

**ADMINISTRATOR'S WELCOME**  
**Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Jacob Javits Federal Building**  
**New York, New York**  
**March 1, 2018**

**Welcome**

Welcome to the 10th meeting of the World Trade Center Health Program's Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee. I want to thank each of you for your valuable time and participation as a member of the Advisory Committee. I appreciate your advice to the Program.

**Charge**

Today, we meet to fulfill our responsibility under Title III of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act to develop a pool of potential peer reviewers with medical and/or scientific expertise by requesting recommendations from the Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee regarding the identification of potential independent peer reviewers. The last time we met to identify potential independent peer reviewers was on November 3, 2016. I look forward to your updated recommendations for peer reviewers. I invite the Committee to recommend specific individuals who may be expert in various types of health conditions, or make a recommendation about procedures that the Program should use to identify peer reviewers.

I want to bring two other items to your attention.

**Dr. James Melius**

As you know already, Dr. James Melius passed away recently. Dr. Melius was an early advocate in supporting responders and survivors of the September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City, at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. He worked tirelessly to enact the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 which authorized the World Trade Center Health Program. In 2015, Dr. Melius again spearheaded legislative efforts to provide permanent funding for the Program when it came up for renewal. Throughout this time, Jim not only served as Chair of the WTC Health Program Responders Steering Committee, but also as a trusted unofficial advisor to the Program. We shall miss his wise counsel.

**President's FY 2019 Proposed Budget**

The President's proposed Fiscal Year 2019 budget for the period October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019 was released to the public on February 12, 2018. The budget proposes to consolidate the activities of NIOSH within the National Institutes of Health, while the World Trade Center Health Program would continue to be administered by CDC.

The President's proposed budget for FY 2019 marks the beginning of the annual Congressional appropriations process. The President's proposed budget will be considered by the various appropriations committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate. In the meantime, NIOSH and the World Trade Center Health Program will continue to conduct scientific research and provide technical assistance that is aimed at protecting the safety and health of the Nation's workers, and continue to provide scientific and administrative support to the World Trade Center Health Program.

Thank you again for being a member of the Advisory Committee and for your participation today.

John Howard, M.D.  
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Administrator, World Trade Center Health Program