



Contacts: Cathy Levy, Board Vice President, Pedal with Pete Foundation, 614-506-8139; Ernie Larger, Board President, Pedal with Pete Foundation, 614-620-3600

Headline: Peter Zeidner received a prestigious humanitarian award at an international cerebral palsy medical conference

Dateline: Columbus & Kent, Ohio; & Emmetsburg, Iowa,
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On Saturday, October 13, Pete Zeidner, the founder of the Pedal with Pete Foundation, **received international recognition** when he was awarded the "**Cathleen Lyle Murray Award**" at the AACPD (American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine) Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Pete received the award for his vision and leadership in funding cerebral palsy (CP) research over the last 25 years—and in recognition of the untold of lives that have been improved as a result of his substantial contributions. Pete, a longtime cyclist with CP, lives in Kent, Ohio. In conjunction with family and an ever-expanding circle of friends, Pete established the Pedal with Pete Foundation (PwP) in 1993. He had a goal of raising a million dollars for CP research to give help and hope to the 17 million children and adults worldwide who live with the condition—a goal that was achieved in 2015. Pete describes his life journey in his 2016 memoir, *It Sucks to Be a Gimp: Pedaling to Freedom*. Eileen Fowler, PhD, of the Center for Cerebral Palsy at UCLA, writes of Pete that “his foundation has made a significant impact on CP research.”

At the Duke Energy Convention Center’s grand ballroom, Pete received his award in person, with family and friends in attendance. Hundreds of attendees, including the top researchers in the field and clinicians from around the world, gave Pete a standing ovation.

“It is with great privilege that a special award, the Cathleen Lyle Murry Award, is being presented to a special awardee, Pete Zeidner.”, stated the President of the AACPD, Jilda Vargus-Adams, MD, of the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, and she went on to explain that “the recipient is selected based on ‘*their impact on society through their humanitarian efforts to enhance the lives of persons with severe multiple disabilities.*’ ”

Previous grant recipients reached out to Pete: Dr. Michael Fu from Case Western University remarked, “I’m tremendously honored to be here to see Pete get this award and to congratulate Pete in person.”

Cathy Levy, VP of the Pedal with Pete Board, couldn't contain her excitement. "What a thrill for us as volunteers for the Pedal with Pete Foundation to see Pete Zeidner get this award. Over these years, thousands of people have been touched by his vision as we hosted cycling and walking events and requested donations to fund CP research. Everyone who works with Pete and others like him who have CP are inspired by their grit and determination. Pete stands out, though, because of his long-term, consistent focus on raising funds for CP research. Who better than Pete to get this humanitarian award for his work improving the quality of life for people like him? This is a great day, indeed!"

Mimi Singh, Chair of the grant selection committee for the PwP board reflected that "Pete has presided over a true transformation in the state of CP research. In the early years, PwP was extremely grateful to find a single researcher, the prestigious Dr. Leland Albright, who was doing ground-breaking research using the baclofen pump in treatment for people with CP. Over the last 5 years, the quality and quantity of grant requests have skyrocketed, and PwP yearly receives far more grant requests than we can possibly fund. The AACPDM and other grant professionals advise our committee so that we can make the best choices for funding CP research."

Board President Ernie Larger commented, "When we come to conferences like this, we receive tremendous gratitude from researchers all over the world. Thanks to the support of the PwP Family, including donors, event participants and volunteers, the Pedal with Pete Foundation is an internationally recognized funder of seed grants for cerebral palsy research. Seed grant funding is a scarce but critical part of the research process, and Pedal with Pete is a discerning, consistent funder for such grants in the CP research field worldwide."

Pete and the family, friends, caregivers and PwP board members at his side felt grateful to see Pete recognized for his life's work by medical professionals who themselves work so hard to help those living with CP. Pete's acceptance remarks, read by his caregiver Amanda Griffith, communicated how honored he felt and also how thankful he was for the hundreds of volunteers who had partnered with him to realize his dream.

Pedal with Pete Foundation is dedicated to raising funds for research leading to better prevention strategies, treatment protocols, or cures that improve the quality of life for people who live with cerebral palsy, their families, and caregivers. The Foundation's community of volunteers partner to fund cerebral palsy research through bike rides and walks and other fundraising in Kent and Columbus, Ohio, and Emmetsburg, Iowa, and we seek to start events in other areas. For more information, visit www.pedalwithpete.org.

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