

PolioPlus in Action

June 2008

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What's New?

Dr. Ajmal Pardis of Jalalabad will be serving as the National PolioPlus Committee Chair for Afghanistan, a country which has five Rotary clubs and is one of the four remaining polio-endemic countries. Dr. Pardis works in public health, knows the system well in Afghanistan, and also has contacts in the capital city.

Monthly Update

Ghana is working hard to maintain its polio free status, but has faced some challenges due to its proximity to countries still struggling with the disease. The PolioPlus Partners Program will support Ghana in its efforts to remain polio free by providing funds for social mobilization activities in advance of the upcoming National Immunization Days in October 2008.

Need more information?

Contact the PolioPlus program
Phone: 1-847-866-3305
Fax: 1-847-866-0269
E-mail: polioplus@rotary.org

Nigeria Highlighted in WHA Conference

In response to the recent outbreak in northern Nigeria, the 61st World Health Assembly drafted a resolution calling for an increase in international efforts to eradicate polio. In a highly unusual move, the WHA resolution specifically urged Nigeria “to reduce the risk of international spread of poliovirus by quickly stopping the outbreak in northern Nigeria through intensified eradication activities that ensure all children are vaccinated with oral poliomyelitis vaccine.” The resolution also called for Afghanistan, Pakistan and India to undertake large-scale, mop-up efforts to finish off the remaining levels of transmission of type 1 polio in their countries.

In her opening remarks, Director-General Dr Margaret Chan stressed, “In Asia, type 1 polio – the most dangerous strain of the virus – is today on the verge of elimination. But just as we are seeing record-lows in Asia, Africa is witnessing a dramatic upsurge of this strain in the northern states of Nigeria, while previously polio-free countries on the continent are still struggling to stop viruses that were reintroduced more than two years ago. As I have said before, we must finish the job. We are too close to allow success to slip through our fingers.”

PolioPlus Program Changes

As of 1 July 2008, the PolioPlus Partners Program will no longer publish the **Open Projects List**, since direct fundraising for the program will be suspended during the three years of Rotary’s \$100 million Challenge Grant. PolioPlus Partners will continue to support projects with up to \$5 million from the general PolioPlus Fund each year during the \$100 Million Challenge.

Also, as of 1 July 2008, the PolioPlus Program will no longer publish the PolioPlus in Action Newsletter. A newsletter covering all polio-related activities will be published quarterly. Individuals interested in receiving this newsletter can sign up by clicking [here](#).

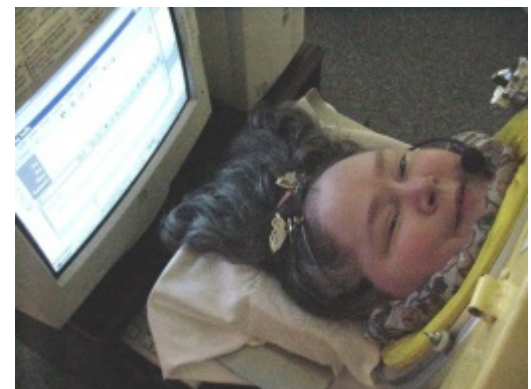
Please also join us in welcoming Regina Rodriguez-Martin to the PolioPlus Program. She replaces Melanie Streich as Program Coordinator and is a great addition to the PolioPlus Team.

PolioPlus Partners Update

Although the Foundation will continue to fund projects through the PolioPlus Partners Program, the deadline for contributing directly to the program is 30 June 2008. As of 15 June 2008, the program, under the leadership of the PolioPlus Partners Taskforce, has succeeded in raising a total of US\$5,604,853.56 in cash and DDF contributions. The PolioPlus Program would like to thank all who have helped surpass the \$5 million fundraising goal for 2007-08. The money raised will continue to support Rotarians engaged in social mobilization and surveillance activities in countries where polio still remains a prominent threat.

Polio's Impact Felt in U.S.

