



**Mount  
Sinai**

January 2014

OCCUPATIONAL

# HealthWATCH

Division of **Occupational & Environmental** Medicine

## Welcome to the Mount Sinai Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine



Message from the  
Director

**Roberto  
Lucchini, MD**

**Division of Occupational  
and Environmental  
Medicine**

The doors to occupational safety and health swing on the hinges of medical knowledge and research. As it has been for the past 30 years, the Mount Sinai Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine is committed to the prevention and treatment of occupational injuries and illnesses through clinical services, education and research.

Our mission is to prevent occupational health risks and to promote physical and mental health in support of healthy workers and safe work places. Integral to New York State and within the occupational medicine field nationwide, the Division's achievements are evident in ongoing initiatives that assist tens of thousands of workers across the United States.

Our team consists of clinicians, social workers, industrial hygienists, ergonomists, epidemiologists and statisticians with expertise in a range of occupational and environmental health problems.

I am proud to present to you the Mount Sinai Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine's first newsletter, Occupational Health Watch.

## Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health



**Madelynn Azar-Cavanagh, MD, MPH, FACOEM**

Medical Director  
Mount Sinai Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health

She can be reached at  
[madelynn.azar-cavanagh@mssm.edu](mailto:madelynn.azar-cavanagh@mssm.edu)

The Mount Sinai Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health (SCOH) are recognized nationally and internationally as leaders in the field of occupational medicine. Our doctors offer cutting-edge and compassionate occupational health prevention and treatment services. Through a focus on prevention and a proactive response to occupational health issues, we strive to keep workers healthy and workplaces safe. Our diverse services reflect the multiple ways in which work-related injuries, illnesses and unsafe work environments can affect workers' health. We partner with health and safety professionals, employers, and medical providers to provide state-of-the art clinical care to injured and ill workers.

The Selikoff Centers address the health needs of the "whole worker," and embrace a multidisciplinary approach with other medical service areas of the nationally ranked Mount Sinai Health System to ensure that our patients receive competent and comprehensive services for all of their health needs. Due to our excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of work-related injuries and illnesses, the Selikoff Centers are designated as members of the New York State Department of Health, Occupational Health Clinic Network, and as a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH), World Trade Center Health Program, Clinical Center of Excellence.

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# Meet the DIRECTOR

## Mount Sinai Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health



Madelynn Azar-Cavanagh  
MD, MPH, FACOEM

We are pleased to announce that on August 19, 2013, Dr. Madelynn Azar-Cavanagh became the Medical Director of the Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health. At the same time, she joined the Mount Sinai Health System as the Medical Director of Employee Health, Safety and Wellness.

Dr. Azar-Cavanagh is an accomplished physician with more than 25 years experience in occupational medicine, and is a Fellow of the American

Board of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Before joining Mount Sinai, she led the University of California in San Diego's (UCSD) Occupational Health Services. She brings to Mount Sinai an interdisciplinary approach to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of occupational injuries and illnesses.

Her areas of expertise include industrial toxicology, infectious diseases, zoonotic diseases, disability management, medical surveillance and screening of exposed populations, dive and travel medicine, hearing conservation, TB surveillance, ergonomics and workplace safety. She brings outstanding expertise in creating a safe working environment for workers. She has experience in changing workplace practices in an effort to reduce and, where possible, eliminate work-related illness and injury. Dr. Azar-Cavanagh also is committed to the overall wellness of all employees — not only by creating safe and healthy work environments, but also by her commitment to healthy living.

Dr. Cavanagh was born in Philadelphia, PA, received her medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine, and her MPH from the Medical College of Wisconsin. She completed her residency in Occupational Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. She was named one of *San Diego Magazine's* Top Doctors in Occupational Medicine in 2004 and 2005, and one of "America's Top Physicians" in Occupational Medicine in 2004, 2005, and each of the last five years. Dr. Azar-Cavanagh also received the "2010 Integrity in Workers' Comp Award" for California Physicians. She is conversant in Spanish and French.

## Madelynn Azar-Cavanagh

Continued from front page

Since its founding more than 30 years ago, the Selikoff Centers have made major contributions to patient care, teaching and research. Our services include physical and mental health care, social work, and benefits counseling. Our industrial hygiene and ergonomic evaluations and consultations, employee wellness programs, and worker training and education sessions are designed to address the full spectrum of occupational health needs. All our physicians are authorized by the New York State Workers' Compensation Board to treat injured workers.

