

UVU Rotaract hosts World Polio Day



UVU's Rotaract president, Yana Anderson moderates the event

UVU's World Polio Day event was a wonderful way to commemorate the initiative to eradicate polio and learn about UVU's involvement with the Rotary Club. We had the opportunity to hear from UVU's Rotaract president, Yana Anderson, as well as a couple Rotary Club members who shared their experiences administering the polio vaccine around the world.

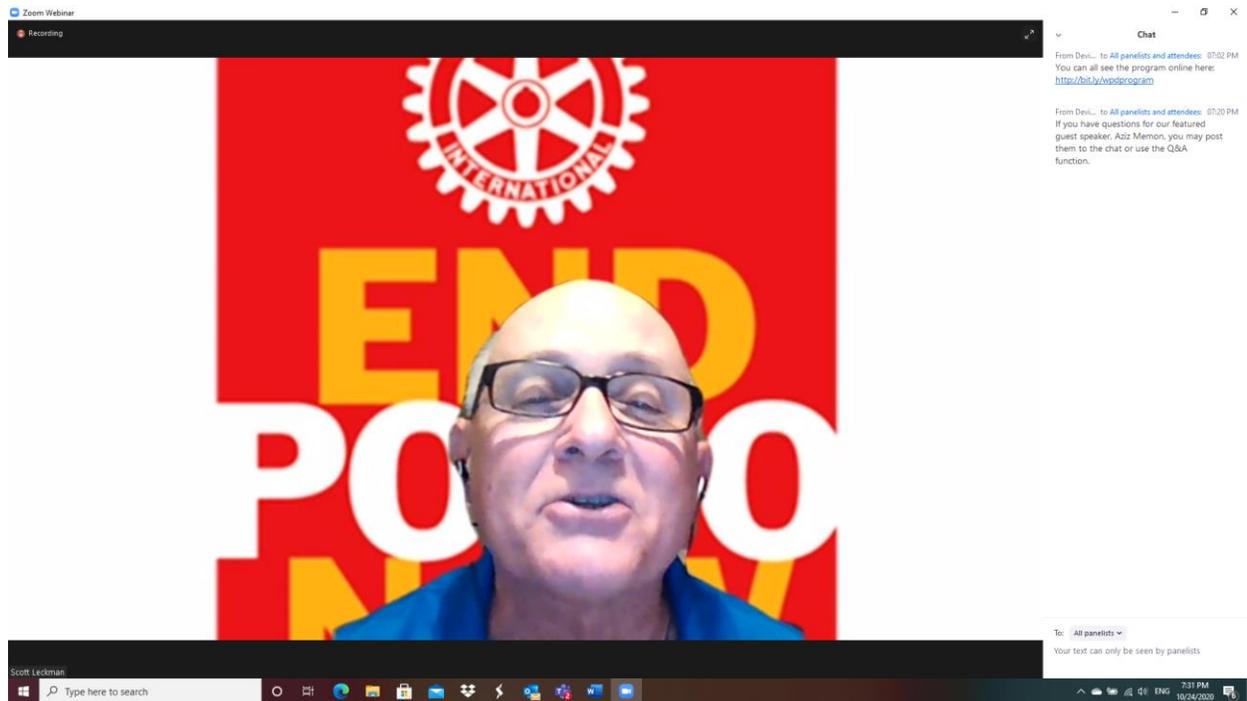


Dr. Lago, speaks about SDGs

The first guest speaker, Dr. Lago, began by discussing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3, which promotes the health and wellbeing for all. One of the targets for this sustainable development goal is to strengthen the capacity of countries for early warning, risk reduction, and managing a national or global health risk. This is also very relevant today as we try to deal with the COVID pandemic, and there is a lot we can learn from the efforts to end the spread of polio.

We also heard from Dr. Leckman, a member of the Rotary who shared his experience traveling to India to help administer the polio vaccine to children. He described the trip as starting a rally to advertise the vaccines then give the oral vaccine to as many people as they can. They typically visit the slums, where the people typically don't have access to medical attention. He discussed the various ways that the Rotary Club has helped work towards

eradicating polio around the world, including applying for grants, visiting developing countries, and educating the public.



Dr. Leckman speaks about Rotary International role in polio eradication

As of 2019 there are only three countries in the world who still have endemic polio, and as of two months ago the entire country of Africa was declared polio free, and the Rotary Club put in a lot of work to achieve this goal. I found Dr. Leckman's stories to be very inspiring, especially in our current climate. The Rotary Club's efforts to eradicate polio prove that if people work together and work hard, we can improve the health and wellbeing of people around the world. It is possible to eradicate a disease or a virus, no matter how widespread it might be.



The Orem Rotary Club president, Dean Robinson speaks at the event

The event was closed with word from the Orem Rotary Club president, Dean Robinson, who emphasized the importance of community and getting involved with service projects. The Rotary Club has vaccinated over 2.5 billion children, and they are close to finishing. Because of the service-oriented attitude of the club's members, and the willingness to go to different countries and help people, the Rotary Club has been able to work towards a global goal.

I learned a lot from this event, not only about the Rotary Club and eradicating polio, but also about what it takes to achieve a UN Sustainable Development Goal. It definitely isn't easy and can't be done overnight, but what we learned today is that these goals are attainable. We can see that through the work that the Rotary Club has done to eradicate a disease that used to cover the globe.

Sarah Michaelis, VP for Foreign Affairs club