

World Trade Center Health Program Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee

September 28-29, 2021

Administrator's Charge to the Committee

Good Morning and welcome to the 12th 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 in the Committee and to offer your advice about the charge to the Committee but before I get into that I wanted to give a warm welcome to our six returning members and a special welcome to our ten new members.

2021 marks the 20th Anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks in New York City, Arlington, Virginia, and near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

2021 also marks the 10th Anniversary of the WTC Health Program. As of September 26th, the Program has a total of **114,127** members. We have **82,289** responders and 31,838 survivor members.

9/11 health research continues to advance our understanding of the effects of 9/11 exposures on Responders and Survivors. Dr. Travis Kubale will present an overview of the Program's research activities over the past 10 years.

I welcome the Committee's views about the Program's research directions.

In addition, I seek the Committee's views in another specific area.

As you are aware, the WTC Health Program currently covers all major types of cancer, except for uterine cancer. I welcome the Committee's evaluation and recommendation on whether there is *a reasonable scientific basis* to support adding uterine cancer to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions.

To prepare you for the Committee's deliberations, Jessica Bilics will present an overview of the *Policy and Procedures for Adding Cancer Conditions*. This particular *Policy and Procedures* governs the Administrator's evaluation of evidence supporting the potential addition of a type of cancer to the List of covered conditions by the WTC Health Program.

Dr. Geoff Calvert will present a summary of the White Paper entitled "Scientific Considerations for Potential Addition of Uterine Cancer to the List of Covered Conditions by the World Trade Center Health Program" that you received ahead of the meeting. This White Paper presents the scientific considerations regarding uterine cancer identified by the WTC Health Program Science Team. It also provides information on mechanisms of carcinogenicity for your deliberations.

Should the Committee deliberations result in a recommendation to add uterine cancer to the List of covered conditions, I encourage you to supply any additional scientific evidence not presented to you by the Program that may also serve as a *reasonable scientific basis* for your recommendation.

Upon receiving your recommendation, I will evaluate the Committee's advice and will take action not later than 90 days after receiving it.

If I decide to propose adding the health condition to the List, I will publish a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in the *Federal Register* and solicit public comments on the rulemaking. In addition, prior to issuing any final rule to add uterine cancer to the List, I will request an independent peer review from three subject-matter experts of the scientific and technical evidence that would be the basis for issuing such a final rule. I welcome your suggestions regarding subject-matter experts well-suited to provide potential peer-review.

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

John Howard, M.D.
Administrator