It is an honor and a privilege to lead the Mount Sinai Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health (SCOH). If you are a worker, union representative, employer or medical provider, and have questions or concerns related to workplace safety and health, please call us at 888.702.0630.

## TOTAL WORKER HEALTH™

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), emerging evidence recognizes that both work-related factors and health factors beyond the workplace jointly contribute to many health and safety problems confronting today's workers and their families. Traditionally, workplace health and safety programs have been compartmentalized. Health protection programs have focused squarely on safety and reducing worker exposure to risk factors arising in the work environment, while most workplace health promotion programs have focused exclusively on lifestyle factors off the job that place workers at risk. Science now supports the effectiveness of combining these efforts through workplace interventions integrating health protection and health promotion programs.

### What is Total Worker Health?

Total Worker Health™ is a strategy integrating occupational safety and health protection with health promotion to prevent worker injury and illness, and to advance health and well-being.

According to Dr. John Howard, NIOSH Director, national economic health hinges upon the health of our workforce, which is threatened by pervasive issues, such as obesity, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and aging. His bottom line: worker health is economic health. Keeping workers healthy and productive contributes to quality of life, local and national economies, and reduces the burden on entitlement programs such as social security disability insurance, social security, and Medicare.

**During a recent visit to meet with Mount Sinai's Occupational Health leadership team, Dr. L. Casey Chosewood, Senior Medical Officer with the NIOSH Total Worker Health program said, "We look forward to partnering with Mount Sinai to advance the health, safety and well-being of Mount Sinai's own workers and those throughout the region."**

The Mount Sinai Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine is exploring the possibility of enhancing 30 years of occupational health through the Total Worker Health™ clinical care delivery model. Stay tuned...<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/twh/>

# CHAMPIONS OF WORKERS' HEALTH & SAFETY

## Honored With Man and Woman of the Year 2013

The Mount Sinai Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health (SCOH) recognized four long-time champions of workers and their families at events in December 2013.

Award recipients are selected each year by representatives of more than 70 labor, community, health, and business organizations in New York City and the Lower Hudson Valley that constitute the advisory boards of these two organizations. Awardees are cited for their dedication spanning numerous years, for initiatives that have benefited the health and well-being of workers and their families

statewide, and for their long-time commitment to the SCOH and the New York State Network of Occupational Health Clinics.

These 2013 honorees were:

- Frank Goldsmith, DrPH – TWU Local 100
- Monona Rossol – United Scenic Artists Local 829, IATSE
- Mary Jane Bertram – Workforce Development Institute
- John T. O'Malley – CWA Local 1120

### New York City Man and Woman of the Year



**Frank Goldsmith, DrPH** — Director, Occupational Health — Local 100, Transport Workers Union

Dr. Goldsmith has worked for the United Steelworkers and Teamsters International Unions. He was Dean of the School of Labor Studies, SUNY and directed Labor Programs at Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations. He taught public health at SUNY Stony Brook. He served on the Executive Boards of both the American Public Health Association and the Working Theater. He has written extensively on public health; national health care policy; and international programs. He represents trade unions at the United Nations, where he also serves on the Executive Committee of the Department of Public Information, representing all NGOs with credentials at the UN.



**Monona Rossol, MS, MFA** — United Scenic Artists Local 829 (IATSE)

Monona Rossol is a chemist, artist, and industrial hygienist. She is currently President/Founder of Arts, Crafts & Theater Safety, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to providing health and safety services to the arts. She also is the Safety Officer for USA Local 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) and for the New York Production Locals. She lectures, provides regulatory compliance training, and has worked on more than 80 art and performing arts building planning projects in the U.S. and abroad.

### Lower Hudson Valley Man and Woman of the Year



**Mary Jane Bertram** — Workforce Development Institute

Mary Jane Bertram is the Hudson Valley Regional Director for the Workforce Development Institute. She serves on the board of the Lower Hudson Valley Advisory Board for the Mount Sinai Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health. Additionally, she volunteers her time as the NYS Rep and Patient Advisory Board member of the National Chronic Myeloid Leukemia Society. She has enjoyed a successful career as a labor union organizer and also as a clinic director for the National Parkinson Foundation Rehab.



