

The Spastics Paralysis Research Foundation of the I-I District of Kiwanis

What is Spastic Paralysis?

It is not necessarily a disease itself, but a symptom of various diseases or medical conditions of the central nervous system that cause spasticity (stiff or rigid muscles that interfere with walking, movement, or speech). Research has included diseases such as brain tumors, spina bifida, Alzheimer, genetic causes of mental retardation such as fragile x syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome, stroke rehabilitation, neonatal care and developmental disabilities of prematurely born infants. Other research has been purely scientific in the development of medical equipment and techniques used to study the nervous system.

What is the Spastics Paralysis Research Foundation?

The Spastics Paralysis Research Foundation was organized in 1952. It is a charitable organization as defined under section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS Code, so contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible. A history of the Foundation is available from the District Office or at www.ii-kiwanis.org.

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide financial grants to top level medical and scientific researchers specializing in spastic paralysis and other diseases of the central nervous system. Grant recipients are located in proximity to the I-I District. They make application to the Foundation for financial support of a project, the application is reviewed by the Medical Director, Dr. William Greenough and the Foundation officers. Typical grants are then pledged for \$20,000 a year over a 3 to 5 year period. Each researcher provides annual written reports on the progress of their research to the Medical Director. Grants are given to the researcher, not the institution, with direction that the funds are not to be applied to the administrative costs of the institution, but specifically to the cost of the project. The annual grant budget for the Foundation is about \$300,000 annually. The foundation has its own Board, made up of the I-I District Officers and 3 Lt. Governors, in addition to three of the medical researchers.

How can Clubs Support the Foundation?

The financial commitments of the Foundation are met from various contributions. Clubs make an annual contribution, typically as part of the Parade of Love during the Foundation luncheon at the District convention. Divisions are encouraged to participate in an annual Bowl-a-thon and other fund raising activities which take place at the District Convention. To meet the budget, club contributions averaging \$15 per member are needed **in addition** to funds raised through the bowl-a-thon (typically \$45,000 to \$65,000 per year) and by the Sponsored Leadership Programs. Many clubs go well beyond these averages. In addition, Key Club, Circle K and even Builders, K-Kids, and Aktion clubs make contributions. Contributions from the Sponsored Leadership Organizations often collectively exceed \$50,000 each year! Individual members often make contributions, and members are now starting to include the Foundation in their estate plans. We received our first bequest last year in the amount of \$40,000!

How is support of the Foundation recognized?

Clubs will receive banner patches each year for their annual general contributions. Clubs participating in the bowl-a-thon will receive recognition at the Bowl-a-thon Breakfast on Saturday morning at District Convention. Lt. Governors who achieve a divisional contribution of at least \$15 per member from general club contributions and the bowl-a-thon are also recognized. The Lt. Governor who achieves the highest per capita contribution from general contributions and the bowl-a-thon, will receive the George Sharringhausen award.

Who are our researchers?

Who are the Spastics Researchers?

Dr. William Greenough, the Spastics Foundation Medical Director, is Professor and the Beckman Institute, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Greenough's awards are numerous as is his scientific publication in the field of genetics. It is believed that memory involves modification of connections in the brain cells. Application of these discoveries may lead to treatments for many diseases. Also Dr. Greenough is working in the area of fetal alcohol syndrome research and is considered a leader in this field.

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Dr. Janet Rowley is a Professor at the University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine. She is working in the area of Cytogenetics. By studying the chromosome abnormalities, she anticipates being able to predict, with a high degree of accuracy, possible future pathological conditions such as Down's Syndrome, leukemia and spasticity.

Dr. T.S. Park is Neurosurgeon-in-Chief St. Louis Children's Hospital at Washington University School of Medicine. He is operating on spastic paralysis patients, on the spinal canal to alter pathways, to trim and alter spinal cord flow and reduce rigidity and spasticity.

Dr. David G. McLone is Professor and Head of the Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the Children's Memorial Hospital affiliated with Northwestern University in Chicago. He is focused on the areas of the cause and improved methods of treatment in Spina Bifida, Hydro-cephalous and My be Meningocele.

Dr. Elizabeth Berry-Kravis at Rush Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago is working on understanding the cognitive and neurological disability in patients with the Fragile X Syndrome, the most common inherited cause of mental retardation and the major genetic cause of learning disabilities.

Dr. Andrew Morgan is Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Chief of the Section of Child Development, Peoria School of Medicine. His research is in dealing with the area of premature births and the follow-up of high risk newborns to determine the evolution of abnormal developmental patterns. Follow-up work is done at clinics in Ottawa, Champaign, Galesburg and Rock Island-Moline. Dr. Morgan and his wife Kathy are also the founders and directors et al of the Penguin Project Foundation, which is supported in part by the Don Miller Chairman's Special Project Endowment Fund of the Spastics Foundation.

Dr. Thomas Woolsey is the Director of the James L. O'Leary Division of Experimental Neurology and Neurological Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. The aim of his research is to ascertain the importance of sensory nerves and the relationship to spastic symptoms and possible relationship to Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Elliott J. Roth, Chairman of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Northwestern University and Medical Director of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, focuses his research activity in the area of nutritional problems after stroke and the impact on rehabilitation outcomes.

Dr. Rodger J. Elble is Professor and Chair of Neurology at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, Illinois. His research is in studying essential tremors to determine the underlying defect and effect treatments.

Dr. Stephanie Ceman is at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She works in the area of Fragile X Syndrome, the most common cause of mental retardation. Her study is now working with song birds, which also carry the fragile X gene, to determine similar links in the human genetic system.

Dr. Michael Pranzatelli at SIU School of Medicine at Springfield, Illinois works with spastics quadriplegia to ataxia, identifying immunological abnormalities and developing therapies.

Dr. Daniel Tranel, Professor of Neurology and Psychology and Director of the Postdoctoral Residency in Clinical Neuropsychology at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, is involved in the research of Diagnosis, Management and Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease.

Dr. Grayson Holmbeck is the Director of Clinical Training at Loyola University's Department of Psychology in Chicago. Dr. Holmbeck also works with Dr. McLone, one of the Spastics Researchers at Children's Memorial Hospital. Together, they are working on occupational and emotional therapy to provide greater independence to spina bifida survivors who are now living well into adulthood as a result of our research!