

# RI D.2452 POLIOPLUS NEWSLETTER



## ROTARY YEAR 2015-2016

Armenia, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, UAE, Sudan.

ORGANIZING TEAM



ORGANIZING TEAM



Mustafa Nasreddin



Michel Jassar



Lina Fakhoury



Ignace Mouawad



Leila Alameddine Karami



Rima El Kadi



Philippe Abi Akel



Salwa Choucar



David Zein



Mario Nasard



Antoine Hafez



Pierre Geara



Maud Mouawad



Joseph Rachkidi



Abdel Mawla El Solh



Kamal Kaha



Bana Kalash Kobrooly



Mohammad Majzoub

## Magical Team



Dora Moallem



Emil Moawad

### The 1<sup>st</sup> Rotary Polio Conference: Beirut, Lebanon 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015

27 Countries and 6 RI Districts represented.  
RI-WHO-UNICEF-MOPH-SANOPI PASTEUR-EPI Managers-  
UNESCWA-NGOs-RDCL-Africa-ME: 250 participants.

“This is who we are: an organization working in concert with our partners to keep a promise we made to children everywhere, the promise of a polio-free world. We have the plan, we have the people and we have the vision. Let’s get to work and wipe out polio once and for all.”

*Beirut, John Germ, 2015-16 Rotary International President Elect.*

### 2015-2016 issue

- The magical team.
- Highlights on RY 2015-16
- Thanks to sponsors
- 100.000\$ polio contributions.
- Social mobilization campaign
- Is 2016 The Year?



## PolioPlus D.2452 Subcommittee

### Polio D.2452 Conference Organizing Team

-Polio contributions [best year ever]: on Rotary Clubs/District DDF/individual level and contribution support from the Conference Organizing Team to reach 100.000 USD.[till 30 June 2016]

-Polio D2452 Conference 6th September 2015 [1st ever] [with participation of RI PE John Germ] [sponsors, main sponsor Sanofi Pasteur]. RI PE Germ and his wife Judith met +900 persons during all events included into the D2452 visit [Beirut-Lebanon 3\_7 September 2015]

-Social mobilization in Lebanon [27 Clubs + Rotaract+Interact] Billboards, TV Spots, newspapers, roll up... financed by a grant from PolioPlus Partners.

-Lebanese Ministry of Public Health **and** RCs of Lebanon Polio vaccination partnership confirmed into its yearly report [1st time announcement]

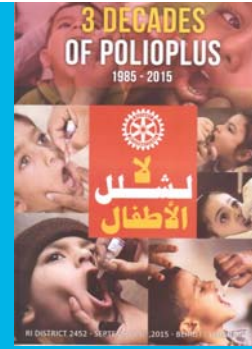
-Representation of Rotary International @ WHO EMRO Polio Meetings in Beirut [October 2015 - Michel Jazzar] in Amman [April 2016 - Usama Barghouthi]

-Yearly PolioPlus District 2452 Newsletter [May 2016]

-Participation to the Multi-Districts Rotary Foundation Seminar [Egypt] - November 2015.

-Gave advices on the issues/questions that Ukrainian Rotarians faced in Polio outbreak response - September 2015.

-Granted the "Citation for Meritorious Service", by The Trustees of The Rotary Foundation. [Thanks to DG Mustafa Nasereddin] - October 2015.



## Thanks to sponsors

Main Partner and Sponsor:

**Sanofi Pasteur**

Sponsors:

Casino du Liban

Municipality of Aley

Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture and Industry for North Lebanon

Polio Booklet: [Thanks PP Rima El-Kadi]

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## Polio Eradication: Is 2016 The Year?

As Yogi Berra (or [Niels Bohr](#) or [Samuel Goldwyn](#)) is supposed to have said, it's difficult to make predictions, especially about the future. It's especially dangerous to try to predict the behavior of infectious diseases, when small unpredictabilities in climate or trade or the behavior of governments can bring a problem that we thought was handled roaring back to life.

