

Editorial

Having recently seen the observance of World Polio day, I thought it apt for our Club to reflect on one of RI's key focuses over the last 30 plus years. This article from the RI website, which reports on Rotary's 6th annual World Polio Day event, makes interesting reading.

Dave Barnard

Rotary and GPEI have put polio on the brink of global eradication

By Ryan Hyland

After 30 years of bold action, historic achievements, and sometimes discouraging setbacks, Rotary and its partners in the **Global Polio Eradication Initiative** (GPEI) have nearly brought polio to an end.

This groundbreaking public-private partnership and its innovative strategies were celebrated Wednesday during Rotary's 6th annual World Polio Day event, held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, at the **College of Physicians of Philadelphia**.

Dr. Ujala Nayyar, left, a WHO surveillance officer in Pakistan, discussed with Alex Witt about how thorough tracking of the wild polio virus will help eradicate the disease.

Hundreds of people attended in person, including representatives of all five GPEI partners, and thousands more worldwide watched it live online. Cable news journalists Ashleigh Banfield, host of HLN's "Crime and Justice," and Alex Witt, host of "MSNBC's "Weekends Live With Alex Witt," moderated the event.

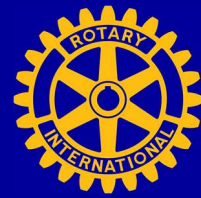
Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Ron Burton began the program by noting that Philadelphia is where Rotary announced, at its international convention in 1988, that it doubled its fundraising goal of \$120 million and raised \$247 million.

The moment showed Rotary's strength as an organization capable of tackling the challenge of ending the disease globally and spearheading one of the most ambitious public health initiatives in history, the GPEI. The other partners of the GPEI are the **World Health Organization**, **UNICEF**, **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, and the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**.

"We knew then that the war against polio would be long, and it would have its challenges," Burton said. "But we knew then, as we do now, that we could do it. Thirty years ago, I was proud to be part of the organization that took on the job, and the promise, of eradicating polio."

WYNPRESS

The Rotary Club of
Wynberg



Vol: 70 No. 15
1st November, 2018

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November in Rotary
Foundation month

**Wynberg Rotary meet every Thursday,
6 for 6.30pm,
Palm House, Wynberg.**

For more information about our club, like us
on Facebook or visit our website:

Wynbergrotary.org.za



BE THE INSPIRATION

Since its formation, the GPEI has trained and mobilized millions of volunteers and health workers, gained access to homes not reached by other health initiatives to immunize children, brought health interventions to underserved communities, and standardized timely global monitoring for polio cases and poliovirus, a process also known as surveillance.

The results have been monumental. Thirty years ago, the paralyzing disease affected 350,000 children in one year. Because of massive vaccination campaigns around the world, cases have dropped more than 99.9 percent, to only 20 reported so far this year. Polio, which was endemic in 125 countries in 1988, now remains so in just three: Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. More than 2.5 billion children have been vaccinated, and more than \$14 billion has been invested in the fight to eradicate the disease worldwide.

Lea Hegg, senior program officer of the vaccine delivery team at the Gates Foundation, gave an update on polio around the world. Despite tremendous progress, challenges remain before we can claim victory, she said in a video interview with Mark Wright, news host at an NBC television station in Seattle, Washington, USA. “The fact is in Pakistan and Afghanistan, where we are still seeing cases, we have tremendous challenges: conflict and insecurity,” Hegg said. “We have to come up with new ways to solve those problems.”

She praised the brave polio workers who go to insecure areas to vaccinate children and also noted the importance of vaccination sites at transit posts outside these areas. Hegg added, “We still have the tools, we have the persistence, and we’re still really confident that we’ll get there.”

In a question-and-answer session with Witt, Dr. Ujala Nayyar, a WHO surveillance officer in Punjab, Pakistan, discussed the importance of tracking the ever-circulating virus. Nayyar said that health workers need to be a step ahead of the poliovirus to interrupt its transmission. She also noted that Pakistan has the world’s largest network for environmental surveillance of polio.

“It’s a tough job. We have a network of government, private doctors plus informal health care providers, plus community mobilizers,” Nayyar said. “We are very confident on one thing — that we are detecting every polio case.”

Speakers also included award-winning chef, author, and polio survivor [Ina Pinkney](#), who talked about her experience with the disease. Jeffrey Kluger, senior editor at Time magazine, spoke about his recent experience traveling to Nigeria with Rotary to report on polio eradication.

Entertainment included a sneak peek from Rotary’s documentary “Drop to Zero” and a showing of its latest virtual reality film, “Two Drops of Patience.”

Banfield highlighted several End Polio Now activities that clubs organized to raise awareness of polio and funds for eradication efforts, including a rally in Delhi, India, where 2,000 members drove cars or bikes decorated with informational flags and stickers through the city. In Egypt, Rotary members hosted an End Polio Festival, which included a road race, a blood drive, and a concert that attracted thousands.

Rotary has contributed more than \$1.8 billion to polio eradication since it started its PolioPlus program in 1985. The effort got a boost in August when Rotary announced it would provide an additional **\$96.5 million in grants** to increase immunizations and surveillance. Most of the funds were allocated to the three countries where polio remains endemic; Afghanistan (\$22.9 million), Nigeria (\$16.1 million), and Pakistan (\$21.7 million). The rest was spread across 12 countries in Africa that are vulnerable to polio.



Rotary has also committed to raising \$50 million a year over a three-year period for eradication activities. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will match up to that amount 2-to-1, which could bring the total as high as \$450 million.

