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District 3131



ROTALink



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**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

Hope is a motivator.

Hope is a source of energy. It helps us see something better ahead of us and encourages us to put one foot ahead of the other to move forward.

When we are full of hope for the future, we will wake up ready to embrace a new day

Fortnightly Bulletin of Rotary Club of Poona Downtown



Rotary International theme for April is Maternal and Child Health!

The Polio Story - journey towards a world without polio

Rtn Dr. Zimra R Israel

This year marks a decade of a polio-free India, one of our country's most profound public health achievements. **On 27th March 2014** India was certified polio free in the presence of global dignitaries including the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukerjee. I was rather fortunate to be at the event in New Delhi which was such a matter of pride for us Rotarians who were in the audience. Along with India, countries in the South East Asia Region are also celebrating their polio-free certification from 2014.

Polio, also called Poliomyelitis is a viral disease that destroys the nerve cells present in the spinal cord, causing paralysis or muscle weakness to some parts of the body. It is a contagious disease affecting the nervous system and is caused by Picornaviridae – a poliovirus. The virus is transmitted person-to-person through the faecal-oral route by contaminated water or food. This highly infectious crippling and life-threatening disease, mostly affecting young children, attacks the nervous system and can lead to spinal and respiratory paralysis, and in some cases death. The three types of polio infection include a sub clinical, a milder non-paralytic and a severe paralytic form which affects either the spine, brainstem, or both. The virus primarily grows and multiplies in the intestine, from where it can attack the [nervous system](#) and cause paralysis.

History

Polio has existed since prehistoric times – ancient Egyptian images show children walking with canes, with withered limbs characteristic of the disease. While it affected children around the world for millennia, the first known clinical description of polio, by British doctor Michael Underwood, was not until 1789, and it was formally recognized as a condition in 1840 by German physician Jakob Heine. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, frequent epidemics saw polio become the most feared disease in the world with major outbreaks in New York City in 1916 with 2000 deaths, and the worst recorded US outbreak in 1952 killing over 3000. Many who survived the disease faced lifelong consequences. Deformed limbs meant they needed leg braces, crutches or wheelchairs, and some needed to use breathing devices like the iron lung, an artificial respirator invented for treatment of polio patients. By the mid-20th century, the poliovirus could be found all over the world and killed or paralysed over **half a million** people every year.

The need for a vaccine

In the early 1950s, the first successful vaccine was created by US physician Jonas Salk who tested his experimental killed-virus vaccine on himself and his family in 1953, and a year later on 1.6 million children in Canada, Finland and the USA.

The results were announced on 12 April 1955, and Salk's **inactivated polio vaccine (IPV)** was licensed on the same day. By 1957, annual cases dropped from 58 000 to 5600, and by 1961, only 161 cases remained.

A second type of polio vaccine, the **oral polio vaccine (OPV)** was developed by physician and microbiologist Albert Sabin. Sabin's vaccine was live-attenuated (using the virus in weakened form) and could be given orally, as drops or on a sugar cube.

The polio vaccine is a cornerstone of global efforts to eradicate polio. Through initiatives like the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), governments, organizations, and communities work together to ensure every child receives the vaccine, regardless of their location or socioeconomic status. By supporting these efforts, we move closer to achieving a polio-free world for future generations.

World Polio Day on March 27th, 2024 was not just a commemoration but it is a reminder of the crucial importance of vaccination in eradicating this crippling disease. Polio, once a global scourge, has been significantly reduced, thanks to widespread vaccination efforts. Therefore, let us reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that every child has access to lifesaving vaccines. By prioritising vaccination against polio and other preventable diseases, we can create a healthier, more resilient world for all. Together, we can consign polio to the annals of history and ensure a brighter future for generations to come. As we observe this day, it's essential to highlight the benefits of the polio vaccine for every child that is mentioned below

The eradication of [Polio](#) is one of [Rotary International](#)'s longest standing and most significant Global efforts. Along with our partners (UNICEF, WHO, BMGF, GAVI, and national governments), we have helped immunize more than 2.5 billion children against polio in 122 countries. We have reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent worldwide and we won't stop until we end the disease for good. Only two countries remain polio-endemic: Afghanistan and Pakistan.

As Rotary, our partners and the world stands at the brink of a global health legacy, let us continue to be vigilant and make sure every child is vaccinated. We need to contribute diligently towards the polio plus program. Our funds will go towards vaccination, monitoring and surveillance. Let's never see a child with a cane!

