



ROTARY GRIQUA

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KIMBERLEY

25 February 2019

<http://rotarykimberley.org.za/>

UJALA NAYYAR - VIRUS HUNTER

Dr. Ujala Nayyar dreams about a world that is free from polio. Nayyar, the World Health Organization's surveillance officer in Pakistan's Punjab Province, says she often imagines the outcome of her work in her sleep.

She leads a team of health workers who crisscross Punjab to hunt down every potential incidence of poliovirus, testing sewage and investigating any reports of paralysis that might be polio. Pakistan is one of just two countries that continue to report cases of polio caused by the wild virus.

In addition to the challenges of polio surveillance, Nayyar faces substantial gender-related barriers that can hinder her team's ability to count cases and take environmental samples. From households to security checkpoints, she encounters resistance from men. But her tactic is to push past the barriers with a balance of sensitivity and assertiveness.

"I'm not very polite," Nayyar said with a chuckle during an interview at Rotary's World Polio Day last year. "We don't have time to be stopped. Ending polio is urgent and time-sensitive."

Women are critical in the fight against polio, Nayyar says. About 56 percent of frontline workers in Pakistan are women. More than 70 percent of mothers in Pakistan prefer to have women vaccinate their children.

That hasn't stopped families from slamming doors in health workers' faces, though. When polio is detected in a community, teams have to make repeated visits to each home to ensure that every child is protected by the vaccine. Multiple vaccinations add to the scepticism and anger that some parents express. It's an attitude that Nayyar and other health workers deal with daily. "You can't react negatively in those situations. It's important to listen. Our female workers are the best at that," says Nayyar.

With polio on the verge of eradication, surveillance activities, which, Nayyar calls the "back of polio eradication", have never been more important.

Q: What exactly does polio surveillance involve?

There are two types of surveillance systems. One is surveillance of cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), and the second is environmental surveillance. The surveillance process continues after eradication.

Q: How are you made aware of potential polio cases?

There's a network of reporting sites. They include all the medical facilities, the government, and the hospitals, plus informal health care providers and community leaders. The level of awareness is so high, and our community education has worked so well, that sometimes the parents call us directly.

Q: What happens if evidence of poliovirus is found?

In response to cases in humans as well as cases detected in the environment, we implement three rounds of supplementary immunization campaigns. The scope of our response depends on the epidemiology and our risk assessment. We look at the drainage systems. Some systems are filtered, but there are also areas that have open drains. We have maps of the sewer systems. We either cover the drainage areas or we do an expanded response in a larger area.

Q: What are the special challenges in Pakistan?

We have mobile populations that are at high risk, and we have special health camps for these populations. Routine vaccination is every child's right, but because of poverty and lack of education, many of these people are not accessing these services.

Q: What role does Rotary play in what you do?

Whenever I need anything, I call on Rotary. Umbrellas for the teams? Call Rotary. Train tickets? Call Rotary. It's the longest-running eradication program in the history of public health, but still the support of Rotary is there.

ROTARY CLUB OF KIMBERLEY

2018-2019

Chartered 20 August 1951

Rotary District 9370

RI President: Barry Rassin

District Gov: Gianna Doubell

Asst Gov: Barry Downs

Club Pres: Corlia v.Tonder

Secretary: Gill Quinn

Club Board:

Barry Downs

Colleen Fairweather

Ken Quinn

Peter Thomas

Amanda van Zyl

Pete van Zyl

Bulletin Editor: Peter Thomas

Club Meetings:

Kimberley Club

Mondays 12:45 for 13:00

INFO: 082 898 3805

DISTRICT CONFERENCE WEBSITE:

<https://www.zsports.co.za/rotary-discon>



CALENDAR & DUTIES

FEBRUARY

Peace and Conflict

Prevention/Resolution Month

25 Feb: BOARD MEETING 12:45 for 13:00

*"Most great people
have attained their
greatest success one
step beyond their
greatest failure"*

Napoleon Hill

DUTIES

*If you are unable to do a duty, please
make arrangements for a substitute.*

WEEK OF 25 FEBRUARY

FELLOWSHIP: Board Meeting – No Duty

CORPORAL: Board Meeting – No Duty

TUES COFFEE CLUB: Corlia van Tonder

WEEK OF 4 MARCH

FELLOWSHIP: Peter Thomas

CORPORAL: Colleen Fairweather

TUES COFFEE CLUB: Brenda Booth

WEEK OF 11 MARCH

FELLOWSHIP: Colleen Fairweather

CORPORAL: Hein Knoke

TUES COFFEE CLUB: Peter Thomas

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE ROTARY GRIQUA
ARE WELCOMED. PLEASE E-MAIL TO:

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Disclaimer: The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor and the contributors. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Rotary Club of Kimberley, of Rotary District 9370 or of Rotary International.

MARCH

Water and Sanitation Month

4 Mar: Social Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

11 Mar: Business Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

18 Mar: Social Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

25 Mar: BOARD MEETING 12:45 for 13:00

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

09 Apr Philip Maritz

16 Apr Gill Downs

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

09 Mar Charles & Marie Parsons (Honorary)

26 Mar Peter & Amanda Van Zyl

INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

24 Feb 2014 Colleen Fairweather

29 Apr 1993 Ken Quinn

COFFEE CLUB BIRTHDAYS

26 Feb Rob Hollings

28 Feb Sam Goldblatt

27 Mar Keith Diener

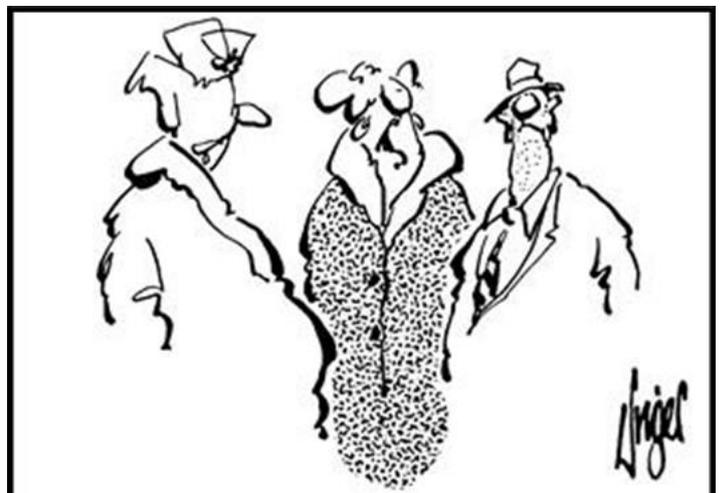
28 Mar George Lodder

31 Mar Charles Burton

27 Apr Brian Turner



LAST LAUGH



He keeps me in the style to which
I've become accustomed ...
abject poverty.