

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHICAGO (May 1, 2013) — The Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research (FSR) is pleased to announce a generous gift from the Sarcoidosis Center in Memphis, Tennessee to establish the Dr. James and Dr. Sharma Fund in the memory of doctors Om P. Sharma and D. Geraint James, both prominent pioneers in the field of sarcoidosis who recently passed away. At the upcoming American Thoracic Society Conference in Philadelphia this May, FSR will be awarding three travel grants from the Fund to young investigators studying sarcoidosis. Moving forward, FSR's goal is to continue to grow the Dr. James and Dr. Sharma Fund for subsequent distributions on an annual basis.

"Drs James and Sharma were the most influential investigators and clinicians regarding the disease sarcoidosis in the recent history of medicine. For as long as I had known them, they were always very approachable and always in a teaching mode", states former president and founder of the Sarcoidosis Center in Memphis Dr. Norman Soskel "I wanted this donation to help perpetuate their memory."

Dr. David Geraint (Gerry) James: 1922-2010

Dr. James was the Founder President of the World Association of Sarcoidosis and Other Granulomatous disorders (WASOG) and Founder Chief Editor of Sarcoidosis Vasculitis and Diffuse Lung Diseases. He was appointed Consultant Physician to the Royal Northern Hospital in Holloway, North London, in 1959, and within months of his appointment, he started his Sarcoidosis Clinic, devoted to studying all aspects of the disease. He enjoined and encouraged clinicians, epidemiologists, pathologists, epidemiologists and radiologists to work together to find the cause of sarcoidosis. Dr. James wrote extensively on sarcoidosis, medical history, general medicine, and lung diseases. His actions led to the formation of WASOG in 1987, in Milan, Italy. Soon after, with personal financial backing of Gianfranco Rizzato, the journal Sarcoidosis, became the official voice of WASOG.

Dr. Om P. Sharma: 1936-2012

Dr. Sharma was a professor of Medicine at the University of Southern California School of Medicine and a sarcoidosis specialist. Dr. Sharma became interested in sarcoidosis during his chest medicine residency and cardio-pulmonary fellowship at Albert Einstein Medical College Hospital in New York, where he treated patients with the disease. He continued his work as a Proffit Research Scholar at the Royal College of Physicians in London, and joined USC in 1969, where he began a sarcoidosis clinic at the Los Angeles County/USC Medical Center. A prolific author, Dr. Sharma published over four hundred papers, two books on sarcoidosis and one book on general pulmonary disorders.

Dr. James and Dr. Sharma were close friends.

To learn more about FSR's innovative model for advancing sarcoidosis research as well as gain access to resources such as the **Physicians' Protocol Guide**, **Clinical Trial Finder**, and **SARC Patient Registry**, please visit our NEW website: www.stopsarcoidosis.org. To make a donation to the Dr. James and Dr. Sharma Fund, please call (877) 358-5477.

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