



Adolf Ratzka Receives European Citizen Award

The European Anti-Discrimination Council (EAC) of the European Union presented its annual European Citizen Award to ventilator user and disability rights activist Adolf Ratzka, PhD, in July 2009. The EAC honored Dr. Ratzka for his decades as a major force behind many successful initiatives promoting self-determined lives by persons with disabilities.

Known as the father of the Swedish independent living movement, Dr. Ratzka initiated and led the pilot project on personal assistance that became the model for the Swedish Personal Assistance Act of 1994. In 1989, he was the founding chair of the European Network on Independent Living, which works for disabled citizens' personal and political power, for self-determination and against discrimination.

Congratulations to Dr. Ratzka! He and his ventilator travel worldwide to lecture, to conduct workshops and to cooperate in projects focusing on the requirements for de-institutionalization of persons with disabilities. ▲

Did you know that IVUN's Resource Directory for Ventilator-Assisted Living is downloaded 1,800 times a month? Are you or your facility experts in home mechanical ventilation?

For details on how to be added to one of the subdivisions below, contact info@ventusers.org.

The online version is updated continually.

- Health Professionals
- Listservs for Ventilator Users
- Ventilator Equipment and Aids
- Manufacturers' Addresses
- Related Organizations, Associations and Foundations
- Facilities with Long-Term Ventilator Units

Did you know that IVUN's Home Ventilator Guide is downloaded 800 times a month?

Check it out at www.ventusers.org/edu/HomeVentGuide.pdf. Send additions or changes to info@ventusers.org. ▲

Conference Calendar

September — December 2009

To be listed in future issues of *Ventilator-Assisted Living* and on IVUN's online calendar at www.ventusers.org/net/calendar.html, send your conference details to info@ventusers.org

September 12-16. European Respiratory Society (ERS) Annual Congress. Vienna, Austria. www.ersnet.org

October 31-November 5. CHEST, American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) Annual Conference. San Diego, California. www.chestnet.org

November 1. "Breathing and Sleep: Solutions for People with Neuromuscular Disorders." Southern California Polio Survivor Groups, the local MDA, ALSA and MS Society Groups, and IVUN. The Salk Institute, La Jolla, California. Contact Gladys Swensrud (swensrud@pacbell.net), and watch www.ventusers.org

December 5-8. 55th International Respiratory Congress, American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC). San Antonio, Texas. www.aarc.org