

Post-Polio Health International Doubles Research Fund Grant to \$50,000

William Stothers, Post-Polio Health International's (PHI) Board Chair announced that PHI will increase the yearly amount given from The Research Fund to \$50,000. PHI's Board of Directors also voted unanimously to include a percentage for facilities and administration.

Established in 1995 with assets from the estate of Thomas Wallace Rogers, the dedicated fund grew from donations and wise investing. Rogers was a polio survivor who slept in an iron lung and sought the organization's help when his breathing problems worsened. He led an active life and ran his own securities business.

"I recall discussions he had with Gini Laurie about using positive pressure ventilation," said Joan L. Headley, executive director of PHI. "With the help of Oscar B. Schwartz, MD, a St. Louis

pulmonologist, he added the PLV-100 (Philips Respironics) to his breathing aids. I think he would appreciate the fact that additional donors and the market greatly expanded his initial contributions."

Longtime PHI Board member and Chair of PHI's Medical Advisory Committee, Fred Maynard, MD, said, "We are excited to double the amount of our research awards in order to accelerate the rate of investigation into useful solutions to the problems of our aging polio survivors who make up the majority of our membership."

PHI's eighth Request for Proposals has changed from prior years. It is now a one-step process, rather than two, and the award will be given annually, with an option for \$100,000 over a two-year period.

The application deadline for the grant to be awarded in 2014 is February 3, 2014. The recipient, if one is warranted, will receive notice by April 15th. An application is available on www.post-polio.org to study the cause(s), treatment and management of the late effects of polio and to explore historical, social, psychological and independent living aspects of living with polio.

"In future years we may narrow the focus of the request to particular medical or social problems affecting polio survivors," explains Daniel Wilson, PhD, Chair of PHI's Research Committee. "We invite members of PHI to suggest possible subjects for future research." ■

Past PHI Research Fund Awardees

- 2001 – \$20,000
University of Toronto, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, West Park Healthcare Centre. *Ventilator Users' Perspectives on the Important Elements of Health-Related Quality of Life.*
- 2003 – \$25,000
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. *Women with Polio: Menopause, Late Effects, Life Satisfaction and Emotional Distress.*
- 2005 – \$25,000
Johns Hopkins University. *Timing of Noninvasive Ventilation for Patients with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.*
- 2007 – \$25,000
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences–Little Rock. *Pilot Study to Identify PPS Biomarker.*
- 2009 – \$25,000
University of Insubria, Varese, Italy. *Persisting Noninfectious Fragments of Poliovirus in PPS Patients: Virus Detection and Susceptibility to Antiviral Drugs.*
- 2011 – \$25,000 each to:
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. *Oral Glutathione and Health Outcomes among Persons with Post-Polio Syndrome.*
Hadassah Medical Center, Jerusalem, Israel. *Characteristics of Poliomyelitis and Post-Polio Patients among Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem.*
- 2013 – \$25,000
Texas Woman's University-Houston, and TIRR-Memorial Hermann Rehabilitation & Research. *Effects of Whole Body Vibration on People with Post-Polio Syndrome.*