

BECAUSE YOU NEED TO...

# TALK MUIR

Passy-Muir® News, Events and Education

Passy-Muir, Inc. | Summer 2011

All about Home Ventilators  
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New Passy-Muir Product  
Making a Documentary

Jack and Jo Anne Rushton  
with two of their grandchildren

## Home Care Issue

*Passy-Muir Inc.*  
Tracheostomy & Ventilator  
Swallowing and Speaking Valves



## Home Care Issue

Thanks to the wonderful advances in technology, many tracheostomized and ventilator patients live and thrive in their homes. We often receive calls and emails from both patients and home healthcare providers with questions, comments, and stories about the Passy-Muir® Valve. In this issue we discuss some of the advances in home ventilator technology, answer common questions about Passy-Muir Valve use in the home, share excellent homecare resources and organizations and feature homecare patient stories, including Jack Rushton, who has used a home care ventilator and Passy-Muir Valve for 21 years!

## Did you KNOW?

The Passy-Muir Valve was invented by a homecare patient named David Muir in 1985.



## Home Ventilation Then and Now

By Mike Harrell, BS, RRT, Director of Clinical Education-Respiratory, Passy-Muir, Inc.  
Linda Dean, RRT, Clinical Specialist, Passy-Muir, Inc.

Home mechanical ventilation began in the mid 20th century. During the polio epidemic in the 1950's, a person who needed mechanical support for breathing would be placed in an iron lung. This made trips to the store impossible! Mechanical ventilation back in those days meant immobility and hardship.

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*Current estimates say that approximately ten thousand people in the United States receive invasive home mechanical ventilation.*

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Mid century iron lung  
Image courtesy of  
World Health Organization

Current estimates say that approximately ten thousand people in the United States receive invasive home mechanical ventilation. Modern home ventilators now use computer technology, light-weight materials, and smaller batteries with longer life to give unprecedented freedom of mobility to this growing number of patients.

In addition to mobility, communication is essential to independence for homecare patients. Modern home ventilators allow for easy in-line use of the Passy-Muir Valve. Simple adjustments can be made to accommodate for the leak created when the cuff is deflated. Eliminating volume alarms and setting pressure alarms will allow for safe monitoring of the patient.

Thanks to modern micro-processing technology, and the Passy-Muir® Valve, communication and personal freedom for individuals requiring home ventilator support is greater now than ever. What will the future hold?





## Home Care Ventilators

Here is a quick look at a few of the commonly used modern home ventilators:



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### LTV 1150 by Care Fusion

Weighing 14.5 pounds, it serves infants through adults. The 5 hour battery can be extended with an external battery adding 3 hours of operation. It is airline approved.



### HT-70 by Newport

Weighing 15 pounds, this ventilator can be used for infants through adults, and has all ventilation options. The 10 hour battery is easily changeable. It is airline approved.



### Puritan-Bennett 540 by Covidien

The 540 offers an 11 hour battery, and 12 volt car adaptors, thus increasing its portability. It can serve children through adults, and weighs only 9.9 pounds.



### Trilogy 200 by Respironics

The Trilogy Two series ventilators weigh 11.5 pounds, and can be used for both children and adults. Battery use is for three hours with internal battery. The external battery adds three additional hours. A 12 volt car adaptor can be used to power the unit, and it is airline approved.

Some homecare ventilators, for example the Trilogy 200 and the HT-70, have a special feature that allows for multiple pre-set modes to be saved. Users can simply toggle between the two or more pre-set modes with a press of a button. This is especially convenient for those who use the Passy-Muir® Valve. For example, once the clinician makes the initial adjustments to the multiple mode settings, the patient can easily switch between a setting for ventilation with the cuff inflated for sleeping, to a setting for ventilation with the cuff deflated and use of the Passy-Muir Valve during the day.

For more information about ventilator options, features and specifications, contact the ventilator manufacturers. Additional information can be found at the **IVUN Home Ventilator Guide** at [www.ventusers.org/edu/HomeVentGuide.pdf](http://www.ventusers.org/edu/HomeVentGuide.pdf).



# TALKMUIR

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## Book Review

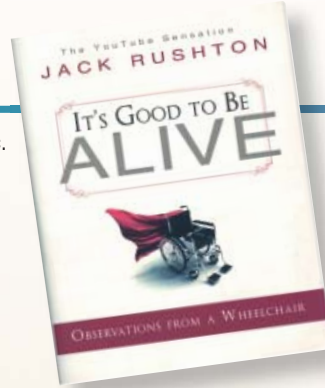
By Gail M. Sudderth, RRT, Clinical Specialist, Passy-Muir, Inc.