“Branded vs Generic Medicines”

Weekly talk held on Thursday, 21st March 2024.

On March 21st, RCPD's own director(medical), Rtn. Vinod Dua presented a ppt. titled 'BRANDED vs GENERIC MEDICINES', the unsolved dilemma, with a tagline “ a bottle of medicine Or is it a battle of Medicine”. He was introduced specifically regarding his background by Rtn. Pradeep bhai, in his apt HINDI narrative filled with comraderie as they both are and interesting anecdotes and shayari. The speaker himself acknowledged at the beginning his vast 48 years of experience in the said subject of Medicine and Pharma companies in India and abroad. The slides show started with definitions for every layman to understand and get in the groove of the topic. Common medicines used by men and women after a certain age were highlighted pointing out familiar Brand names. Immediate to naming them were mentioned their actual formulations which are their compound Generic product names.





Important points covered during the presentation were Patents, Indian and US FDA, and Molecules, which may be Stable or Unstable. Generics in India made the next level of discussion with their classification as in the market today. There was a comparison chart given as well as a Table distinguishing between the Prescription Branded Generics and Trade Branded Generics and OTCs (over the counter) Medicines with applied parameters like Reputable companies, doctors and the Pros and Cons and the speakers personal advice included. The role of Insurance and the Doctors were emphasized in every slide in the lucid presentation. Rtn. Vinod then came in the front for an interactive continuation of the discussion so that he could talk about the general perception of the people and society and concerns with patients in India including attributes like Quality and Potency of the drugs available. Last highlight was how the battle will continue in India until it achieves its goal of becoming a developed nation.

RCPD

Rtn. Sameer Gosavi.



Share Rotary, serve people.

Rtn. PP Yezdi Batliwala's visit to the Rotary Club of St. Marteen.

This is the first and oldest club on the island. They are the sponsors of all other island clubs.

The 52nd Anniversary of the Rotary club of St. Marteen was celebrated on the 17th of March 2024.

THE DAILY HERALD, Monday, March 18, 2024



Led by President Jeffrey "Dr. Soc" Sochrin (seated behind flags), Rotary Club of St. Maarten continues to uphold its founding principles, serving the community of St. Maarten.

Rotary Club of St. Maarten celebrates 52 yrs of service

PHILIPSBURG--Rotary Club of St. Maarten celebrated its 52nd anniversary on Sunday, March 17, with a special luncheon meeting, reflecting on its rich history of service and community impact. Led by President Jeffrey "Dr. Soc" Sochrin, the club took time to honour its founding and achievements since its inception.

Rotary Club of St. Maarten traces its roots back to a meeting in September 1970, facilitated by the Curaçao and Guadeloupe Rotary Clubs, culminating in the official issuance of its charter on March 17, 1972. Richard Gibson, an original charter member, remains an honorary member, symbolising the club's enduring dedication to its mission.

Rotary Club of St. Maarten has been a pillar of support for the St. Maarten community over the decades, spearheading various initiatives ranging from food distribution efforts to senior citizen programmes, medical awareness campaigns, toy drives, youth empowerment projects, tourism endeavours and beautification initiatives. Notably, members Aadu Abel (1987-1988) and Reiner Heere (1996-1997) have served as District Governors for Rotary District 7020, further amplifying the club's influence.

In addition to its local impact, Rotary Club of St. Maarten has played a pivotal role in fostering Rotary's global reach by assisting in the formation of four new Rotary Clubs: Rotary Club of Anguilla (1978), Rotary Club of St. Martin Nord (1988), Rotary Club of St. Martin Mid-Isle (1997) and Rotary Club of St. Martin Sunrise (2004).

Looking ahead, Sochrin thanked past Presidents, members, donors, and supporters for their unwavering commitment to Rotary Club of St. Maarten. "We are excited about the opportunity to continue serving the community of St. Maarten for many more years to come," Sochrin said. "I extend heartfelt appreciation to all who have contributed to our club's success. Together, let us affirm our commitment to Rotary's enduring mission. Long live Rotary, and long live the Rotary Club of St. Maarten."

Those interested in learning more about Rotary Club of St. Maarten can contact the club's press officer at pressrotarysxm@gmail.com or visit the official website www.rotarysxm.com.

Mankind is one - build bridges of friendship through out the world.



