

# Polio Historical Display Goes on the Road

**C**hristopher Rutty, PhD, Medical Historian for **sanofi pasteur**, in conjunction with Polio Canada, has been taking a Polio Historical display on the road for a series of exhibits across the country. The display chronicles Canadian science's role in the development of vaccines against polio and in the eradication of polio in North America, including the vital role that the Connaught Medical Research Laboratories of the University of Toronto (today known as sanofi pasteur) played in creating a safe, potent and effective polio vaccine.

Partnering with sanofi pasteur, local Polio Canada "Ambassadors" have accompanied the exhibit in each city providing information and materials regarding post-polio syndrome and local programs and services. The Ambassadors were able to answer questions about polio and post-polio syndrome. Associate Director, Kimberley Dowds joined the exhibit in Montreal and Ottawa, providing information and resources to public health officials, nurses and health promotion specialists.

The exhibit and related events have



*Paul Martin Sr Society Event. Dr. Chris Rutty discussing the polio exhibit with Hon. Belinda Stronach (event keynote speaker) and David Martin (grandson of Paul Martin Sr). Looking on is Dr. Luis Barreto, VP of Public Affairs, sanofi pasteur, who has overseen the development and tour of the polio history exhibit.*

so far visited Toronto (Ontario Science Centre), Montreal (Canadian Immunization Conference and at a local Hospital), Cornwall (Public Health Conference), Edmonton (Canadian Medical Association), Ottawa (Canadian Public Health Association Conference)

and Vancouver (Canadian Family Physicians Conference and Telus Science World).

In March and April of 2006 the exhibit will be featured at the B.C. Post Polio Symposium and at the Richmond, B.C. historical museum.



*Gaile Lacy (incoming President, Post Polio Awareness and Support Society of BC), Kevin Conway (West-Vancouver Rotary Club) and David Holland (Member, PPASS of BC) with the exhibit at the Telus World of Science, Vancouver.*



*Iron Lung provided by West Park Hospital, Toronto. Polio Quebec President, Mario Di Carlo with the exhibit at Sainte Justine Children's Hospital, Montreal.*







Polio volunteers from PPASS answered questions from family physicians at the Family Medicine Forum, Vancouver.



## Polio Vaccine: The First 50 Years and Beyond

**L**eaders in the fight against polio gathered in Toronto in June of 2005 to learn of the successes of the past, and determine what will be required in the final stages of eradicating the disease.

Over three days delegates from around the world celebrated the 50th anniversary of Dr. Jonas Salk's announcement of an effective vaccine against polio by officially honouring many of the struggle's pioneering scientists, regulators and manufacturers.

Sessions at the conference examined both the earliest and the latest science on the poliovirus and vaccines, as well as the status of the current global eradication initiative.

Experts discussed vaccine production, stockpiling in the event of future polio outbreaks, and debated the need to continue immunization after a country is certified free of polio.

Dr. Bruce Aylward, Coordinator of the Polio Eradication Initiative of the World Health Organization, even predicted eradication around the world within a year, providing sufficient funds are dedicated to the effort.

Ontario March of Dimes organized the three-day conference on behalf of International Association for Biologicals and its co-sponsors World Health Organization, Health Canada and Public Health Agency of Canada, Industry Canada, Polio Canada and sanofi pasteur.



Rob Van Exan (Dir. Immunization Policy, sanofi pasteur), Bernie Hornung (Past-President, Wildrose Polio Support Society), Dennis Freedman (Polio-Plus Chair, Edmonton Rotary Club) raise awareness at the CMA Annual Meeting in Edmonton.

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