Dianne O'Dell was diagnosed with polio at the age of 3, and spent 57 years of her life in an iron lung after suffering the devastating effects of paralysis from the disease. She managed to achieve many of her goals in spite of her incapacitation, but died in a power outage at the end of May. The tragedy serves as an urgent reminder of why Rotary must continue the fight to eradicate this devastating disease from all corners of the earth. [Read more.](#)



Jackson Sun Photo Gallery

Deadlines for Gifts for The Rotary Foundation for the Fiscal Year ending 30 June 2008

Checks at WHQ Lockbox: Must be postmarked 30 June 2008 or prior and received at the lockbox by Sunday, 6 July 2008.

Checks at WHQ: Must be postmarked 30 June 2008 or prior and delivered to the AR Dept. on floor 11 by 3:00 pm, Monday, 7 July 2008.

Wire transfers: Must be initiated prior to 30 June 2008 and received in the bank by 3 July 2008.

Credit cards online via Rotary.org: Must be authorized prior to 30 June 2008, midnight (gifts received via the web will benefit the Rotarian who logged in. Reclass and distribution requests, aka corrections, cannot be accepted for these gifts.

Via fax, phone or mail to WHQ: Must be received by the AR Dept. and authorized prior to the close of business on 30 June 2008.

Via Bank of America lockbox: Must be received at the lockbox prior to close of business on 30 June 2008. Credit card contribution requests received in lockbox batches with deposit dates after 30 June 2008 will be considered July 2008 gifts. Do not send credit card requests to the lockbox. Fax to 847-556-2139 or complete them online at rotary.org.

Reclasses/Redistributions: Request must be received in the TRF Corrections email box prior to 3:00 pm, Monday, 7 July 2008. International offices and fiscal agents have until 10 July 2008 to report June 2008 contributions to the AR Dept.

Questions? Contact Lori Gattorna at 847-866-3199.

Progress Report

Visit the Global Polio Eradication Initiative Web site for the most up-to-date progress report information.:

- ⇒ [Total cases in 2007 compared to 2006, including case breakdown and information by country](#)
- ⇒ [Monthly Situation Report](#)

Country Highlight - India

India Making Progress on Eradicating the WV1 virus

The India Expert Advisory Group on Polio says the Health Ministry should be able to eliminate Type-1 polio virus, the more deadly of the polio types, by the end of 2008 if it can execute effective and timely large-scale mop-up tactics to catch any new cases before they can spread. Uttar Pradesh, one of the last states with polio cases, has not had a new case this year and Bihar has only reported one. The group anticipates that by 2009 the Health Ministry will be able to turn its focus on eliminating the Type-3 polio virus.

President of India Confers Champion Award on Indian Donor Mrs. Rajashree Birla

Mrs. Rajashree Birla has committed US\$1 million to the cause of polio eradication and Rotary International has honored her commitment with the Polio Champion Award. The honor was conferred on Mrs. Birla by the President of India, Shrimathi Pratibha Patil, in a recent ceremony. [Read more.](#)

Convention Highlight - Spotlight on Polio

WHO Director-General Chan gives a boost to Rotary's polio eradication efforts at R.I. Convention

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General (DG) Dr Margaret Chan has made polio eradication the agency's 'top operational priority' during her keynote speech at the Rotary International Convention in Los Angeles this month. [Read more.](#)



Representatives of the four spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative addressed RI Convention attendees and the media on Tuesday, June 17.

Media Relations Corner

Listed below are some recent media stories that have featured or mentioned Rotary's work with polio eradication. Links to some of these stories can be found on the [Rotary in the News](#) section of the RI Web site.

USA Today

Health groups put \$200m toward polio eradication effort. [Read more.](#)

The Canadian Press

Rotary International Launches polio funding push with hints directed at the G8. [Read more.](#)

The Jordan Times

Rotary International President Wilfrid Wilkinson, on his first-ever trip to Amman, recently highlighted Rotary's work in the region and across the world. [Read more.](#)