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Dear Dr. Ward:

Let me take this opportunity to thank you, and each member of the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), for the important service you are providing to the Department of Health and Human Services. I am writing to request the STAC's advice on a petition to add a health condition to the List of World Trade Center (WTC)-Related Health Conditions ("List").

In accordance with Section 3312(a)(6) of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 ("Act"), nine members of Congress submitted a petition to consider adding cancer to the List. I request that the STAC review the available information on cancer outcomes associated with the exposures resulting from the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and provide advice on whether to add cancer, or a certain type of cancer, to the List specified in the Zadroga Act.

Two reports are provided with this letter that may aid members in their task: (1) "First Periodic Review of Scientific and Medical Evidence Related to Cancer for the World Trade Center Health Program"; and (2) "Early assessment of cancer outcomes in New York City firefighters after the 9/11 attacks: an observational cohort study." If the members need any additional information, reports, or assistance, please contact Paul J. Middendorf, PhD, (513.841.4466; pkm2@cdc.gov), the STAC's Designated Federal Official.

To be maximally beneficial, any advice provided by the STAC as a whole, or by any individual member, about whether to add cancer, or a type of cancer, to the List, should include a description of the scientific and/or technical evidence relied on, a description of the quality of the data supporting the advice, and a description of the methods used in formulating the advice. Under the Act, the STAC has at least 60 days from this request and up to a maximum of 180 days to provide advice. Since the STAC will not be impaneled until November 8, 2011, nor officially meet until November 9 and 10, 2011, the STAC will have until March 2, 2012 to consider the request, review the available information, and provide their advice.

Sincerely,

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