### It's Good to Be Alive

*Observations from a Wheelchair*

Jack Rushton

Bonneville Books ©2010



In 1989, Jack Rushton's life changed forever in an instant on a beach outing with his family. Now a quadriplegic and completely dependent on a ventilator to breath and others to care for him, "Dad/Grandpa/Jack" shares his life in this book, through a collection of writings that were originally sent as emails to family and friends throughout the years.

It's Good to Be Alive is filled with snapshots into his life before and after the accident, including medical and technological challenges and triumphs. However, what becomes apparent is that Jack Rushton is not dwelling on what he does not have, but what he does have and that it has been his faith, family, and friends that have sustained him.

These observations include humorously described visits to Wal-Mart, a car wash, doctor appointments and Taco Bell with his wife Jo Anne. But, you will learn that it took several years for Jack Rushton to reach his place of "enduring well." He tells wonderful stories of countless friends who have helped him along the way, and many people who influenced his life before and after the accident. He tries to teach us not to dwell in the past, but to enjoy the present and appreciate life's precious moments as they come.

While the purpose of this book may be to inspire others who find themselves in similar life-changing situations, it seems also to be a tribute to his wife Jo Anne of 47 years, who he calls his "straight man." Even though he sometimes pokes fun at her for making him wear outfits, or for her driving abilities, you get to know her as a woman of incredible strength, energy and "unwearingness." Readers will come to admire her and find themselves asking where her spirit of "pure gold and true grit" comes from. In the concluding chapter, written by Jo Anne, she provides the answer.

Jack Rushton, surrounded by his six children and 18 grandchildren, enjoys his life in Southern California and continues to teach and inspire others through his speeches and writing.

To order your copy of this book and to watch a video trailer, visit:

[www.itsgoodtobealivebook.com](http://www.itsgoodtobealivebook.com)

To contact Jack, visit [www.jackrushton.com](http://www.jackrushton.com)



Author, Jack Rushton with wife Jo Anne

### **Excerpt:**

*"As I lay there, unable to speak or move any part of my body while air was hand pumped into my lungs, another nurse who had spent a great deal of time caring for me looked at Jo Anne and said, 'Mrs. Rushton, your husband is a lucky man.' As Jo Anne looked at her in disbelief, she continued, 'You don't understand what I'm saying just now, but your husband is a lucky man because he will get to experience a part of life that very few do, and he will be a better man because of it.'*



## Organization Spotlight



### IVUN International Ventilator Users Network

An affiliate of Post-Polio Health International (PHI)

Established in 1986, **International Ventilator Users Network (IVUN)** meets the information needs of polio survivors experiencing new respiratory problems and chronicles long-term ventilator use in people with other neuromuscular conditions, such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), congenital central hypoventilation syndrome (CCHS), and spinal cord injury (SCI).

IVUN effectively uses its website, [ventusers.org](http://www.ventusers.org), to educate, advocate, network and promote research among users of home mechanical ventilation, health professionals who treat them and the manufacturers and companies who provide related equipment and service. The website is often called a goldmine of resources and information. The following are just some of the valuable resources available for download:

- **Resource Directory for Ventilator-Assisted Living**  
<http://www.ventusers.org/net/vdirhm.html>

This directory includes listings of health professionals, respiratory home care companies/DMEs, in-home care agencies, ventilator user lists, ventilator equipment and aids, manufacturers' addresses, organizations, associations and foundations, facilities with long-term ventilator units and congregate homes for long-term ventilator users.

- **IVUN's Home Ventilator Guide**  
<http://www.ventusers.org/edu/HomeVentGuide.pdf>

This guide presents a comparison of the technical specifications of ventilators for home use currently on the market. These include bilevel units, volume and pressure support/control ventilators, and multimode ventilators.

- **Take Charge, Not Chances**  
<http://www.ventusers.org/vume/index.html>

A document, developed in response to negative hospital experiences of users of home mechanical ventilation. It contains four sections that assist ventilator users and their caregivers in collecting information to better prepare for hospitalization.



#### Other important facts about IVUN:

- IVUN disseminates information bi-monthly in its newsletter, *Ventilator-Assisted Living*:  
<http://www.ventusers.org/edu/valnews/index.html>.
- IVUN advocates for users of mechanical ventilation by writing letters on behalf of its members and by educating the professional and consumer communities about issues that affect ventilator users.
- IVUN, as part of Post-Polio Health International, offers a research grant every other year. The next call for proposals will be in the fall of 2011. For grant requirements, go to <http://www.ventusers.org/res/index.html>.
- IVUN receives numerous requests from individuals who have a family member in the hospital on a ventilator. The Network strives to meet the challenge to improve the information gap for families struggling to understand the options available to them when their family member is ready to be discharged, whether to a rehabilitation facility, to home, or to a nursing facility.

