

IVUN's mission is supported by its Membership.

\$100,000 Grant Announced at 11th International Conference

On behalf of his team, Antonio Toniolo, MD, FAMH, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy, accepted the two-year grant award of \$100,000 (\$50,000 per year) from Post-Polio Health International/International Ventilator Users Network at the organization's 11th International Conference on May 31, 2014.



Antonio Toniolo, MD, FAMH

Dr. Toniolo's proposal, "Poliovirus genome in patients with post-polio syndrome (PPS): Defining virus mutations by novel genome sequencing methods and investigating possible treatments with antiviral antibodies and drugs," was selected from 11 proposals reviewed by the expert Review Panel and approved by PHI/IVUN's Board of Directors. Proposals were submitted from researchers representing seven different countries. Of the 11, six were

investigating issues related to ventilator use throughout the world. This represents an increase from past years.

The Research Fund Legacy

The Research Fund was started in 1995 with a bequest from the estate of Thomas Rogers, a quadriplegic polio survivor who spent about a year and a half in

three hospitals. He had been successfully weaned from the iron lung to a rocking bed and with a "great proficiency in frog breathing." In later years, he used the portable Bantam Positive Pressure Respirator and the PLV-100.

Rogers had completed one year of college when he contracted polio. He pursued an education with a friend who taught at the local community college, and he started selling mutual funds and insurance. In 1966, with the help of an uncle and a friend he started his own firm, employing one full-time person and one half-time person. Rogers was proud of the fact that the company allowed him to be self-supporting.

He did better than that. Rogers died in 1994 leaving a percentage of his assets to initiate The Research Fund of our organization.

The announcement at the opening dinner of the conference by Research Committee Chair Daniel J. Wilson, PhD, represents the eighth award year. PHI/IVUN has given nine awards between 2001-2014 totaling \$295,000. (Two awards were granted in 2011.) To review past awards and final reports, go to www.ventusers.org/res/index.html#pri

Contributions to the fund may be made online at <http://shop.post-polio.org/> or by check to 4207 Lindell Boulevard, #110, St. Louis, Missouri 63108. ■