

# Ocean Hyperbaric Neurologic Center Continues To Spread The Neubauer Philosophy In Italy

By Dr. Victoria Rodas, Pharm.D. & Dr. Luis G. Rodas, M.D. (Ecuador), PA-C

When Dr. Richard A. Neubauer opened his Hyperbaric Oxygen clinic in Lauderdale by the Sea, in 1972, he knew that he was going to face many challenges. The many children and adults that experienced positive, life-changing improvements, viewed him as a hero. The silent majority, especially those who had never heard of hyperbaric oxygen, viewed him with suspicion. Throughout his life, Dr. Neubauer faced his skeptics and continued to document the successful cases, continued to show the effectiveness of hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) in the management of wounds, infections and various central nervous system disorders.

Although Dr. Neubauer has now passed away, his legacy, the Ocean Hyperbaric Neurologic Center (OHNC), continues to receive daily phone calls, emails and letters calling on his expertise. Fortunately, his experience regarding HBOT is survived by his daughter, Virginia Neubauer, OHNC Research Director, who worked for many years alongside her father, helping him collect his patient outcomes and present his findings to the world. The Neubauer philosophy is also continued by the practitioners that worked with him on a daily basis, Drs. George Daviglus and Luis Rodas.

In addition to serving his patients, Dr. Neubauer also focused on educating his colleagues, his patients and their families about the benefits of HBOT. Many of his teaching journeys took him outside the country, where to this day, his influence is still felt. One of those countries is Italy.

The Italian healthcare system currently uses HBOT for the treatment of wounds, infections, monoxide poisoning and the "bends," the common uses for hyperbaric oxygen. The neurologic uses for HBOT are still not reimbursed by the Italian healthcare system, though benefits are recognized worldwide. Every year, dozens of Italian families flock to the Ocean Hyperbaric Neurologic Center, mostly at their own expense, looking for hope for their loved ones. They spend thousands of dollars on journeys to our country in order to have their child evaluated to see if HBOT is a viable option for their recovery. If their loved one qualifies as a proper HBOT candidate, they set about in obtaining the funds necessary for a treatment period stay in our country. In an effort to somehow assist these hundreds of families, the OHNC organized a trip to

Italy last January, 2009. We would be meeting with families and other healthcare experts to explain the benefits of HBOT, the possible indications for which HBOT may prove helpful and the factors that allow a person to be considered eligible to receive HBOT.

The journey took two weeks. From January 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Luis Rodas met with families, healthcare professionals and local authorities in Milan, Jessolo and Venice. Our visit to the area was reported to the Italian public via television and newspaper. Hundreds of current and past patients were there to give their thanks also, as we had "saved them a trip" for the information. From February 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup>, Dr. George Daviglus attended to the public's needs in Rome, Naples and Salerno, in addition to presenting at the 1<sup>st</sup> AISO International Convention in which the local authorities were also present. The overwhelming need for government assistance and support in providing HBOT services to the community was underlined and stressed.

The trip was arduous but our rewards were immense as much information and assistance was given to the Italian community. This is the true legacy left by Dr. Neubauer, to spread the "HBOT word." His now famous words ring true: ***"The positive power of the use of hyperbaric oxygenation is really a modification of God's gift to man—oxygen, the basis of life."***

Since 1972, the **Ocean Hyperbaric Neurologic Center** strives to maintain the "Dr. Neubauer philosophy" along with his insatiable desire and drive to improve the life of his patients and their families.

Research Director, **Ginger Neubauer** is devoted to continuing her father's holistic approach to medicine and pioneering spirit that was driven towards aiding the thousands of patients affected by the multiplicity of neurologic damaging conditions. **Dr. Victoria Rodas**, Clinical Coordinator, serves along with **Dr. Luis G. Rodas**, a medical doctor from Ecuador who practiced several years as a U.S. Physician Assistant to the late Dr. Richard Neubauer, now practicing under the supervision of Dr. George Daviglus, the OHNC Medical Director.

Ocean Hyperbaric Neurologic Center is located at **4001 Ocean Drive, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, FL 33308**. For an appointment, call **954-771-4000, 1-800-552-0255** or go to their website: [www.oceanhbo.com](http://www.oceanhbo.com) or [www.drneubauerhbo.com](http://www.drneubauerhbo.com)



**Richard A.  
Neubauer, M.D.**