IVUN asks ventilator users, health professionals and groups with expertise to provide information that would assist ventilator users in living more independently to connect with the Network at [info@ventusers.org](mailto:info@ventusers.org).

**IVUN**  
International Ventilator Users Network  
An affiliate of Post-Polio Health International (PHI)

Visit  
[ventusers.org](http://www.ventusers.org)  
314-534-0475







## Reach for the Finish Line!

By Julie Kobak, MA, CCC-SLP, Vice President of Clinical Education, Passy-Muir, Inc.

Jessica Leahy is an 8 year old with Mobius Syndrome and central respiratory dysfunction which necessitates a tracheostomy tube and night-time ventilation. Jessica's disabilities do not stop her from living a full and active life. She loves school and ballet and for the past two years has participated in The Katie Lynch Purple Shoes Challenge.



To learn more or sponsor this wonderful foundation and event, visit:  
[www.purpleshoeschallenge.com](http://www.purpleshoeschallenge.com)

The Purple Shoes Challenge welcomes athletes of all ages with physical and/or sensory limitations to set performance goals, train vigorously, and challenge themselves to wheel, walk or run their personal best marathon. This event is organized by the Katie Lynch Foundation whose mission is to fund programs that promote opportunities and respect for people with disabilities thereby welcoming all to lead active, fulfilling lives.

Jessica's mother, Julie Leahy said, "I wanted Jessica to enjoy exercise and work towards a goal." Jessica's personal goal was to walk 1.3 miles. She trained for two months prior to the event by walking to or from school. On May 15, Jessica reached her goal and walked the full 1.3 miles in a little over one hour! She was sore and tired the next day but her mother said, "Even though the event is over, she hasn't stopped walking and continues to reach further towards her next goal!"



Jessica Leahy receiving her award

## Update on TrachCare

In the last issue of our newsletter, we featured the wonderful organization TrachCare. On May 1st, TrachCare held their annual spring outing at the Museum of Science in Boston, MA. They had the largest turnout ever with 13 families attending, totalling 65 people. The group looked great in t-shirts designed for their organization and sponsored by Passy-Muir, Inc. The next family outing will be in September at the Davis Farmland in Sterling MA. For more details, visit:

[www.trachcare.org](http://www.trachcare.org)



TrachCare annual meeting in Boston, MA



## Ask the Clinical Specialist

By Mike Harrell, RRT, Director of Clinical Education - Respiratory, Passy-Muir, Inc.

*The following questions are commonly received from homecare patients and healthcare providers.*

### 1. How do I obtain Passy-Muir® Valves once I'm home from the hospital?

The Passy-Muir® Valves and PMA® Oxygen Adaptor are prescription devices and therefore cannot be purchased directly by a patient.

Most patients purchase their other tracheostomy supplies from a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) company. The simplest method to obtain the Passy-Muir Valve is to provide the physician's prescription for the Passy-Muir Valve to the DME. These companies usually have the valve in stock. If they do not, then the company can order the valve directly from Passy-Muir, Inc. Some pharmacies also provide this service.

It is recommended that the physician write the prescription for two Passy-Muir Valves initially in order to have a back-up valve.

### 2. What is the billing code for the Passy-Muir® Valve?

The HCPCS billing code for all of the Passy-Muir® Valves is L8501. This code is now universal, used by all Medicare and Medicaid programs.

### 3. Will I still be able to use the Passy-Muir® Valve if my doctor changes my tracheostomy tube to a metal one?

The type and size of the metal tracheostomy tube is important to ensure continued use of the Passy-Muir® Valve. There is a difference between the "improved" and "original" style metal Jackson tracheostomy tubes.

The "improved" Jackson has a low serrated ridge at the exterior end of the inner cannula. This inner cannula does not have a 15mm connection. The PMV® 2020 (clear) was designed to connect to the improved metal Jackson tube through the use of the PMA® 2020-S Adapter which is packaged with valve.

PMV® 2020 (clear) and PMA® 2020-S Adapter



**Improved  
Jackson metal  
tracheostomy tube  
with PMV® 2020**



**Original  
Jackson metal  
tracheostomy tube  
with 15mm hub  
and PMV® 2000**

It is important to note that the PMV 2020 fits only sizes 4, 5 and 6 of the improved Jackson metal tube. Therefore, if a patient requires a tube size 7 or larger, the best option is to order an "original" Jackson metal tube **with** an inner cannula that has a 15mm hub. Then the PMV® 2000 or PMV® 2001 can be used with this tube without the need for an adaptor.

