

International Symposium on Malignant Mesothelioma 2008



TARGETING A CURE

June 26 - 28
Washington, DC



Dear meso community members and friends,

How will we cure mesothelioma? Does the research being done currently by experts around the world hold the answer? Are new drug therapies the key or is surgery the only option? These questions are at the heart of International Symposium on Malignant Mesothelioma. Each year the Foundation brings together the world's leading experts to educate patients and their loved ones, and all those who care about eradicating meso, on the latest advances in research and treatment.

For the second consecutive year the Symposium will be held in Washington, DC. At last year's meeting participants joined together on Capitol Hill to advocate for federal research funding. On the first day of the Symposium we will again have the opportunity to make our voice heard on Capitol Hill through meetings with congressional leaders and their staff to continue our push for federal meso research funding.

On the second day leading meso researchers and clinicians will lead educational sessions focused on the latest advances in meso research and treatment. All the sessions are designed to be lay-person friendly and encourage questions and interaction with the medical and scientific experts.

Our last day together will focus on our strength as a community. We will offer sessions to arm new and existing volunteers with the tools they need to affect change. We will remember all those we have lost to the disease through a special tribute ceremony and rededicate ourselves to ending this disease. And together we will find help and support, make connections with other patients and their families, and address issues facing all of us through various breakout sessions.

This year's Symposium offers something for everyone affected by meso. We hope that you will join us.

Very truly,

Symposium Co-Chairs

Dr. Nicholas J. Vogelzang
Director, Nevada Cancer Institute

Chair, Board of Directors

Dr. Raffit Hassan
National Cancer Institute

Chair, Science Advisory Board

Advocacy - Thursday, June 26



8:00 – 9:00	Registration and Breakfast
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome
9:15 – 10:15	Orientation: Effective Advocacy and the Case for Federal Meso Research Funding
10:30 – 12:00	Capitol Hill: Individual Meeting with Senator and/or Staff*
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch Break
1:00 – 2:15	Capitol Hill: Individual Meeting with Senator and/or Staff*
2:30 – 4:00	Capitol Hill: Individual Meeting with Congressperson and/or Staff*
3:00 – 4:00	Press Conference
8:00 – 10:00	Reception (light buffet and cocktails)

*Note: Capitol Hill meeting times are approximate. We will schedule meeting times for you individually.

Science - Friday, June 27



7:30 – 8:30	Registration and Breakfast
8:45 – 9:00	Opening Remarks
9:00 – 10:00	Session I: Peritoneal Mesothelioma <i>Robert N. Taub MD PhD, Columbia University</i> <i>H Richard Alexander, MD, University of Maryland</i>
10:00 – 10:45	Session II: Pleural Meso Surgical Options <i>Raja Flores MD, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center</i> <i>Robert Kratzke MD, University of Minnesota</i> <i>David Rice MD, MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>
10:45 – 11:45	Session III: Emerging Therapies <i>Hedy Kindler MD, University of Chicago</i> <i>Anne Tsao MD, MD Anderson Cancer Center</i> <i>Luciano Mutti MD, PhD, Vercelli General Hospital - Italy</i>
12:00 – 1:00	Learning Lunch
1:15 – 2:00	Session IV: Optimizing Patient Care <i>Mary Hesdorffer, MS, APRN, Meso Foundation</i>
2:00 – 2:45	Session V: Scientific Advances in Meso Research <i>Raffit Hassan, MD, National Cancer Institute</i>
2:45 – 3:45	Session VI: Poster Session; Meso Foundation Research Grants
6:00 -7:00	Reception
7:00 – 9:00	Gala Dinner <i>Recognition of People Living with Meso</i> <i>Hope Builder Award</i> <i>Volunteer of the Year Award</i> <i>Pioneer Award</i>

Community - Saturday, June 28

8:00 - 8:30	Breakfast
8:30 - 9:00	The Meso Foundation and Our Work <i>Chris Hahn, Executive Director, Meso Foundation</i>
9:00 - 10:00	Activism: Volunteer Break-out Sessions: Fundraising 101 Advocating for Change - Using Your Voice & Story to Cure Meso Peer Support - Techniques to Help Patients & Families in Need
10:00 - 10:30	Tribute Ceremony
10:30 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 12:30	Special Break-out Sessions: For Patients For Caregivers For Those Coping With Loss
1:00 - 2:30	Lunch and Closing Summary

Planning Your Trip

Washington, DC

Register

To register for the Symposium, fill out and return the enclosed registration form. One registration form should be completed per person. If you would like to participate in the Call for a Cure Advocacy Day, please return your registration form by May 15th. Upon registration, the Meso Foundation will coordinate specific meeting times for you and your Senators and Congressional Representative or their appropriate legislative assistants. We will inform you of these meeting times in advance and provide you with specific preparation materials and guidance on how to be an effective advocate.

Hotel

The Symposium will be held at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill- Washington, DC. The Foundation has secured a limited block of rooms at the discounted rate of \$249+tax. Call early to make your reservation.

*Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill
400 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 737-1234
Reservation Code: Mesothelioma*

Flight

There are three major airports near Washington, DC. The closest and most convenient is Reagan National Airport (DCA), which is about 10 minutes from downtown and the host hotel. The next closest airport is Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) located in Virginia, about 45 minutes away. And the third closest airport is Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), which is about one hour away.

Ground Transportation

There are many options to get from the airport to the hotel. If you are flying into Reagan National Airport you can take a cab for approximately \$15, ride the metro for \$3, or take a shuttle for about \$15 - 20. If you are flying into Washington Dulles International Airport or Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport an airport shuttle will cost you about \$40.

If you need any other assistance in planning your trip - please call the Foundation so that we can help you.

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