



# OPEN FORUM

ROTARY 7620  
NEWSLETTER  
CENTRAL MD & DC



## November 2020

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## ROTARY DISTRICT 7620 PRESENTS WINNING EVENT FOR WORLD POLIO DAY

by Governor Jimmie Gorski

On October 24, the District 7620 End Polio Now committee provided an outstanding virtual event in honor of World Polio Day. Over 125 Rotarians, community leaders, and friends registered for the event, which included two distinguished speakers: Dr. Charles (Chuck) Davidson, the End Polio Now coordinator for Zone 33N, and Dr. Michel Zaffran, Director of Polio Eradication at the World Health Organization.

Past District Governor from District 7610, Dr. Davidson, is a fifty year Rotarian with perfect attendance. He has held numerous leadership positions at the district and zone levels, including Area Governor, District Trainer, District Rotary Foundation Chair, member and later Chair of the Zone Institute Executive Committee, and Zone 33 Assistant Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator.



At the international level, he served as a member of the Host Organizing Committee for the Atlanta RI Convention, Roundtable Discussion Facilitator for the Rotary Reunion International Institute at the New Orleans RI Convention, and member of the Council on Legislation.

Dr. Davidson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from The Citadel and a Ph. D. in Nuclear Chemistry from Florida State University. He spent forty-two years in government service, culminating as Director

of the US Army Nuclear and Chemical Agency.

Included among his many awards are the Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Rotary International's Service Above Self award.

He and his wife Nita reside in Springfield, Virginia, and have three sons and two grandsons.

Our second speaker, Dr. Michel Zaffran, is Director of Polio Eradication at the World Health Organization (WHO) and Chairman of the Strategy Committee of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative since 2016. He joined WHO in 1987 where he has held several positions including Coordinator of the Expanded Programme on Immunization and has led work on logistics, vaccine quality, and immunization financing. Also, Dr. Zaffran represented WHO on the group that designed and launched Gavi,



the Vaccine Alliance, and was Deputy Executive Secretary at Gavi during the period 2006-2007.

Dr. Zaffran is a French national born in Algeria.

He is an engineer and holds a certificate in Tropical Epidemiology. He has worked in Morocco, Burkina Faso, DRC, and Ethiopia for the Paris based Groupe de Recherche et d'Echanges Technologiques (GRET).

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