**John T. O'Malley** — CWA Local 1120

John T. O'Malley is the Legislative and Political Action Coordinator for the Communications Workers of America, Local 1120, in Poughkeepsie, NY. His time is spent organizing the membership around critical issues and interacting with legislators to help pass bills that are important for working families in the Hudson Valley. John has served both as Shop Steward and Chief Steward. John is a Delegate to the Hudson-Catskill Central Labor Council and presently serves as the Treasurer of the Hudson-Catskill Workforce Development Institute. He is also a member of the SCOH Outreach Committee.

# The Mount Sinai Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health

## New Name ... Same Commitment

The Irving J. Selikoff Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine (COEM) was renamed the Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health (SCOH). The new name was accompanied by an enhanced vision — delivering the same high-quality, comprehensive and compassionate occupational health services in all of its clinical locations in Manhattan, Staten Island and Yonkers, NY.

### The Mount Sinai Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health (SCOH) offer:

**Services for workers:** Clinical Center locations in Manhattan, Staten Island, and Yonkers offer occupational health services designed to meet workers' various occupational health physical, mental, social, and financial health needs. As a Clinical Center of Excellence for the federal World Trade Center Health Program, the SCOH has provided free, comprehensive medical examinations to more than 20,000 9/11 Responders.

**Services for unions:** Our doctors, industrial hygienists, and ergonomists provide worksite evaluations and consultations, steward and member trainings and education sessions, exposure-specific medical screenings, and other services to labor union leaders, stewards, and members.

**Services for employers:** We partner with employers to assess potential worksite hazards and exposures, help sick workers to achieve the best possible recovery, and develop and implement employee wellness programs.

### Services for medical providers:

Our doctors are prepared and available as needed to consult with doctors and their patients on occupational health assessment and care.

## History

Based out of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Department of Preventive Medicine, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, the Mount Sinai Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health is dedicated to providing state-of-the-art, multi-disciplinary occupational medicine services — clinical and preventive — as well as teaching and research that benefit workers, unions and employers.

1960

1970

1980

1990

## 1987

The final report "Occupational Disease in New York State" was presented to the New York State Legislature. The conclusions included:

- Work-related disease was a very significant public health problem, claiming the lives of 5,000-7,000 New Yorkers each year.
- Work-related illnesses were estimated to total 100,000 per year, with a cost to the state's economy of \$600 million annually.
- State resources, both in terms of clinical facilities and trained professionals in occupational health, were woefully inadequate in meeting the public health need.

In response, later that year, the New York State legislature approved funding to create a unique statewide network of occupational health clinics. Support for the Network since 1990 has come through an assessment of less than 0.3% of total Workers' Compensation premiums.

## Mid 1980s

In the mid 1980s, a broad coalition of occupational safety and health specialists, public health advocates, labor and civic leaders urged the New York State Legislature to commission a study of the problem of occupationally-related diseases in New York. This study was undertaken by Mount Sinai School of Medicine physicians, led by Dr. Philip Landrigan, current Chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine.

## 1970

In the early 1970s, Dr. Selikoff formalized a clinic one afternoon each week that evaluated workers from the construction trades who had been exposed to asbestos. The program — the only hospital-based facility providing expert diagnostic and clinical services in Occupational Medicine in New York State — grew to serve more than 500 patients during the next 10 years.

## 1960-1985

Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, co-discoverer of a treatment for tuberculosis, who went on to prove the hazards of asbestos and lead a campaign against its use, was a well-known pioneer in the field of preventive medicine. He is considered the "father of Occupational Medicine" in the United States, and was responsible for establishing Mount Sinai's first environmental health laboratory. He served as its Director from 1960 to 1985. [Dr. Selikoff passed away in 1992.]

The internationally-recognized Center was eventually named for Dr. Selikoff, who is remembered for his seminal research on asbestos-related illness and his advocacy on behalf of health care for the working class. He played a key role in the establishment of the two most important national agencies dealing with worker health prevention and treatment — the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA).

# NEW RESEARCH INITIATIVES IN OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

Two new research projects in occupational medicine were initiated in 2013: one studying welders' health and the other examining the impact of diesel exhaust on workers and the community.

