

## **Administrator's Statement on the Fourth Anniversary of the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program**

July 1, 2015, marks the fourth anniversary of the WTC Health Program. Established by the Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, the WTC Health Program strives to provide excellence in 9/11-related healthcare and research. Today we reflect on another successful year and affirm the critical importance of the Program to those with 9/11-related conditions.

### **The need for 9/11-related healthcare is as urgent as ever.**

The WTC Health Program now serves over 70,000 people, with over 3,600 new members joining the Program in the past year (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015). Last year we approved over 8,000 new health condition certifications, including over 1,600 cancer certifications. Each certification represents a member who is now eligible to receive vital medical treatment. It also reminds us that thousands continue to confront 9/11-related health conditions over a decade after the disaster.

### **Research provides the critical link to improved diagnosis and treatment of 9/11-related conditions.**

In addition to providing high quality healthcare, the WTC Health Program is committed to studying the health effects of the terrorist attacks. The Program funds a diverse group of researchers, including epidemiologists, health scientists, physicians, psychologists, and public health experts. They work to answer key questions about the risk factors and treatment of 9/11-related physical and mental health conditions. Please visit [www.cdc.gov/wtc/wtcresearch.html](http://www.cdc.gov/wtc/wtcresearch.html) for more detailed information about the research program, including abstracts and a sample of current research findings.

### **The WTC Health Program is committed to providing the highest quality healthcare for members.**

Excellent member service is our paramount goal. Our staff is committed to providing medical care and benefits counseling that is both competent and caring. We also work to improve educational tools and resources, like the updated member handbook. Our website is continually updated with new materials and benefit updates. For more information visit [www.cdc.gov/wtc](http://www.cdc.gov/wtc).

We hear from members every day that the WTC Health Program saves lives. These stories recommit me to our mission and remind us all of the vital importance of the WTC Health Program. Thank you to our members, staff, and partners for another successful year and for your commitment to 9/11 responders and survivors.

If you have any questions about the WTC Health Program, please contact us at [wtc@cdc.gov](mailto:wtc@cdc.gov) or 1-888-982-4748.

Sincerely,

John Howard, M.D.

Administrator, World Trade Center Health Program