



# ROTA NEWS



September 26, 2013

## Rotary Club of Barbados, Barbados

Chartered March 07, 1962

District 7030



R.I Theme 2013-2014

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## The Four Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Weekly meetings on **Thursdays** at

**Hilton Barbados**

Needham's Point, Aquatic Gap,  
St. Michael at 12 noon

P.O. Box 148B, Brittons Hill,  
St. Michael, Barbados

[www.clubrunner.ca/barbados](http://www.clubrunner.ca/barbados)

# Why the World Is Not Yet Done with Polio

The crippling virus has been almost eliminated—but stubborn pockets remain.



A Sudanese refugee and polio victim living in an orphanage in Uganda.

Diane Cole

for [National Geographic](#)

Published August 14, 2013

**The finish line for eradicating polio worldwide can seem like a weary marathoner's mirage.**

The distance traveled is immense: The disease is now endemic in only three countries around the globe—Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan—and its incidence has decreased by more than 99 percent from an estimated 350,000 cases in 1988. (Endemic is the term used to describe countries with an ongoing incidence of the disease.)

But we're not quite there yet, as this year's spring outbreaks in previously polio-free Somalia and Kenya reminded us. In addition, the discovery of sewage samples containing poliovirus in Israel has led to a countrywide campaign to offer oral polio vaccines to children between the ages of four months and nine years, as a precaution.

No cases have appeared in Israel. And the numbers of those affected in Somalia and Kenya are small—110 as of August 7—with 177 reported cases worldwide so far this year, according to data from the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#), an international group spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO). In April the group issued a [detailed strategic plan](#) to eliminate polio "for all time" by 2018. Fully funded, the comprehensive vaccination and monitoring and surveillance plan would cost about \$5.5 billion.

But in the meantime, this highly infectious nerve disease persists, potentially causing lifelong paralysis in the young children it most often targets.

Why has the end remained elusive, and what is being done to protect against future setbacks?

## Polio in Perspective

It's important to remember there is no cure for polio; it exists only in humans, and it can only be prevented by vaccination, points out Dr. Jay Wenger, director of the [polio eradication program](#) at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Put those factors together and it means that "to eradicate polio we essentially have to vaccinate enough children so that the poliovirus has no place to go," he says.

In the United States, effective vaccine campaigns have kept the population polio free since 1979. But as recently as the late 1940s and early 1950s—before the anti-polio vaccines were developed—the disease disabled approximately 35,000 people, many of them children, here each year.

By contrast, between 1988 and today, the number of polio-endemic countries has gone from 125 to just 3, and in 2012 only 223 cases were recorded worldwide.

Given that larger picture, "it's important to put the issue of setbacks into the context of the program and recognize that progress continues," says Dr. Hamid Jafari, director of the WHO's Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Or, as Dr. Wenger puts it: "These outbreaks highlight the importance of eliminating the virus" in the remaining endemic countries.

## Logistics, Logistics, Logistics

Vaccines are the answer. The challenge lies in identifying, locating, and then reaching people of all ages who have not yet been vaccinated. For example, highly mobile groups, such as Nigeria's nomadic livestock herders, may spread the disease as they travel from place to place. (According to the WHO, the polio strains affecting residents of the Horn of Africa originated in West Africa.)

At the same time, armed conflict, political unrest, and what Dr. Jafari calls "complex geopolitical situations" can make access by vaccine workers at times dangerous or difficult, if not impossible. Such conditions are present in parts of all three countries where polio still exists, making different pockets or areas insecure for efficient vaccine delivery at different times. Public health infrastructure can also be spotty, if it exists at all.

Because each area can present a distinct set of obstacles, detailed and tailored strategies need to be worked out for each situation, including partnerships with local authorities, community groups, traditional leaders, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), says Dr. Jafari. "Fundamental commitment to the program from the top of the government down to the local authorities" is needed if everyone is to be vaccinated.

## Resistance, Distrust, and Violence

Mistrust of outsiders is another major obstacle, brutally dramatized by the targeted killings of polio vaccine workers in [Nigeria](#) and [Pakistan](#) over the past year. In Pakistan's North and South Warzistan, the Taliban have banned vaccination since June 2012, leaving children without immunity and at high risk for the disease.