Welding fumes and diesel emissions are both known to pose serious health hazards, but current knowledge of the impacts of these pollutants in the New York Metropolitan area is limited. These research projects should fill important gaps in knowledge and guide evidence-based improvements in working and community environments in New York City and the Lower Hudson Valley.

The goal of these projects is to assess the health impacts of exposures to metals, nanoparticles and other pollutants released during welding operations, and to elemental and total carbons and nanoparticles generated by diesel exhaust. The study will use novel, portable instruments that provide real time and long-term exposure levels and that are synchronized with GPS locators.

In collaboration with researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health and NIOSH, experienced and apprentice welders will be recruited at welding schools to participate. The diesel study will involve assessing exposures to different types of transportation including buses, school buses and other diesel engine vehicles. Bus depots will be targeted because they create exposures both for workers and for communities.

Various health outcomes will be targeted, including respiratory, cardiovascular and neurological functions. Exposure and health outcome measurements will be obtained from pre- and post-shifts, and after the use of different operations, vehicles and equipment in both the welders and the diesel studies. This will allow understanding of the most potentially dangerous working and operating conditions with a high level of precision and addressing the need for preventive intervention. Both projects are still at a preparatory stage, and pilot assessment is being scheduled to provide preliminary data for grant submission in the next months.

The idea for both investigations originated from a dynamic and constructive dialogue of our research team (Dr. Denise Gaughan, Occupational Epidemiologist, postdocs Leon Hsu and Maria Rosa, Alice Freund and Norman Zuckerman, Industrial Hygienists and Roberto Lucchini, Director of the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, with local unions, employers and community groups.

## 1987-1988

Services expanded dramatically with permanent funding from the New York State Department of Health and incorporation of the New York State Occupational Health Clinic Network (OHCN).

The OHCN then included 11 Clinical Centers of Excellence in Occupational Medicine across New York State, organized into regions. The OHCN covers 8.6 million workers in New York State, and has served until 1990, more than 252,000 ill and injured workers.

The OHCN clinics are community based, each with an active local advisory board. Each local board provides guidance on clinic programs and policies, assists in outreach, and advocates for the OHCN.

### CLINICAL CARE

Appropriate, expert clinical services for diagnosis, treatment and management of occupational diseases and work-related musculoskeletal disorders for current and retired workers, including:

- Individual patient clinic visits
- Industrial hygiene services
- Ergonomic program
- Social work services
- Assistance with Workers' Compensation, disability and other benefits
- Patient education
- Occupational Lung Disease Program
- Occupational Medicine Residency Training Program

### MAJOR CONDITIONS

- Upper extremity cumulative trauma disorders
- Carpal tunnel syndrome
- Epicondylitis
- Spasm or myalgia

- Asbestos-related lung disease
- Asthma & other upper respiratory conditions (chemical exposures/ indoor air toxins)
- Heavy metal toxicity (elevated blood lead and/or mercury levels)

### EXPOSURES

- Silica
- Metals (lead, mercury and arsenic)
- PCBs
- Solvents
- Asbestos

### REFERRALS

Doctors, unions, companies, community groups, public agencies, attorneys, NYS Workers' Compensation Board

Throughout the years:

- Provided more than 22,000 clinical health services to workers in metro NY-NJ area (not including WTC-related services)
- Engaged in almost 3,700 public outreach education activities

1987  
1990

# 2009

In April 24, 2009, the first Occupational Health Awareness (OHA) Day conceived by the Occupational Health staff at Mount Sinai, who lead the Network of Clinics throughout the State, to engage large numbers of individuals from many organizations to participate in recognition of the importance of occupational health.

# 2020

# 2013

On September 18 and 19, 2013, the New York State Occupational Health Clinic Network (OHCN) celebrated its 25th Anniversary, hosted by Mount Sinai Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health, with a two-day conference held at the New York Academy of Medicine.

# 2010

# 2011

The Mount Sinai Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health was designated a WTC Health Program Clinical Center of Excellence.

# 2010

Occupational Health Awareness Week was held in conjunction with Workers' Memorial Day, April 28th, which serves as a nationwide day of remembrance to recognize the thousands of U.S. workers who die on the job each year.

