



SPRING 2004

[WWW.LORETTASLEGACY.COM](http://WWW.LORETTASLEGACY.COM)  
Reg. Charity #:89544 6805 RR001



LLF Board of Directors: Paolo De Rosa - Geoff Shields - Rossana DiLiето - Antonella Dametto - Ashley Chinner - Karen Paguendas

Friends,

We have established the Loretta's Legacy Foundation in memory of Loretta De Rosa, a young, vivacious woman who lost a valiant battle with Mesothelioma, a rare form of lung cancer most often linked to Asbestos exposure. Loretta did not know how or where she may have been exposed. We must increase awareness of this dreadful disease and work to eradicate it as a life-ending sentence. In 2003, The Loretta's Legacy Foundation raised over \$25,000 for Mesothelioma research and it will not stop there. Please Help Keep The Legacy Alive!

**Upcoming Events**

**June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

*The Legacy Continues...*  
**Kick-off To Summer 2004** - Bring your friends for Food, Drinks, Entertainment, Music, Pool, Silent Auction and More  
The Swimming Pool Hall, 3200 Dufferin St., Toronto (416)782-SWIM Tickets - \$20

**September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Loretta's Legacy Golf Challenge**  
Toronto Board Of Trade Golf & Country Club  
Put your foursomes together now. Register through our website for details regarding both events.

"It is no longer acceptable to dismiss Mesothelioma as untreatable, for 'untreatable' implies an acceptance of failure. We must dispel this attitude of nihilism by education and establishment of treatment networks.

If we can be as aggressive with our investigations of novel therapies for Mesothelioma as we are with breast and prostate cancer, we may avoid the perpetuation of this tragedy into the new millennium."

**Dr. Harvey I. Pass**

Thoracic Surgical Oncologist, Karmanos Cancer Institute

**Contact Info**

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**OUR MISSION**

- To create awareness for Mesothelioma and other non-smoking related Lung Cancers, fund further research in these areas and provide a support network for sufferers and their families in Canada.

**Medical Nihilism Must Be Overcome** (Source Mesothelioma Advanced Research Found.)

Without prompt, skilful intervention, Mesothelioma progresses rapidly and relentlessly from the clinical manifestation of the tumour until death. Staging of the disease and survival directly correlate:

- Patients treated proactively with surgery and other protocols have an average survival of 8 to 18 months; but
- Patients with supportive care only have an average survival of 7 months.

The grim numbers come from a lack of consensus on a standard therapy, such as surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation. Until very recently, the *best* chemotherapy response rates have approached only 20 percent, and the role of radiation therapy has been limited to palliation (i.e., relief of symptoms). While surgery in appropriate cases is effective, Mesothelioma diffuse nature and unpredictable biologic activity are such that surgery alone cures the patient only rarely.

The disease returns in the majority of cases, compromising the lungs and heart. Unrelenting pain from invasion of local tissues leads to an ever-increasing dependency on narcotics. Functional deterioration and extreme pain often accompany the final stages of the disease.

The nihilism among family practice physicians who see the occasional Mesothelioma patient can be traced to at least three factors:

- Many doctors lack awareness of the early symptoms associated with the disease, or the tools available to reach a reliable diagnosis. The delay can critically limit the patient's treatment options, as the tumour tends to spread rapidly and aggressively.
- Doctors lack access to an information clearinghouse that promotes the recruitment of Mesothelioma patients into available and innovative protocols.
- There has been little "translational" effort to bridge the gap between exciting discoveries in the laboratory and actual implementation of novel therapies on patients in clinical trials.

**Breaking News: New Blood Test for Mesothelioma Being Developed**

SEATTLE, WA - November 15, 2003 Researchers at the Pacific Northwest Research Institute (PNRI) have reported the development of a blood test for Mesothelioma. In blood samples gathered from 273 individuals, researchers found that 84% of those with Mesothelioma exhibited high levels of SMR (soluble mesothelin-related proteins). Only 1.9% of those with other forms of cancer or lung disease had any increased SMR, and patients who were healthy and had not been exposed to asbestos showed no biomarker increase.

(Source: Mesothelioma Advanced Research Foundation)



Photos from the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Loretta's Legacy Golf Challenge held at Kleinburg Golf Club, Sept. 27, 2003

**Help Keep The Legacy Alive!**

Check for details on our Website: [www.LorettasLegacy.com](http://www.LorettasLegacy.com) or get on our mailing list: [LorettasLegacy@sympatico.ca](mailto:LorettasLegacy@sympatico.ca)