

STAC Meeting

June 2, 2016

Version 4

Good morning and welcome!

First, I want to express the appreciation of everyone in the World Trade Center Health Program for taking time from your busy schedules to serve on the Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee.

Second, thank you for your diligence in providing recommendations on how the Program can best achieve excellence in children's research. Your 12 recommendations are much appreciated. As you discovered revisiting how to approach this topic after more than a decade of time has elapsed it was not an easy task to provide advice. Despite the difficulty, I thought the Committee did a terrific job. Thank you.

Third, at our meeting today, we will be looking at some new responsibilities for the Committee arising from the Zadroga Act reauthorization. Following a recommendation from a report by the General Accountability Office, the Congress wanted to ensure that the Administrator's action "to add a health condition" to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions was subject to independent peer review of the scientific and technical evidence that would be the basis for issuing a final rule to add a health condition.

In requiring an enhanced level of peer review, the Congress imposed two new requirements for the Committee.

1. Identification of Individuals to Conduct Peer Review.

Please look in your packet at the text of the reauthorization. Go to page 1899, section (ii). There you will read that the Administrator is required to seek recommendations from the Committee "regarding the identification of individuals to conduct independent peer review...". The Committee can recommend specific individuals who may be expert in various types of health conditions of the body, or make a recommendation about selection procedures that the Program should use to identify peer reviewers, or come up with any other ideas. We welcome all advice.

2. Review and Evaluate the Program Policy and Procedures Used to Determine Whether Sufficient Evidence Exists to Support Adding a Health Condition to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions.

Please turn to page 1898, section (i). There you will see the reauthorization language setting out the second responsibility to review and evaluate the current policies and procedures that the Program uses to determine whether sufficient evidence exists to support adding a health condition to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions.

To provide background information for your two new responsibilities, there will be three presentations today.

First, there will be a general overview of independent scientific peer review by Dr. John Piacentino, NIOSH's Associate Director for Science.

Second, there will be a presentation on the Program's *Policy and Procedures for Adding Types of Cancer to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions* by Dr. Tania Carreón-Valencia, a research epidemiologist with the WTC Health Program.

Third, there will be a presentation on the Program's *Policy and Procedures for Adding Non-Cancer Conditions to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions* by Dr. Dori Reissman, Associate Administrator of the WTC Health Program.

I hope you enjoy these three presentations and I look forward to receiving your recommendations.

Have a great meeting!

I look forward to your recommendations and wish you a good meeting!