue the support of medical research programs of the Foundation.

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**Don Miller
Chairman's
Research
Endowment
Fund**

In 2007, and with a major contribution from the South-West Peoria Kiwanis Club, the Spastics Foundation established the Don **Miller Chairman's Research Endowment Fund**. The special endowment, created by Don Miller's home Kiwanis club in recognition of his many years of outstanding service as the Chairman of the Spastics Foundation, is intended to support special projects in Central Illinois which apply knowledge gained from clinical research and benefiting children.

The Penguin Project Foundation has been named the grantee from this endowment. The Penguin Project is conducted by Spastics Researcher, Dr. Andrew Morgan and his wife Kathy, and is designed to improve self-esteem, socialization skills and self motivation in children with various disabilities through a children's theater program which brings children together in a theatrical presentation. More information on the Penguin Project is available at www.penguinproject.org

SPASTIC PARALYSIS RESEARCH FOUNDATION BOWL-A-THONS



The Bowl-a-thon is a way for Divisions to increase support for "Our Finest Project" while having a Division-wide social activity with all of our sponsored youth organizations in a fun setting. Each division is free to establish their own Division-wide activity if bowling is not their forte'. Each Lt. Governor should appoint a Division Bowl-a-thon Chair to encourage each Club President to appoint a Club Bowl-a-thon Coordinator and to schedule and run the event. Individual pledge sheets as well as Club and Division Bowl-a-thon report forms are available from the District Bowl-a-thon Chair appointed by the Governor or by visiting the I-I District web site at www.iikiwanis.org.

Club forms and monies collected should be turned in to each Division Chair who will gather all the bowl-a-thon proceeds for the division and submit them to the I-I District Office. The individual who raises the most funds for the Spastics Foundation through the bowl-a-thon activity will be recognized, as will the top fundraiser from each club and each division. Division Chairs should make sure to identify these individuals and the amounts raised by each when submitting everything to the District Office.

BOWL-A-THON AWARDS

Top Fund Raising Awards: •Top Division •Top Club •Top Division •Top Individual Fundraiser

Club Participation Award: A Bowl-a-thon Participation Banner Patch to each club that raises a minimum of \$100 and to all Kiwanis family organizations that participate in a bowl-a-thon.

Chairman's Award: A Governor's Award Bowl-a-thon Banner Patch to each club and to all Kiwanis family organizations that raises a minimum of \$300 to support SPRF.

Division Participation Award: 100% Division Participation banner patch.

Additional information and forms to be used for Bowl-a-thons are available on the I-I District website at www.iikiwanis.org under District Foundation.