But as 2016 opens, it is fair to say that the disease public health experts are pinning their hopes on, the one that might truly be handled this year, is polio. There were [fewer cases last year](#) than ever in history: 70 wild-type cases, and 26 cases caused by mutation in the weakened virus that makes up one of the vaccines, compared to 341 wild-type infections and 51 vaccine-derived ones the year before. Moreover, those wild natural infections were in just two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the vaccine-derived cases were in five. The noose is tightening.

The most that health authorities can hope for this year is to end transmission of polio. The ultimate goal is eradication, which has happened only twice—for one human disease, smallpox, and one animal one, [rinderpest](#). To declare a disease eradicated requires that the entire world go three years without a case being recorded. If there are no polio cases in 2016, eradication might be achieved by the end of 2018.

Which would make for nice round numbers, because the polio eradication campaign began in 1988. It is safe to say that no one expected it would take anywhere near this long; the smallpox eradication campaign, which inspired the polio effort, reached its goal in 15 years.

Smallpox was declared eradicated in 1980, so long ago that most people have no knowledge of how devastating a disease it was, or even what a case of the disease looked like. (There are survivors left, but they are aging; the last person infected in the wild, Ali Maow Maalin of Somalia, [died in 2013](#).) In the same way, we've forgotten how difficult it is to conduct an eradication campaign. Smallpox was the first campaign that succeeded, but it was [the fifth one](#) that global authorities attempted. In its success, it demonstrated what any future campaign would need: not just a vaccine that civilians could administer, but an easy-to-access lab network, granular surveillance, political support, huge numbers of volunteers, and lots and lots of money.

In its own trudge to the finish, the polio eradication campaign has stumbled over many of those, from [local corruption](#) to [extremist opposition](#) to the still almost unbelievable interference of the CIA (which I covered [here](#) and [here](#)), along with the virus's own protean ability to cross [borders](#) (to China) and [oceans](#) (to Brazil).

But now, at last, the end does look in sight. I asked **Carol Pandak**, director of the Polio Plus program at Rotary International — which since 1988 has lent millions of volunteers and more than a billion dollars to the eradication campaign — how she thinks the next 12 months will go.

“We are getting closer,” she told me. “We have only two endemic countries left. Of the three types of the virus, type 2 was certified eradicated in September, and there have been no type 3 cases globally for three years. And Pakistan and Afghanistan have goals to interrupt transmission internally in May 2016.”

The diminishment of wild polio paradoxically creates greater vulnerability to vaccine-derived polio, which happens when the weakened live virus used in the oral vaccine mutates back to the virulence of the wild type. The only means of defusing that threat is to deploy the killed-virus injectable vaccine, which is widely used in the West but until recently was considered too expensive and complex to deliver in the global south.

To begin the transition, Pandak said, countries that still use the oral vaccine have agreed to give one dose of the injectable as part of routine childhood immunizations for other diseases. That should strengthen children's immune reactions to polio, so that the reversion to wild type — which occurs as the weakened virus replicates in the gut — does not take place.

In the smallpox campaign, when eradicators thought they were almost done, there was a freak weather event—the worst floods that Bangladesh had experienced in 50 years—that triggered an internal migration and redistributed the disease. Polio is just as vulnerable to last-minute disruptions, especially since the two remaining endemic countries are hotspots of unpredictability. Travelers from Pakistan actually carried polio into Afghanistan in August.

“In Pakistan, the army has committed to providing protection for vaccinators in conflict areas,” Pandak told me, “and another strategy that has been successful has been to set up border posts to immunize people as they are fleeing areas of conflict and military operations. I have seen Rotary volunteers staffing 24/7 kiosks in train stations and toll booths, so that we can get people wherever they happen to be.”