The nation's first Occupational Health Awareness (OHA) Week kicked off thanks to the efforts of a unique, state-supported network of occupational health centers, working closely with workers, labor organizations, health and safety advocates, local agencies and legislators in New York State. Scheduled April 25-May 1, 2010, the goal of the week was to increase awareness of the need for healthy workplaces and a reduction in work-related death and disability.

# 2000

# 2002

Since 2002, a Mount Sinai-coordinated consortium of Occupational Medicine Clinical Centers of Excellence alone have additionally provided the following free, confidential services:

- More than 26,000 comprehensive medical screening examinations to WTC Responders
- Follow-up medical monitoring exams every 12 months.

# 2003

In November 2003, a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* found that pain associated with workers' injuries cost the nation's employers more than \$41.2 billion a year in lost productivity.

# 2001

Immediately following the attacks of 9/11, the Centers mobilized and began examining World Trade Center (WTC) Responders. The initiative grew to become the WTC Health Program, funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/NIOSH, and today provides monitoring and treatment to more than 30,000 patients who participated in the rescue, recovery and clean-up efforts related to this tragic disaster.

**Thanks to the OEM Working Group for their contributions and determination in bringing this first issue of Occupational Health Watch to fruition:**

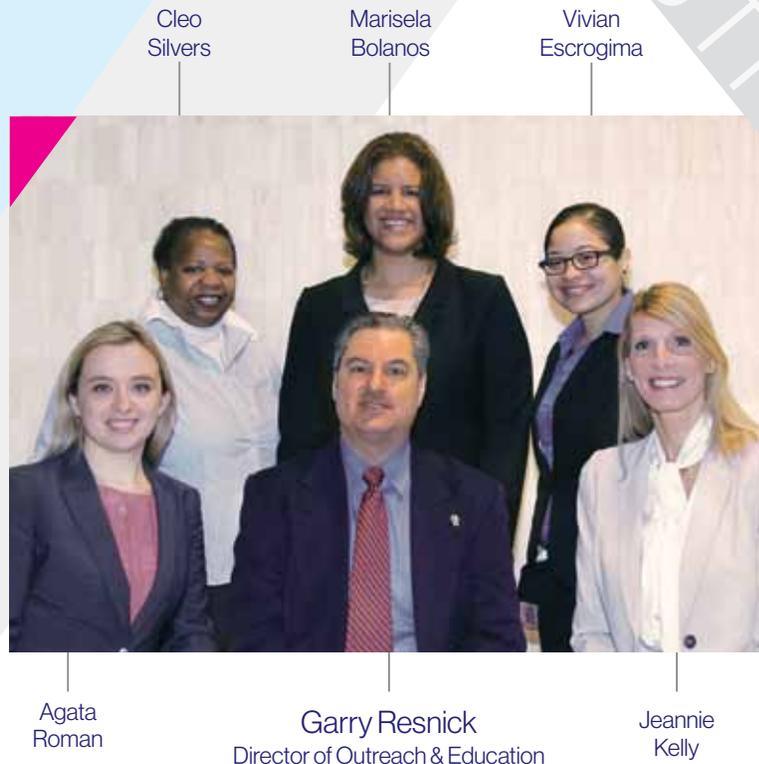
Marisela Bolanos  
Paul Girardin  
Hashley Heriveaux  
Annie Lok

Garrison Resnick  
Agata Roman  
Cleo Silvers

# Meet Your Outreach Team

The Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health Outreach Team is available to attend meetings or events of community groups, organizations and unions that want to promote occupational health, as well as World Trade Center Health Program services, to their members.

If you are interested in having Outreach Team Members attend your event, please contact us at 888.702.0630.



## Occupational Medicine

### RESIDENCY PROGRAM AT MOUNT SINAI

The Occupational Medicine Residency Program at Mount Sinai (an ACGME accredited program) can train up to four residents. This is a two-year residency program in which candidates must have at least one year training in internal medicine or surgery prior to applying. As part of the training, residents receive a Master in Public Health degree, funded entirely by the Residency Program and Department.

