



The 9/11 Neediest Medical Campaign Comes to an End in 2009

A support program that has provided medical coverage for WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program responders with serious illnesses not related to their World Trade Center work is coming to an end.

The 9/11 Neediest Medical Campaign has made it possible for patients without any health insurance to receive awards toward treatment or medication for life-threatening illnesses not covered by their participation in the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program. The campaign was created specifically to address a significant gap in available medical resources for a great number of 9/11 responders. The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund and other generous donors made the campaign possible with a donation of over \$2 million.

“We feel privileged to have been able to help the responders in our program access an incredible life-saving benefit,” said Dr. Jacqueline Moline, Director of the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program, Clinical Center at Mount Sinai. “We are supremely grateful to the New York Times and other funders for this chance to have helped so many of our patients. We only wish the program did not have to end, as the need for care remains.” In operation since March 2007, the campaign has benefited over 250 responders throughout the New York and New Jersey area, with awards available to participants enrolled in each of the partner Clinical Centers that make up the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program.

The campaign has provided medical services for a range of illnesses, such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, thyroid disorders, spine disease, and other conditions, and provided funds for necessary surgical procedures. Patients have also been connected with benefits coordination in order to receive vital community services, so that a plan for long-term recovery can be put into place. The assistance is not a cash award, but part of an integrated effort to improve the patient’s health.

Although the campaign is no longer accepting new applications, patients who have already been accepted into

the program are still eligible to receive care through 2009. For any follow-up questions or information, you should call the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program at 212-241-6307 and leave a message that includes a telephone number. The call will be returned within 48 hours.

Despite the ending of the 9/11 Neediest Medical Campaign, patients with medical needs not related to their WTC work as responders are still encouraged to speak with the social work staff of the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program about services that might be available to them.

A Note from the NYU/ Bellevue Clinical Center

THE STAFF OF THE BELLEVUE/NYU World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program would like to thank all of our participants for choosing our program. Given your hectic schedule with work, family and social events, we realize it is often difficult to keep your appointments. Our staff will continue to work with you to ensure that you will receive timely and convenient appointments.

Since our program began in 2002, we have grown considerably to a staff of three part-time medical doctors, a fulltime social worker, part-time psychologist, part-time nurse, clinical coordinator and multiple administrative personnel. Dr. Susan Richman specializes in Occupational and Internal Medicine; Dr. Nishay Chitkara specializes in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine; and Dr. Denise Harrison specializes in Pulmonary, Occupational and Internal Medicine. Our psychologist, Dr. Peter Haugen, has an interest in post traumatic stress disorder and is highly dedicated to meeting the mental health needs of 9-11 workers and volunteers. Our social

(Continued on page 2)

WTC Workers' Compensation Registration Deadline Extended

New deadline is September 11, 2010

IN AUGUST, Governor David Paterson signed a bill into law that allows workers and volunteers more time to ensure their right to file a 9/11-related Workers' Compensation claim in the future.

As a worker or volunteer exposed to hazards on or after September 11, 2001, you can file for Workers' Compensation if you become sick in the future. *But to qualify, you must register by filling out a WTC-12 form. Registration forms must be received by the Workers' Compensation Board before September 11, 2010.*

Register now if you did rescue, recovery or cleanup work, either as a volunteer or for pay, between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 12, 2002, in any of the following locations:

- ☞ anywhere in Manhattan south of Canal or Pike Streets, or

- ☞ on the barge operation between Lower Manhattan and Staten Island, or
- ☞ at the Staten Island landfill, or
- ☞ the New York City morgue.

Register now, even if you have not gotten sick, or if you have already filed a Workers' Compensation claim. This will allow you to apply for Workers' Compensation for any WTC-related illnesses that may come up later in your life. *If you fail to register before the deadline, you will lose the right to file future Workers' Compensation claims for 9/11-related illness.*

For more information on how to register your WTC-12 form, call your WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program clinic, or 888-702-0630. You can also visit our website to download the form at www.wtcexams.org.

A note

(Continued from page 1)

worker, Ms. Trace Rosel, is also trained in psychotherapy and also assists with workers compensation and other 9-11 related services.

As you are indeed "heroes", we know it is often difficult to deal with the symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder, depression, respiratory and gastrointestinal symptoms. We hope we have been of service to you and that you continue to come in for follow up as we try to fully understand the health effects of your WTC exposures. Our treatment program staff will try as much as possible to meet your future health care needs.

Recent evidence suggests that disasters both natural and manmade are becoming more frequent. We believe that lessons learned from disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, Tsunami and the September 11th tragedy will provide the medical community with improved methods of dealing with the immediate and long term health effects of these disasters.

Over the last 5 years we have come to know a lot of you. In addition to the usual life challenges, you have the added burden of dealing with both the real and potential health effects of the WTC exposures.

We are here for you and are dedicated to meeting your WTC health care needs.

For Information & Registration for the WTC Medical Monitoring & Treatment Program

1-888-702-0630 (Toll Free)

Website: <http://www.WTCexams.org>

Other Clinical Centers:

Mt. Sinai

Queens College Center

Long Island—Nassau Center

Long Island—Suffolk Center

New Jersey UMDNJ Center

Various National Centers

Did you change your address or telephone number?

Do you have a comment for us?

Is it time for your next visit, but you have not heard from us?

Please feel free to contact us at our NYU/Bellevue address via mail and/or telephone.

462 First Avenue at 27th Street, New York, NY 10016

Tel: 212-562-4572 Fax: 212-562-4574

Website Address:

<http://www.med.nyu.edu/environmental/bnoemc/index.html>