

World Trade Center Health Program Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee

November 18, 2021

Administrator's Opening Remarks

Good Morning and welcome to the 13th meeting of the **Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee** for the World Trade Center Health Program. I want, once again, to thank for your time and your advice to the World Trade Center Health Program.

As you remember, in the previous meeting you were charged to provide an evaluation and recommendation on whether there is *a reasonable scientific basis* to support adding uterine cancer to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions. A workgroup of the Committee has developed a draft recommendation and I am looking forward to your deliberations. I want to thank the members of the workgroup: Liz Ward, Sophie Balk, Michael Larrañaga, Nick Newman and Robin Sassman, for taking the lead and developing the draft recommendation.

Before hearing from the workgroup, Jessica Bilics will present an overview of a revision to the *Policy and Procedures for Adding Cancer Conditions*. The changes to this *Policy and Procedures* clarify the role of the WTC Health Program in the application of Methods 1-3 versus the role of the STAC in Method 4, the Review of Information by the STAC.

As I mentioned at our last meeting, 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.

Finally, I want to thank those members that will complete their terms after today's meeting: Thomas Dydek, Catherine McVay Hughes, Nick Newman, Robin Sassman, and Leigh Wilson. Thank you for your service to the Committee and to the members of the World Trade Center Health Program. You have all of our gratitude.

Thank you and have a good meeting.

John Howard, M.D.
Administrator