

The World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program Data and Coordination Center

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Response: Request for Information on Conditions Relating to Cancer to Consider for the
World Trade Center Health Program

[Docket Number NIOSH-227]

(1) Any clinically observed findings, including trends, that are unpublished, but which you believe are important clinical observations pertaining to cancer

In 2009, the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program (WTC MMTP) published the manuscript "Multiple Myeloma in World Trade Center Responders."¹ The study reported an unusual number of multiple myeloma cases in World Trade Center responders under the age of 45. As a case series it did not permit the drawing of causal inference. Nonetheless the report underscored the importance of maintaining surveillance for cancer and other emerging diseases in this highly exposed population.

Currently we are actively investigating and analyzing almost 60 cancer sites, including myeloma, to determine if there is any evidence of elevation in rates. Preliminary data are undergoing detailed analysis and review by Dr. Paolo Boffetta, an expert in the field of cancer epidemiology and by others.

(2) Any planned data analysis or research efforts pertaining to cancer

In June 2010, we participated in an expert meeting with the Fire Department of New York City, New York City Department of Health Registry, nationally recognized biostatisticians, environmental health scientists and cancer epidemiologists to develop strategies and methods that may be utilized to analyze the WTC data for cancer.

Currently, our focus of work is on the linkage of data from the WTC MMTP with data from the New York State Tumor Registry (and other State Tumor Registries as the data becomes available) in order to identify responders that have been diagnosed with cancer and who are also registered with New York State Tumor Registry. Analysis of this data will involve a comparison

of the number of cancer cases identified in State Tumor Registries among WTC responders with expected numbers of cancers in the general population (based on the responders' age, sex, and race).

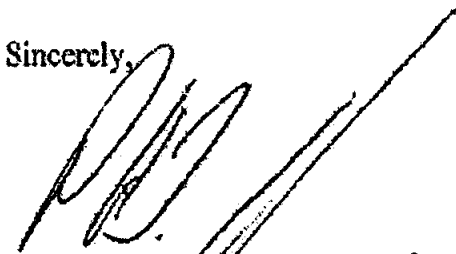
Furthermore, the WTC MMTP Cancer Surveillance Team continues to work intensively to confirm all self reported cancers. We have hired a senior, highly experienced nurse who is engaged in the process of interviewing every responder who has reported cancer. She is asking for permission to obtain these responders' medical records from hospitals and physicians so that all reported diagnoses of cancer can be properly verified and classified.

Additionally, we will utilize exposure data to determine whether responders with increased exposure are more likely to be diagnosed with cancer (and identified in the Tumor Registry). Our initial efforts will look at responders who were present at the WTC sites and in the dust cloud on 9/11. Also, we will look at duration of work at the WTC sites. In time, we will develop a more sophisticated exposure matrix that combines duration of work, presence on 9/11-12, and location and type of work.

(3) Any findings pertaining to cancer that are being prepared by you for publication, with an estimate when such paper(s) are expected to be published.

At this time, we are preparing an application for the Department of Health and Human Services solicitation number 2011-Q-13340 for further surveillance, analysis and reporting on all cancers.

Sincerely,



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¹ Moline JM, Herbert R, Crowley L, Troy K, Hodgman E, Shukla G, Udasin I, Luft B, Wallenstein S, Landrigan P, Savitz DA. Multiple myeloma in World Trade Center responders: a case series. J Occup Environ Med. 2009 Aug;51(8):896-902.