There is no question that hurdles remain. By the World Health Organization's order, polio is still considered a "public health emergency of international concern," which requires countries where the disease is extant to either ensure its citizens are vaccinated before leaving, or prevent their crossing the border. And polio still lives quiescently in lab freezers all over the world, and those will have to be searched and their contents eliminated lest a lab accident bring the disease alive again (a warning that was recently circulated for rinderpest as well). Plus, up till now, the injectable vaccine has been made by starting with a virus that is not only live but virulent, posing the risk that a lab accident that could release it; British scientists announced on New Year's Eve that they may have found a way to weaken it while still yielding a potent vaccine.

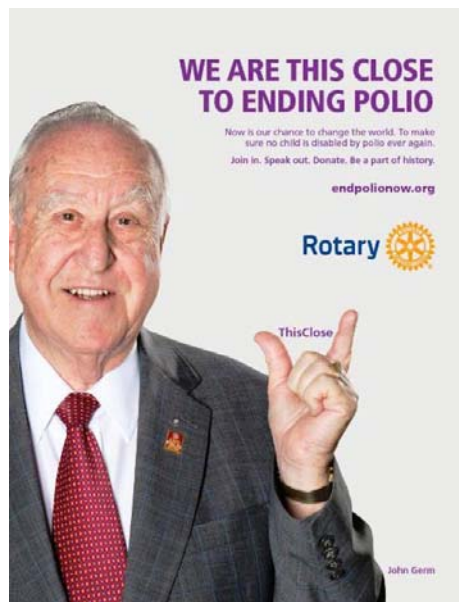
When it goes, if it does, polio will gift the world not only with its absence, but also with the abundant health infrastructure that was set up to contain and eliminate it, and can be turned to other uses. When I talked to Pandak, she sounded excited at the possibility that countries and volunteers would be able to turn their attention away from a single disease and toward ensuring the overall health of children.

"We have been doing this for 30 years," she said. "We'll continue to fundraise, advocate and raise awareness to the last case. We are committed to seeing this to the end."

**Maryn McKenna**

POSTED MON, 01/4/2016

[http://phenomena.nationalgeographic.com/2016/01/04/2016-predict/?](http://phenomena.nationalgeographic.com/2016/01/04/2016-predict/)



John Germ, RI President 2016-17.

## **D.2452 Polio Conference: Testimonial and Thanks**

Michel: We arrived safely yesterday at 4:40 Eastern time. I would have called, but that 11:30 p.m. your time and after the early morning I was sure you would be, or should be in the bed.

Judy and I can not thank you enough for the great time we had in Lebanon. Every day was filled with activities and the opportunity to meet Rotarians and see and hear of the excellent work. The 39th anniversary meeting was simply outstanding. The Sunday night dinner really completed the whole trip in great style.

Please pass on my thanks to Ignass and all the committee.

Thanks and congratulations

John - **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015 -19:38**

**[John F. Germ, RI President Elect 2016-2017]**- Sent from my iPhone

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Dear Michel

As I am leaving Lebanon, I feel the need to express my admiration for a conference of a very high standard indeed. The celebration of our successes but also our unwavering commitment to eradicating polio, have come out as very clear messages from the event.

As the only Cyprus Rotary Club to participate at the conference (excluding Doros, of course) we feel proud to have been part of this inspiring experience and will do our best to make sure it gets the publicity it deserves!

Sorry to miss the gala dinner tonight. We wish you the best for the future!

Best Rotarian Regards - **PP Nicos Theodoulou, RC Nicosia-Ledra [Cyprus]** - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015. 20:14

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**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015.**

To all who organized the Polio Seminar a deserving bravo for the hard work, the most original and complete program and of course the satisfactory results that rightfully make you happy.

I am sure that that RIPE John will take with him the best of memories.

Despite food poisoning I had a great time and thank you for that. **PDG DOROS JEROPOULOS [Cyprus]**

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**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015. 17:54**

I knew it would be a success! Thanks to you and the committee for their hard work and sleepless nights. I will write more later, but wanted to get a note off to you right away. And 100,000! Amazing!! My very best,

**PP Dr. Carol Pandak, Director PolioPlus Program [USA]**

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**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015.**

Thanks For being @ the Gala Dinner Casino Du Liban. Fundraising has achieved his Goal 100000 \$.