Minutes: 25th October 2018

Compiled by Stephanie Thomas

Attendance

13 members + 1 Make-up = 53,8%

Guests: Beryl Saunders (Guest Speaker), Christine Calothi (RC Newlands), Mavis

From the chair of President Biffy

- Constantia Wine Fest tickets are still available; but please let her know ASAP, so that unsold tickets can be returned.
- Biffy was guiding a group of photographers around the Peninsula recently. They used some extraordinary techniques, which she will show us.
- NB official visit by DG Casper next week. All urged to attend please.

Fellowship

Brian Howard's birthday; also John and Mary's anniversary on 31 October

Slots

String recently changed his internet to fibre optics, which so far has not been successful at all. Anybody having similar problems?

Justin was approached by a businessman, who wants to set up a potential Rotary project. Karen will investigate and take it up with the Board.

Barry announced that Proms yielded a profit of R250 000 this year, to be distributed amongst selected charities.

Members' Moments

Barry discovered the benefits of 'run flat' tyres when his car got a puncture while he was in Bedford over last weekend. He eventually tracked down Gerard, the local town mechanic, who arrived in a concourse 1957 Bentley to repair it! (see photographic evidence below. Note boot used for kick-starting it)

Biffy found the best car wash ever in Khayelitsha, using just 750ml of water. R50 included full vacuum cleaning too.

Guest Speaker

Beryl Saunders contracted Polio aged 27 and although partially paralyzed, she has remained positive and attempted all that she has ever wanted to do. Her words and beautiful embroidery samples were an inspiration to us all. Biffy introduced and thanked her warmly on behalf of the club.

Swindle

Karen drew the Ace of diamonds instead of the elusive Queen of spades (Shame!) Graham won the R15 Attendance prize.

President's Pearls

"The only way to do great work is to love what you do"



Duty Roster	November			
	1 Club Meeting Visit by DG	8 SOCIAL: CLUB BRAAI	15	22
Sergeant	Schreiber		Barnard	Cleveland
Wynpress Editorial	Bayes		Bird	Bonga
Wynpress Minutes	Van Niekerk		Maunder	Howard
Door Duty	Howard		Munday	Murphy
Grace	Smith		Todd	Barnard
Loyal Toast	Jackson		O'Driscoll	Overbosch
International Toast	Murphy		Schreiber	Smith
Speaker Intro and Thanks	N/A		Jackson	Dietrich

The legendary cellist Pablo Casals was asked why he continued to practice at age 90. "Because I think I am making progress", he replied.

Dates To Diarise	
1 November	DG Casper's visit to the Club
2 November (Friday)	RC Constantia Wine Fest at Schoenstatt Centre, Constantia. R200pp
8 November	Club Braai at Bruce and Marlene's home. 18.00.
15 November	Former SA cricketer Vince van der Bijl will tell us about working with young people in disadvantaged communities.
22 November	Hosting our guests from Haugaland College
23 November (Friday)	Opening night of Uncle Paul's Christmas Parties
24 November (Saturday)	Newland RC 25 th Anniversary. 7pm at Kelvin Grove
29 November	Uncle Paul's with DG Casper in attendance
6 December	Club AGM. Election of office bearers
13 December	Christmas Party

Tailpiece

An unemployed man is desperate to support his family of a wife and three kids. He applies for a janitor's job at a large firm and easily passes an aptitude test.

The human resources manager tells him, "You will be hired at minimum wage of \$7.35 an hour. Let me have your e-mail address so that we can get you in the loop. Our system will automatically e-mail you all the forms and advise you when to start and where to report on your first day."

Taken aback, the man protests that he is poor and has neither a computer nor an e-mail address.

To this the manager replies, "You must understand that to a company like ours that means that you virtually do not exist. Without an e-mail address you can hardly expect to be employed by a high-tech firm. Good day."

Stunned, the man leaves. Not knowing where to turn and having \$10 in his wallet, he walks past a farmers' market and sees a stand selling 25 lb. crates of beautiful red tomatoes. He buys a crate, carries it to a busy corner and displays the tomatoes. In less than 2 hours he sells all the tomatoes and makes 100% profit.

Repeating the process several times more that day, he ends up with almost \$100 and arrives home that night with several bags of groceries for his family. During the night he decides to repeat the tomato business the next day. By the end of the week he is getting up early every day and working into the night. He multiplies his profits quickly.

Early in the second week he acquires a cart to transport several boxes of tomatoes at a time, but before a month is up he sells the cart to buy a broken-down pickup truck.

At the end of a year, he owns three old trucks. His two sons have left their neighbourhood gangs to help him with the tomato business, his wife is buying the tomatoes, and his daughter is taking night courses at the community college so she can keep books for him.

By the end of the second year he has a dozen very nice used trucks and employs fifteen previously unemployed people, all selling tomatoes. He continues to work hard.

Time passes and at the end of the fifth year he owns a fleet of nice trucks and a warehouse that his wife supervises, plus two tomato farms that the boys manage. The tomato company's payroll has put hundreds of homeless and jobless people to work. His daughter reports that the business grossed over one million dollars.

Planning for the future, he decides to buy some life insurance. Consulting with an insurance adviser, he picks an insurance plan to fit his new circumstances.

Then the adviser asks him for his e-mail address in order to send the final documents electronically. When the man replies that he doesn't have time to mess with a computer and has no e-mail address, the insurance man is stunned, "What, you don't have e-mail? No computer? No Internet? Just think where you would be today if you'd had all of that five years ago!"

"Ha!" snorts the man. "If I'd had e-mail five years ago I would be sweeping floors and making \$7.35 an hour."

Which brings us to the moral of the story: Since you got this story by e-mail, you're probably closer to being a janitor than a millionaire.

(Sadly, I received it also – Ed.)