This unique residency program is the only Occupational Medicine residency program in New York State. Residents gain most of their clinical experience through the clinical networks at the Occupational Health Clinic Network (OHCN), mainly at the Mount Sinai campus. They are exposed to a variety of different work-related or environmental conditions typically not seen at a general clinic. Residents also work closely with industrial hygienists and participate in site visits at work locations to gain firsthand experience on workplace dangers.

In addition to clinical training, residents are encouraged to be active in the working community. They interact with numerous labor leaders and members through participation at NYS OHCN

quarterly advisory board meetings and rotate at local OSHA offices in Manhattan and Northern New Jersey, where they participate in onsite investigations and assist in reviewing cases.

Another important component of the Residency Program is that residents are given the opportunity to participate in employee health and with medical directors of corporations. There they are involved in developing worker safety protocols and conducting studies looking at work-related injuries and the effectiveness of these protocols.

A majority of the graduates from the Occupational Medicine Residency Program go on to be active in the field of Occupational Medicine and continue to help injured workers. They are encouraged to be leaders in this unique and small field of medicine. As per the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics, the number of active Occupational and Environmental Medicine (OEM) residency programs has decreased, with 15 of the 41 OEM training programs present in 2003 now closed. With people working longer and past the age of retirement, occupational medicine physicians will be in greater need in the near future.

# Who's Who

## Department of Preventive Medicine/Division of Occupational & Environmental Medicine



### **Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc**

Dean of Global Health  
Ethel H. Wise Professor and Chairman  
Department of Preventive Medicine  
Professor of Pediatrics  
Director, Children's Environmental Health Center

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### **Allison Devia**

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### **Roberto Lucchini, MD**

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### **Madelynn Azar-Cavanagh, MD, MPH, FACOEM**

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### **Julia Nicolaou, MPH**

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## **The Mount Sinai Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health**

Three convenient locations. One convenient phone number: **888.702.0630**

Manhattan – 1468 Madison Avenue, 3rd Floor – New York, NY 10029

Lower Hudson Valley – 1020 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10701

Staten Island – 690 Castleton Avenue, 2nd Floor – Staten Island, New York 10310

# New York State WTC Benefit Re-Opened For Eligible Workers

## WTC HealthWATCH

**REMEMBER:** This is reopened for those eligible who did not file or were not included before the previous deadline.

In late November 2013, Governor Cuomo signed legislation reopening the registry for those eligible for Workers' Compensation, and those eligible for disability pensions under certain pension systems, if they worked or performed certain volunteer functions at or near Ground Zero or related sites following the 9/11 attacks.

This "registry" — previously known as the WTC-12 for Workers' Comp, or the Notice of Participation-WTC for certain pension systems — essentially preserves your ability to file a claim in the future should certain illnesses related to 9/11 appear later in life. Additionally, the law now allows for "vested" members of certain eligible pension systems who otherwise qualified and subsequently left service to now submit to the registry as well.

**The new open period for filing (if you qualify) extends through SEPTEMBER 11, 2014. The WTC-12 can be found at [www.wcb.ny.gov](http://www.wcb.ny.gov)**

If you previously registered with Workers' Compensation or your pension system, if you have already filed, or you are eligible to do so now, we recommend you contact your pension system or the NYS Workers' Compensation Board.

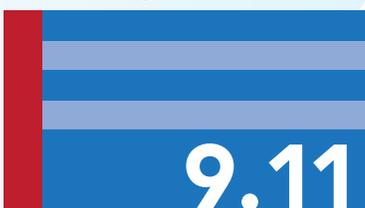
The link to this new law can be found at: <http://assembly.state.ny.us>. On the left side of the page, click on "Bill Search & Legislative Information." Type in S05759A, click on "text," and you can read the entire language of the bill.

**NOTE:** This is NOT the same as filing for/with the WTC Health Registry, the Victim Compensation Fund (VCF), or the WTC Health Program.

The Victim Compensation Fund provides monetary compensation for economic loss suffered by eligible WTC Responders and survivors who became ill as a result of their 9/11 exposure. Although some Responders were bound by an October 3, 2013, deadline, many others are not and still may be eligible. Although the VCF is not part of the World Trade Center Health Program, it is an important benefit for many Responders. **For more information on the VCF, go to [www.vcf.gov](http://www.vcf.gov) or call 855.885.1555.**

If you are a patient at Mount Sinai and wish to request a benefits counseling session with a social worker, or you have questions about your health conditions or certification, our Selikoff Call Center Coordinators can assist you. They can be reached at 888.702.0630.