Thanks for all the organizers. **Zareh Abadjian, RC Beirut Cedars [Lebanon]**

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**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015 -Whatsapp 12:50**

Dear Organizing Committee Chair and members.

Coming back to Amman after 4 days full of great work and excitement, I can only say Thank You for a well done job. You certainly proved that you are the magic team. Under the leadership of Michel with his incredible determination, we managed not only to organize one of the most successful events but to prove to the world that when there is a will there is a way. From the bottom of my heart I thank everyone of this magnificent group for the time, efforts and willingness to show the genuine image of Lebanon and our District. God bless you and your beloved ones dear friends.

**Mustafa Nasereddin, DG D2452, 2015-16**

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**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015 -14:16**

Dear DG Mustafa and Michel,

Congratulations on a very well prepared and organized conference, addressing Polio Eradication, our utmost priority in Rotary. I am pleased that the awareness surrounding the event was of high scale which will assist increasing the required support. I am proud to have been part of the event, thank you for that. Yours in Rotary,

**Usama A. Barghouthi, RRFC, Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator Zone 20B [Jordan]**

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**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015 -20:03**

Je suis bien arrivée en fin de matinée et tout va bien.

A toi Michel, au PDG Ignace, à Mario et à Pierre ainsi qu'à tous les Rotariens qui ont pris une part active dans l'organisation de toutes ces pertinentes activités, j'exprime ma profonde reconnaissance pour tant d'amitié reçue et tant d'activités réussies. Je suis fière d'avoir été le témoin de toutes ces réussites.

Merci pour votre gentillesse et votre amitié. Je pense qu'il serait souhaitable de créer un CIP Liban-Côte d'Ivoire

Joyeux anniversaire à notre ami Pierre aujourd'hui dont je ne retrouve pas l'adresse email. Merci de lui présenter tous mes vœux de Santé et de Bonheur. Je prends l'engagement de promouvoir partout les belle réalisations dont j'ai été

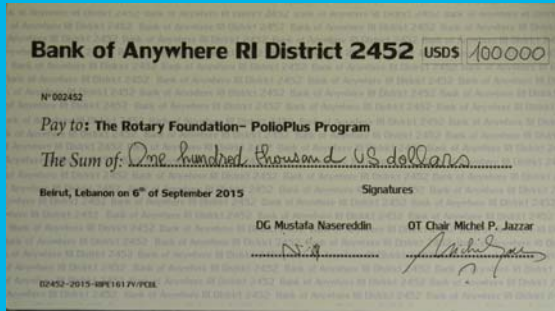
témoin à Beyrouth de la part de votre équipe et de tous ces Rotariens enthousiastes que Dieu a permis que je rencontre. Merci encore et encore et que Dieu vous bénisse tous ainsi que votre famille! Bien amicales salutations à vous et à vos si

gentilles épouses. **Marie-Irène RICHMOND AHOUA - D.9101 Gouverneur 2015 -2016.**

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**Remarks related to the Foundation [Emails to Chairs] – 14.9.2015**

District Polio Seminar: The District had a grand seminar/conference on 6 Sept, addressing PolioPlus's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and attended by RI President-Elect John Germ and many senior Rotarians from the District and outside the District. It was a perfect example on how planning and dedication make perfect, it took months of planning every detail and ended up with large donations from many clubs, sponsors, attended by hundreds to listen to top speakers, succeeded in government and NGOs awareness, and Rotary generously supported social mobilization of events. I thank PP Michel Jazzar Chair PolioPlus Subcommittee and his team for everything.

