

WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH PROGRAM

Scientific-Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

18 September 2019
Jacob Javits Federal Building
New York, New York

Good Morning, and welcome to the 11th meeting of the **Scientific Technical Advisory Committee** for the World Trade Center Health Program. I want to thank each of you for taking time from your very busy schedules to participate as a member of the Committee and to offer your views about the issues the Program offers to the Committee. I especially want to welcome five new members of the Committee: Dr. Thomas Dydek, Mr. John Martell, Dr. Nicholas Newman, Dr. Robin Sassman, and Dr. Leigh Wilson. Welcome to the Committee!

Today I can report that the Program is doing well. As of the end of August of 2019, the Program has a total of 98,797 members. We have 76,502 responders and 22,295 survivor members. Of the total of 76,502 responders, 19,934 are new responders that have been enrolled since enactment of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010.

The Zadroga Act requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to notify Congress when the Program has enrolled 80% of the statutory maximum of 25,000 new responders. As of the beginning of September, the Program has enrolled 20,000 new responders, triggering the Secretarial notification requirement. The Secretary's letter to the Congress was sent on 4 September 2019 and you have a copy in your Committee materials.

For our meeting today, I seek your views in three specific areas.

First, Dr. Travis Kubale will present an overview of the research activities of the WTC Health Program. He will provide a summary of key research findings, as well as current research activities and available resources. I welcome your ideas on the Program's future research emphasis to maximize the impact of this research for our Program members.

Second, Dr. Carreón-Valencia will present the "Inventory of 9/11 Agents" for your awareness. If you have comments about the scope or organization of the Inventory, those comments are welcome.

Third, Jessica Bilics will update the Committee on some minor revisions to the *Policy and Procedures for Adding Non-Cancer Conditions*. The Committee completed a thorough review of the *Policy and Procedures* in 2016. In 2018, the Committee reviewed previous revisions. Today, I welcome your views about the few minor revisions to this particular *Policy and Procedures* that Jessica will present.

Thank you again for service on the Committee and have a good meeting.

John Howard, M.D.
Administrator, World Trade Center Program