### Monitoring and Treatment



WTC Health Program



## PATIENTS'

# Health Conditions

# CERTIFIED BY

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recently began sending letters to World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program participants informing them that they had been “certified” for certain health conditions. In many cases, the conditions mentioned were those for which you already may have been receiving treatment for several years. This notification from the Program (NIOSH) is simply a formal means of letting you know what conditions the Program has deemed connected to your 9/11 service, and that your treatment and related medications are being covered.

Accessing services beyond your yearly monitoring (such as prescriptions and treatment) starts with this process called “certification.”

Certification of WTC-related conditions occurs when the doctors at the WTC Health Program Clinical Center where you are seen feel that a condition or illness that was discovered during your examination is likely connected to your exposure from the World Trade Center. Based on that doctor’s findings, a request is made to the WTC Health Program Administrator at NIOSH to “certify”

this condition. NIOSH reviews the information, and if in agreement with your WTC clinic’s findings, “certifies” the condition, thereby allowing your WTC Clinical Center to continue to treat you through the Program.

If any of your conditions are not certified, your treatment and medications will not be covered for that particular illness under the WTC Health Program. However, we still will be able to treat you under the terms of your own health insurance plan.

Certification applies to each illness with which you have been diagnosed. In most cases, if you were being treated for a WTC-related illness through the Program prior to July 1, 2011, you may have been automatically certified and no further action is required.

Certification denials can be appealed to the federal government (NIOSH). The current list of covered conditions can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <http://www.cdc.gov/wtc/faq.html>

If you are a patient at Mount Sinai and wish to request a benefits counseling session with a social worker, or you have questions about your health conditions or certification, our Selikoff Call Center Coordinators can assist you. They can be reached at 888.702.0630.

## CERTAIN CANCERS NOW COVERED

## THROUGH WTC HEALTH PROGRAM



**Michael Crane, MD, MPH**  
Medical Director

World Trade Center  
Clinical Center of Excellence

Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health

With certain cancers now covered through the WTC Health Program, Dr. Michael Crane urges all Responders to discuss any cancer diagnosis with our physicians to determine if your condition may be eligible for coverage with the Program. If you have any records, such as lab and biopsy reports or other diagnostic and treatment records, please bring them with you to your next visit.

A cancer diagnosis, and the treatment that follows, is likely to be a challenging and stressful time. We are here to help. Even if you are receiving treatment for your cancer from another provider, we may be able to assist you. Your WTC physician also can advise you regarding steps you can take to screen for certain cancers for which you may be at risk.

For additional information regarding cancer and the World Trade Center Health Program, you can visit the CDC/NIOSH website at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/wtc/faq.html>



**Icahn  
School of  
Medicine at  
Mount  
Sinai**

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# World Trade Center HEALTH PROGRAM DATA CENTER

The World Trade Center Health Program Data Center at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, established in 2002, develops medical protocols, manages and analyzes data, builds and maintains data systems and databases, and coordinates the outreach and patient education activities for the five institutions comprising the General Responder Consortium of the federally-funded World Trade Center Health Program.

Clinical Centers of Excellence are hosted by five institutions: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York University School of Medicine, North Shore-LIJ Health System, State University of New York–Stony Brook and Rutgers University. The Clinical Centers of Excellence provide medical and mental health care, benefits counseling, and outreach and education to more than 30,000 World Trade Center Responders, workers, and volunteers who participated in the rescue, recovery, restoration, and clean-up efforts at the World Trade Center site after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City.

Through our work in the past decade, the Data Center has developed expertise in the coordination of medical care to World Trade Center Responders, in the development of monitoring and treatment protocols for WTC-related disease, and in the management, organization and analysis of data generated during medical exams by the Clinical Centers of Excellence.

The Data Center has developed and implemented effective multilingual and multicultural outreach, retention and patient education strategies, and published state-of-the-art clinical, statistical and epidemiological analyses of the data collected in leading, peer-reviewed biomedical journals in order to inform physicians, planners, public health officials and policy makers nationally and worldwide of the medical consequences of the attacks on the World Trade Center of September 11, 2001.