Dr. Jafari is stoic, but not despairing. "As long as there are authorities on the ground and mothers who want to protect their children," there is a way to make progress, he says. "That is why, despite the shootings, the people come out with their children to get them vaccinated ... and these brave men and women are going out in their communities to vaccinate" the children.

## Setbacks on the Radar

Against the backdrop of all these issues, the setbacks in Kenya and Somalia show how quickly and far poliovirus can travel, and demonstrate the importance of maintaining high immunity levels within populations and the need for strong surveillance to halt its spread.

According to Dr. Jafari, such setbacks will happen "as long as the virus is alive and people are moving with the virus, and it will spread as people move. And when it lands in places where immunization and sanitation are not in place, that is where the setbacks will take place."

The key is being prepared to deal with them, while continuing to move forward. "We're on track, and we'll deal with these outbreaks. They are not obstacles; they are part of the course."

## Meeting Details

Meeting held on Thursday,  
September 19<sup>th</sup> 2013.

Sgt-at-Arms: Alex McDonald

- Fines - \$215.00
- Raffle - \$95.00
- Attendance - 60%





Katalyst Creative (Barbados) Partners

Inc.

**Mark Stapleton delivered the club's guest speech on technology on September 19<sup>th</sup> 2013. His company is Katalyst Creative.**

#### Profile

We love helping our clients build, differentiate and improve the value of their brands. We exist to help clients grow their businesses.

Katalyst Creative (Barbados) Partners Inc. is a new-age creative agency with over 20 years of collective experience. We take a "sleeves rolled up" approach and apply the experience of working with local and international companies to give our clients the tools they'll need to build bigger and better brands. Whether it is branding, digital or strategy, we work hard to find ways of maximise our clients' potential. Our core focus is within: Branding, Digital, Strategy and Support

#### Branding

Brand Strategy, Maintenance & Visual Identity

#### Digital

Digital Strategy, Website Design, Mobile, Email Marketing, ePublishing, Social Media & Video

#### Integrated

Advertising & PR, Printed Collateral & Creative Support

Their office is located at Front Office, Grant House, Ameys Alley, Bay Street, St. Michael BB11157, Barbados, West Indies

Contact us at Tel: 246\_431-0739 or Email: [contact@katalystcreative.net](mailto:contact@katalystcreative.net)  
[www.katalystcreative.net](http://www.katalystcreative.net)

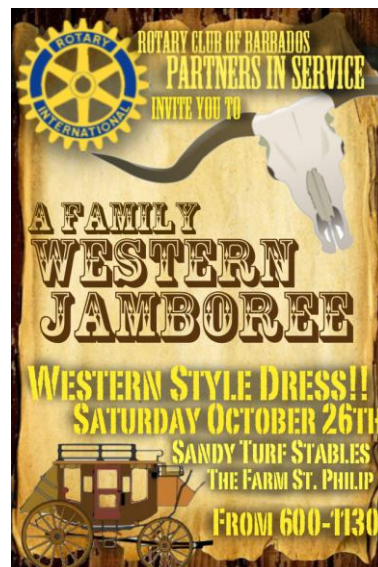
The International Coastal Cleanup Day was held  
Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> 2013.



Members turned out in their numbers.



A good time was had by all



## Upcoming Events

POW Awards  
26<sup>th</sup> – Fundraiser for cancer  
awareness Family Western  
Jamboree

## Greeters

Brian Cole  
Dr. Adrian Sealy

## Guests

Mark Stapleton, Guest speaker

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR NEW GENERATIONS MONTH (September 2013)

26<sup>th</sup> Lunch Meeting Guest speaker

## Visiting Rotarians

### ROTARY GRACE

O Lord and giver of all things good  
We thank Thee for our daily food  
May Rotary friends and Rotary ways  
Help us to serve Thee all our days.

## Announcements

### Wedding Anniversaries Congratulations!!

Clifford and Eileen Clarke  
Tracey and Anthony Lloyd  
William and Diane Highton

September 27  
October 01  
October 02

### Birthdays

#### Rotarians

Peter Hermant  
Donald Austin

September 30  
October 01

#### Partners in Service

Sheila Leacock (Algernon Leacock)

September 30

### Join Date Anniversaries

Wilbert Kirton  
Ronald Ramsay

September 30  
September 30



### R.I. Theme 2013-2014

Bulletin Editor  
Diana Douglin