### 4. How do I clean the Passy-Muir Valve?

Improper cleaning is the most frequent cause of valve problems, such as extraneous noise. The Passy-Muir Valve and accessories should be cleaned daily after wearing by following these instructions:

- Swish valve in warm soapy water (not hot water)
- Rinse valve very thoroughly in warm running water
- Allow valve to air dry thoroughly before placing in storage container. Do not apply heat to dry the valve.
- DO NOT use hot water, peroxide, bleach, vinegar, alcohol, brushes or cotton swabs to clean the valve.

It is best to use a pure soap. However, soaps often have added fragrances, hand softening agents, and alcohol, which make it difficult to find a pure soap. Passy-Muir has produced a 30 day supply of easy to use cleaning tablets (see back cover).





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## Passy-Muir, Inc. Films Documentary

By Julie Kobak, MA, CCC-SLP, Vice President of Clinical Education, Passy-Muir, Inc.

On April 10th, Passy-Muir, Inc. joined the production company, World Progress Report on location to make a documentary on the Passy-Muir® Valve. The nine minute video highlights the story of how David Muir's invention has changed the lives of tracheostomized and ventilator dependent patients of all ages for over 25 years. The physicians and therapists from Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska were chosen for the filming of this documentary as they have experienced first-hand the numerous clinical benefits that the Passy-Muir Valve offers their patients. The hospital graciously opened its doors to the cameras in order to capture the clinicians and patients using the Passy-Muir Valve at the bedside and in therapy. These images, along with the staff and patient interviews, give testimony to why the Passy-Muir Valve has become the standard of care for not only Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital but for facilities across the world.



Filming in a patient's room at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital



Interviewing Cristi Starling, mother of Justin, a 4-year old child with a tracheostomy



The World Progress Report film crew



Watch the World Progress Report video by scanning this QR code or go to:  
[www.passy-muir.com/wprvideo.aspx](http://www.passy-muir.com/wprvideo.aspx)

The Passy-Muir® Valve  
*has become the standard of care for not only Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, but for facilities across the world.*



PMV® 007 (Aqua Color™)



# SUMMER 2011



## Calendar of Events

### July

- 29 Georgia Society for Respiratory Care Conference – Presentation

### September

- 11 American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Annual Meeting – Exhibit  
11 Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Nurses Conference – Exhibit  
18 Therapeutic Services, Inc. Conference – St. John's University, New York, NY – Exhibit  
21 Massachusetts Society for Respiratory Care Conference – Presentation/Exhibit  
24 Blake Medical Center, Florida – Seminar

### October

- 4 Michigan Society for Respiratory Care Conference – Presentation  
6 East Texas Respiratory Symposium – Presentation  
6 Iowa Speech-Language Hearing Association Conference – Presentation  
6 National Association of Long Term Hospitals – Exhibit  
8 Intermountain Speech and Hearing Conference – Presentation  
13 Washington Speech and Hearing Association Conference – Presentation  
28 West Tennessee Chapter Society for Respiratory Care Conference – Presentation  
29 Weisman Children's Rehabilitation Hospital, New Jersey – Seminar

### November

- 5 American Association for Respiratory Care- Annual Convention  
17 American Speech-Language and Hearing Association – Annual Convention



PMV® 2001  
(Purple Color™)

*Passy-Muir Inc.*

Tracheostomy & Ventilator  
Swallowing and Speaking Valves

PMB 273, 4521 Campus Drive  
Irvine, CA 92612



David Muir  
Inventor

BECAUSE YOU NEED TO...  
**TALK & MUIR**

Talk-Muir is published by Passy-Muir, Inc. for tracheostomy and ventilator-dependent patients, their caregivers and medical professionals in an effort to provide:

- ✿ Interesting news and stories
- ✿ Resources and clinical tips
- ✿ Information about new educational opportunities
- ✿ Upcoming events and more

Story contributions and comments are welcome.

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**NEW  
Product**

***Available this Fall***

## Passy-Muir Cleaning Tablets

The New Cleaning Tablets are made from a detergent used for other medical supplies because it leaves no residue as do some commercially available soaps.

- 30 Tablets
- Biodegradable
- Leaves No Residue
- Convenient Size

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Tracheostomy & Ventilator  
Swallowing and Speaking Valves

