

# Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation

*the national non-profit working to eradicate mesothelioma as a life-ending disease*



*research*

*education*

*support*

*advocacy*

## **Mesothelioma - An Ongoing Tragedy**

Mesothelioma is a malignant tumor that aggressively and painfully invades the lining of the lungs, heart or stomach until it destroys the vital organs. Diagnosis is difficult and often delayed. Prognosis is very poor (4 to 14 months average). In most cases, standard treatments have only limited effect. Currently, there is no cure.

Meso is caused by asbestos exposure, even in small amounts. Asbestos was used for decades in construction, industry, the Navy, even household products and appliances. There is no safe level of exposure, and asbestos is still common in homes, schools and - as the aftermath of 9/11 has shown - office buildings. About 3,000 Americans die from meso each year, and its incidence is rising. Yet for decades, the disease and its victims were ignored.

## **Research - The Key to the Cure**

At the Meso Foundation we believe a cure is possible. We have awarded over \$3 million in research grants to support highly innovative, promising studies around the world. Through our scientific peer-reviewed grant program, we are advancing the research needed to:

- ◆ Improve early detection and diagnosis of meso
- ◆ Develop more effective treatments
- ◆ Prevent the onset of meso in populations at risk

Too many patients are still being told that "nothing can be done." We believe differently! The Meso Foundation is home to the nation's only independent, merit-based support for meso research, research to bring life and hope to patients.

## **Education - Knowledge is Power**

To have the best chance at beating meso each patient needs to be armed with information. The Meso Foundation provides patients and families with the most up to date information on meso treatments, clinical trials, and medical referrals. The Meso Foundation hosts the annual International Symposium on Malignant Mesothelioma, which brings together doctors, researchers, patients and their families, and other concerned individuals in an environment of sharing information and advancing meso research. The Foundation also maintains a large document library to help patients and their families get as much information as possible on the disease.

## **Support - Strength Through Community**

No one should have to suffer in silence or deal with battling this disease alone. The Meso Foundation offers support to patients and family members in need. Many long-term meso survivors, family members, and meso professionals are available to lend a helping hand or supportive ear.

## **Advocacy - Calling for the Government to Care**

Congress has focused on economic and legal aspects of asbestos, but for the most part has ignored the human tragedy. We are calling on the federal government to focus on a cure by funding critically needed meso research. Government partnership in our proposed National Mesothelioma Research and Treatment Program will speed development of treatments and a cure. It is time to end the neglect.

# Research Mesothelioma Applied Foundation

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## How You Can Help

Through a growing network of meso patients, their loved ones, and concerned individuals and companies throughout the nation, the Meso Foundation is building tremendous momentum to accomplish our mission. You too can help make a difference in the fight against meso!

## Support Research

Help fund critically-needed meso research. Our research program depends entirely on private donations.

- ◆ Make a Contribution or Tribute Gift
- ◆ Fund a Grant in Your Name or a Loved One's Name
- ◆ Donate Stocks
- ◆ Set Up a Charitable Remainder Trust
- ◆ Make a Pledge from Litigation
- ◆ Ask Your Employer About Matching Gifts
- ◆ Set Up a Bequest
- ◆ Participate in the Meso Foundation's Monthly Giving Program
- ◆ Host a Fundraiser
- ◆ Buy or Sell the Meso Foundation Awareness Merchandise - Bracelets and T-shirts

## Take Action

Spread the word about the extent of asbestos exposures, the toll of the disease and the need to fund mesothelioma research.

- ◆ Write to your Congressman and Senator
- ◆ Write to your local newspaper about your story and the need for government involvement in meso research
- ◆ Host an Awareness Event

## Volunteer

Get involved as a volunteer. Volunteers do many things to support the work of the Meso Foundation. They host fundraising events, provide support to meso patients and their families, contact the media to get the word out, circulate petitions, and a whole lot more.

If you would like to learn more about any of the ways you can support the Meso Foundation, please give us a call or visit us on the web. We thank you for your support and dedication!



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