

# Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee World Trade Center Health Program

14 February 2014  
Conference Call and Live Meeting

## Charge to the Committee

Good morning, Advisory Committee members, and good morning to responders, survivors and members of the public. Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program's Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee. I want to thank each Committee member for serving on the Advisory Committee. Your time and your advice to the WTC Health Program are greatly appreciated.

The Advisory Committee has an important role to play in the WTC Health Program. The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 ("Act") specifies three general areas of contributions of the Advisory Committee to the Program. First, the Act *requires* the Administrator to consult the Advisory Committee with regard to determining eligibility criteria for responder and survivor membership in the Program. Second, the Act provides that the Administrator *may* seek a recommendation from the Advisory Committee regarding whether a particular health condition should be added to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions ("List"). Third, the Act *requires* the Administrator to consult with the Advisory Committee with regard to identifying research needs for the Program.

It is this third area—consulting the Advisory Committee with regard to identifying the research needs of the WTC Health Program—that I asked you to meet today.

Each year since 2011, NIOSH has solicited applications for scientifically rigorous research studies to help answer critical questions about the physical and mental health conditions related to the September 2001 terrorist attacks. From 2011 through 2013, 79 research proposals were reviewed and 25 (32%) meritorious projects (including renewal of the WTC Health Registry) have been funded.

The charge that I would respectfully give to the Advisory Committee today is to:

- (1) Identify critical research knowledge gaps relative to *our understanding of the effects of exposure to airborne toxins, any other hazard or any other adverse condition resulting from the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks*;
- (2) Identify critical research knowledge gaps relative to the *accurate diagnosis of WTC-related health conditions*;
- (3) Identify critical research knowledge gaps relative to the *effective treatment of WTC-related health conditions*; and, most importantly;
- (4) Provide advice on the *priority ordering* of the critical research needs identified by the Advisory Committee.

Thank you, again, for participating in the meeting today.

John Howard, M.D.  
Administrator, WTC Health Program