Vocational Awards 2024-25

Thursday, 28th March marked an important annual event of the calendar of RCPD. This event being held for more than 20 years, is a much awaited and well attended event. It was an evening to recognize, reward and celebrate the achievements of the selected awardees of the Vocational Awards. These were individuals who have succeeded despite many challenges and their stories were inspirational, to say the least!

Instituted by distinguished members of Rotary Club of Poona Downtown, the 4 awards align well with our club's values and focus areas. Overcoming disabilities to achieve success, creating entrepreneurs who create more job opportunities, promoting sports and the spirit of sportsmanship (or sportswoman ship), and lastly, an award which is in sync with the Rotary motto of Service Above Self, an award for selfless service to humanity.

Each award includes a certificate, a memento, a cheque for INR 21,000, and of course much applause and appreciation.

1. The Karani – Malhotra Sports Excellence Award, given to an upcoming Sports Person.

This award was instituted by our very own Charter President and PDG Rotarian Philly Karani and Past President Rtn. Ashwini Malhotra in the memory of their late fathers – Major General N.D.P. Karani and Shri Satpalji Malhotra. Both distinguished Rotarians who led inspiring lives and knew each other as trusting friends.

Prospective awardees must meet the following criteria:

- a. Age less than 25 years
- b. More weightage to individual sports over team sports.
- c. Min. State Ranking. Preference for National Ranking.

The recipient of the award was a young powerlifter, **Ms. Vaishnavi Machhindranath Doke**. Undergoing treatment for Epilepsy, Vaishnavi was inspired and encouraged by her uncle who is an International Powerlifter. Practicing the sport with grit and determination Vaishnavi won a gold medal at the State Level powerlifting Championship and later went onto to win the overall Gold Medal at the 'Special Olympics Asian Powerlifting Championship in Malaysia. India's first female Powerlifter to achieve this feat!

2. Rotarian Ranveer and Ann Neelam Rathore Vocational Excellence Award, given to a differently abled person who is on the path to success despite challenges.

This award was instituted by Past President Rtn. Ranveer Rathore and Ann Neelam Rathore. Ranveer, a proud alumnus of from the College of Engineering in Pune (COEP), started his own factory in 1970 that manufactures cranes and hoists under the brand name of Elmech, exporting to 17 different countries. During his younger days, (not that he is not still young!), he has been a state level basketball player.

The multi-faceted Ann Neelam has been a researcher, journalist, a Prof. of Psychology at Wadia College and St. Mira's college. She is also a business woman who makes quilts and soft furnishing. She was an Inner Wheel president in 1997. Ann Neelam is a polyglot and well versed in 7 different languages.

Prospective awardees must meet the following criteria:

- a. Age No Bar.
- b. The Awardee should be Physically Challenged & Financially Independent person.

Fate played a cruel joke on **Belaji Shankar Patre, the recipient of the award**, when an illness during childhood left him with a permanent disability in one leg. Nothing deterred this young man, who as a child started assisting his mother to support the family by working at grocery and vegetable shops, a laundry and selling goods in the old bazaar. Despite numerous challenges, debts, and other adversities, Belaji Shankar Patre battled on tirelessly and immersed himself in social work and helping others less privileged! A career in journalism enabled him to raise awareness about government schemes for the upliftment of the disabled community. As a senior reporter with Dainik Prabhat, Lokmat and Sakal, Belaji Shankar Patre is a tireless advocate for justice. He continues to use the power of his words to highlight instances of injustice and oppression against the disabled. Despite his disability he stands tall, advocating for justice and equality in society.

3. Rtn. Dipti and Spouse Ulhas Bhosle, Grassroots Social Reformer Award, given to any individual who single handedly, through his or her own efforts, has made a difference to the marginalized in any field in society.

This award has been instituted by Rtn. Dipti and Spouse Ullhas Bhosle. Rtn. Dipti has served on the RCPD Board of Directors, and was Secretary of the Club during 2019-20. She was President of Inner wheel Club of Poona Riverside in 2003-04. Hailing from a family of philanthropists, she has instituted an Endowment fund in her mother Lalita Kapadia's name, the proceeds of which go, annually, to any Global Grant project of District 3131. She is Major Donor Level Two and all her family members including grandchildren are Paul Harris Fellows.

