

PHI's mission is supported by its Membership.

Margaret Pfrommer Endowed Memorial Lecture in Home-Based Mechanical Ventilation

Post-Polio Health International (PHI) and International Ventilator Users Network (IVUN) announces that it has contributed \$67,000 to The CHEST Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the American Academy of Chest Physicians (ACCP), to fully endow the Margaret Pfrommer Endowed Memorial Lecture in Home-Based Mechanical Ventilation.

The purpose of the endowment is to honor an individual who possesses superior knowledge of home mechanical ventilation (HMV) and who promotes the health professional/patient partnership.

Each year an individual deemed expert in home mechanical ventilation is honored for their work and is asked to lecture at the annual meeting of the ACCP.

PHI Board President William G. Stothers, San Diego, California, comments, "As an HMV user, I am keenly aware of the importance of educating medical providers so that I and many others continue to live independently in our own homes. We can breathe a bit easier thanks to this effort to provide long-term funding for the Pfrommer Lecture."

PHI's gift assures that home mechanical ventilation will always be a topic at the annual meeting and assures that younger physicians will be exposed to the philosophy, skills and techniques of providing care for adults and children with neuromuscular disease who live at home on mechanical ventilation.

During the discussions, it was decided to slightly revise the criteria for selecting the recipient of the award. Consideration for the award shall be given to a researcher, clinician or ventilator-assisted individual or parent of a ventilator-assisted child from any country (translator will be provided for non-English speaking individuals), and previous recipients if they have contributed new knowledge to HMV.

The Steering Committee of the Home-Based Mechanical Ventilation and Neuromuscular Disease NetWork of the ACCP will be instrumental in nominating an individual to receive the honor. The final decision will be made by the Scientific Presentations and Awards Committee of the ACCP.

Nominations for the award can also be made through IVUN, typically each December.

Established in 1999 by Dr. Allen Goldberg and Dr. Eveline Faure, the lecture honors polio survivor and advocate Margaret Pfrommer from Chicago, Illinois. Pfrommer, a quadriplegic from polio, spent part of her life in a nursing home after her mother's death. This experience compelled her to become an advocate for herself and for all those with significant disabilities.

She was one of the first to pilot a motorized wheelchair with a "sip-and-puff" mechanism. Her consultation and feedback were instrumental in developing the prototype and other technologies that allowed Margaret and many others with significant disabilities to live independently.

Drs. Goldberg and Faure issued a \$10,000 matching challenge to their colleagues at the ACCP to assist in fully funding the lecture. Thanks to generous donations from them and other supporters of HMV, the goal was met.

Daniel J. Wilson, PhD, Allentown, Pennsylvania, Chair of PHI's Research Committee adds, "This award, supported by PHI, honors the memory of Margaret Pfrommer and the many other polio survivors who pushed the medical profession to help us live full and independent lives." ■