



HEALTH WATCH

The Queens Clinical Center, City University of New York

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.

Meet Our Doctors and Nurses

IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING regular monitoring exams, The Queens Clinical Center is now offering treatment for eligible participants in our program. We have expanded our clinical team in order to provide you with the most comprehensive care, and would like to introduce them to you:

- **Dr. Steven Markowitz**, is board certified in both Internal and Occupational Medicine. He is the Principal Investigator for the Queens Clinical Center.
- **Dr. Wajdy Hailoo**, board certified in both Internal and Occupational Medicine has assumed the role of Medical Director for the Queens Clinical Center. Dr. Hailoo has many years of experience in Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

(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.

Our Doctors and Nurses

(Continued from page 1)

- **Dr. Albert Miller**, is a Professor of Medicine at New York Medical College. He is board certified in Pulmonary Medicine. Dr. Miller is an expert in occupational and environmental lung disease and provides pulmonary consultation for the Queens Clinical Center.
- **Dr. Luis Stiller**, board certified in Internal and Emergency Medicine, joined our staff in November 2007 to provide both monitoring and treatment examinations. Dr. Stiller can provide clinical services in English and Spanish.
- **Dr. Lyndon Rose**, board eligible in Preventive Medicine, has been with the Queens Clinical Center since it began, and provides initial and periodic monitoring exams in our clinic.

- **Irene Rosenthal, LMSW**, is our Director of Social Work. She provides benefits counseling as well as mental health assessment with the assistance of our part-time social worker, Tashia Amstislavski.
- **Lori Kaufmann, RN and Nellie Berlicchi, RN**, conduct the medical history questionnaire in the monitoring exam and provide nurse case management for those enrolled in the treatment program. Together they will guide you through the treatment process and ensure that your care plan is implemented effectively.

Additionally, the Queens Clinical Center has partnered with Tuesdays Champions, a non profit organization. The organization has recently expanded their mission to address the needs of the WTC rescue and recovery

population. Their initiatives include a variety of adult enrichment programs, including financial advisement, health-care and insurance information and relationship skills. Tuesdays Champions has already provided career planning seminars at our clinic, which our participants have found to be very helpful.

Our staff will continue to reach out to you to keep you informed about various events that will be taking place in the future, to keep you up to date in your monitoring exams and to follow up with your treatment needs. However, we urge you to stay in touch with our clinic too. If 12 months has passed since your last exam, or you are experiencing any symptoms that may be related to your WTC exposure, please call our clinic at 718-670-4174 to schedule an appointment or to inform us of any changes in your contact information.