# 100.000\$ for PolioPlus



*How the magical team has raised contributions up to 100.000\$?*

**1.**

Rotary Clubs +Rotarians:  
 →DDF + TRF Match: 6000\$  
 →Total RCs-DDF: **52131\$\***  
 \*Interim results for July 2015 through April, 9 2016

**2.**

Sponsors+Booklet+Registration /participation to events: amount in US\$ will be added to \* to reach 100.000US\$

**3.**

**Total contributions: 100,000.00US\$**

## TV Interviews



PP Joseph Rachkidi  
Tele Liban



DGN 2018-19  
Michel Jassar ANB TV



Mrs Dora Moallem  
RLL Radio



PDG Ignace Mouawad  
Tele Liban

## Social Mobilization: PolioPlus Partners Grant 95000\$



WHO EMRO Polio Meeting  
Beirut 22-23 October 2015

Rotary Foundation  
Multidistrict Conference  
Sharm El Sheikh 26-27 November 2015

30<sup>th</sup> meeting EMR Commission for  
Certification of Poliomyelitis  
Eradication  
Amman, Jordan 4 - 6 April 2016



PDG/RRFC Usama A. Barghouthi

# Highlights on Polio Conference – Beirut Lebanon 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015

100.000\$ IN CHARITY TURNED BY ROTARY TO SERVE BY VACCINATION HALF MILLION OF KIDS

+900 Rotarians and guests participated in different events during the RI PE 2016-2017 John Germ and his wife Judith.

## Official visits to:

-Speaker of the House

-Wife of the Speaker of the House [honoring Judith Germ]

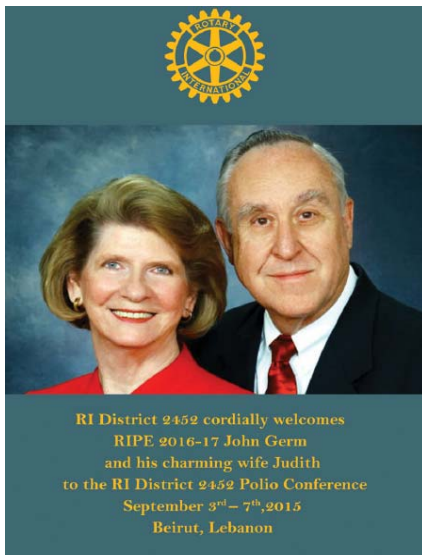
-Prime Minister

-Mayors and HQ of Chamber of Commerce, industry and agriculture North Lebanon.

Congratulations to the success and the great achievement for, magical O.T, Rotary family in Lebanon, District 2452 and for participants.

## **Newspapers and Media references:**

- *End Polio Now Brochure (940-EN): Describes Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio and encourages support*
- *End Polio Now Poster (941-EN): Describes Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio and encourages support*
- *End Polio Now Video and Digital Resources (942-USB): Provides an overview of Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio*
- *End Polio Now Pins (988-MUP): Lapel pins with the End Polio Now logo*
- *Middle East Technical Polio Bulletin:*



## **For more information on the PolioPlus Program:**

Polio GPEI News-September 2015:

[http://www.polioeradication.org/Portals/0/Document/Media/Newsletter/PN201509\\_EN.pdf](http://www.polioeradication.org/Portals/0/Document/Media/Newsletter/PN201509_EN.pdf)

<https://rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/end-polio>

[www.endpolio.org](http://www.endpolio.org) or [www.endpolionow.org](http://www.endpolionow.org)

## **Social Media:**

Facebook: [https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=78976274836&\\_rd=78976274836&\\_rd=78976274836](https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=78976274836&_rd=78976274836&_rd=78976274836)

Twitter: [@End\\_PolioNow](https://twitter.com/EndPolioNow)

Pinterest: [www.pinterest.com/rotary/endpolionow](http://www.pinterest.com/rotary/endpolionow)



*Michel P. Jazzar, D2452 Polio Subcommittee Chair 2015-16, [Jazzar@micheljazzar.com](mailto:Jazzar@micheljazzar.com)*