Spouse Ullhas Bhosle is an alumnus of COEP, Pune and has retired as CEO of one of the companies of the Ajay Piramal group. He was also Director of Total Quality Control of the Piramal Group. He is an active participant in club projects. A lover of music, Ullhas, played the drums and bongos as part of his college Rock band.

Prospective awardees must meet the following criteria:

- a. Age no bar
- b. Must be an individual who has through his/her own efforts made a difference to the marginalized in society in any field

The recipient of this award, Ms. Geeta Hasurkar, has an impressive list of achievements to her name. Working with the Andha Shraddha Nirmula Samiti, she has endeavoured to create awareness, educate, and eradicate the false beliefs of superstitions still dominant in our rural society. Over the last few years, she has worked tirelessly at exposing illegal sex determination and abortion clinics. Working tirelessly with the police in the Kolhapur District, she has been part of several sting operations which has landed twenty suspects in police custody. Ms. Geeta Hasurkar is now in the District Preconception and Prenatal Diagnostics Techniques (PCPNDT) Act Implementation Committee as a Civil Society Member.

On a personal note, her daughter recounted her mother's determination to see her husband through his brush with cancer and today, he is leading a normal life!

4. Rukmini and Narayandas Karwa Memorial Vocational Award, given to recognize a budding first generation entrepreneur.

This award has been instituted by Past President Rtn. Balkrishna Karwa in the memory of his late parents. Himself an entrepreneur, both Balkrishna and his wife Ann. Lalita contribute to various social causes including the Mahesh Professional Forum (MPF). He is also the chairman of our vocational awards committee.

Late Rukmini and Narayandas Karwa came from a very humble family in Jabalpur. Shri Narayan Das ji was in the petroleum business and was socially very active in both the Maheshwari Community and society at large.

Prospective awardees must meet the following criteria:

- a) Must be less than 35 years old
- b) Should be First Generation Entrepreneur.

The recipient of this award Mr. Vinayak Rudrakanthwar, a mechanical engineering graduate, decided to collaborate with his friend Mr. Shriram Kharmale to establish a startup entrepreneur venture in their field. And so was born Innovair Technology, a complete solution provider for compressed air equipment. Ms. Ujwala Gosavi, their mentor from BYST (Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust) spoke about her involvement in helping these young entrepreneurs to establish themselves and generate employment to many more young Indians.

A lot of thought and coordination went into the selection of these awardees which were selected from over 25 applications in the various categories. The selection committee was chaired by PP Rtn. Balkrishna Karwa who meticulously planned and executed the evening. Other committee members were PP Rtn. Ranveer Rathore, PP Rtn. Ashwini Malhotra, PP Rtn. Yezdi Batliwala, Rtn. Dipti Bhosale, Rtn. Bageshri Gogate, and President Rtn. Aruna Rathi

Rtn. Shailender Abhyankar, the MC, took us through the evening in his imitable style with fluency, ease, and a touch of humour. The inspiring evening ended with a mini dinner which gave the members the opportunity to interact with the awardees and their families.

R'Ann Shereen Masters

(with inputs from Rtn. Shailender Abhyankar)

VOCATIONAL AWARDS NIGHT.



Build the future with action and vision



Greetings On Your Special Day !



Mr. Shabbir Tavawalla	April 1st
Rtn.Dr. Madhav Borate	April 6th
R'ann Nishi Chandiramani	April 6th
Rtn. Ajit Mudholkar	April 7th

Programs for the Fortnight

4th April	Art - My Second Career Speaker - Vijay Kiyawat
11th April	Siachen 1987 Speaker - Lt. Gen. Ramesh Kulkarni

There will be NO MEETING on the 18th April.



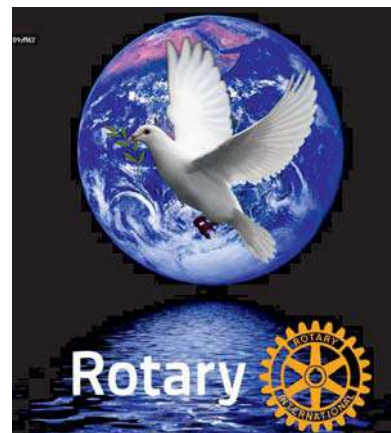
Enjoy Rotary



WORLD WATER DAY
is CELEBRATED ON
the 22nd of March,
every year and is
based on a theme.....



This year's theme is
WATER FOR PEACE



Create Awareness - Take Action.