

The WTC Health Program Update

Long Island Clinical Center of Excellence

Islandia– SUNY Stony Brook ♦ Garden City– Winthrop Hospital ♦ Brooklyn– SUNY Downstate

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Letter from the Director

Each new year brings us to a time of reflection. And as I reflect on the past year and the 10th anniversary of 9/11, I am sincerely grateful to be the Director of the Long Clinical Center of Excellence.

First, directing such an important healthcare program has been both a privilege and a journey. I am thankful to the WTC responders who have deepened my perspective of the effects of 9/11 through the profound stories they have shared with me. The courageous and selfless decisions made by the 9/11 responders underline the importance of our healthcare program and invigorate our work here at the Long Island Clinic.

There have been many administrative changes to the Program since the establishment of the WTC Health Program under the James Zadroga Act. Through this newsletter we hope to communicate with you the goings-on in the program

and keep you informed about important changes.

Over these next months, we are expanding our locations to provide more convenient services. In November, we started seeing patients at a new clinic site in Garden City and another clinic will soon open in Brooklyn.

We also have started using a new pharmacy benefit that allows you to fill prescriptions at your local retail pharmacy or through mail-order with Emdeon.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to a very special project at the Long Island Center of Excellence: The Remembering 9/11 Oral History Project.

I am very proud of the WTC staff, volunteers, and especially, the responders, who came together to record 9/11 oral histories for our "Remembering 9/11" program. With these important stories, we



have reached the hearts and minds of the Long Island community through a documentary video, a book and a public library "Meet a 9/11 Hero" program, and educated people from all over the world about 9/11 from the responder's point of view.

We will continue to record these stories for the Library of Congress throughout this coming year and appreciate contributions from all the responders. Please call us if you want to share your story.

I sincerely wish you and your family a healthy and rewarding year.

Sincerely,

Benjamin J. Luft, M.D.

Inside this issue:

Brooklyn Clinic to Open in Spring 2

Long Island Clinic Receives Funding for Research 2

New Smoking Cessation Program 3

WTC Responders Making History for Library of Congress 3

Free Clinics on the Zadroga Victim's Compensation Fund Offered by Local Law Firm

The law firm of Fusco, Brandenstein & Rada, PC will be hosting 2 free legal clinics on the Zadroga Victims' Compensation Fund. This fund was created to provide financial compensation to responders as well as other residents/workers in lower Manhattan at the time of the 9/11 rescue, recovery and clean-up who have sustained significant health consequences. The clinics

will provide information about the application process and discuss the medical conditions that are covered by the fund. There will be opportunities to ask questions.

Clinics will be held on :

- Thursday 2/9/12 at 10 am at Vina de Villa Caterers, 2005 Route 112, Medford, NY 11763

- Wednesday 2/29/12 at 5 pm at FBR's office at 180 Froehlich Farm Blvd, Woodbury, NY 11797.

Please call 631-855-1207 for directions and to register for these events.

Seats are limited and pre-registration is highly recommended!



Senator Gillibrand speaks in support of the new Garden City clinic.

Grand Opening of New Garden City Clinic

On January 13, 2012, the WTC Health Program's Stony Brook Medical Center – Long Island Clinical Center of Excellence formally announced the opening of its new clinic in Garden City.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was well-attended by local politicians, including Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, and Reps., King, McCarthy, and Bishop, community leaders, and the press.

The new clinic was opened in collaboration with Winthrop-

University Hospital and is located in the Winthrop Wellness Pavilion at 1300 Franklin Avenue in Garden City.

This state-of-the-art facility offers expanded space for the Long Island Center of Excellence and is conveniently located for responders in Nassau County. It will be open 5 days a week.

The Stony Brook WTC clinical team will provide annual monitoring exams at this new clinic and treatment for WTC –

related conditions will be provided by Dr. Marc Wilkenfeld, a recognized specialist in Occupational Medicine, who has worked with the WTC responder community for many years.



Drs. Luft and Wilkenfeld gather with WTC responders for ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Are You Due for

Your Annual

Exam?

Call us today and

we will help you

schedule your visit!

631-855-1200

New Clinic to Open in Brooklyn

As of July 1, 2011, Stony Brook Medical Center was awarded an additional contract to open a new WTC Health Program Clinical Center of Excellence in Brooklyn in collaboration with State University of New York– Downstate.

In the seven years since the establishment of the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program by NIOSH (the National

Institute for Occupational Safety and Health), there was never a clinic in Brooklyn, one of the areas most affected by the smoke plume emanating from the WTC disaster site.

The Long Island Clinical Center of Excellence is very proud to have the opportunity to lead the establishment of this long-awaited clinic and to serve Brooklyn re-

sponders in need of quality healthcare for their WTC-related illnesses.

This clinic has planned to open its doors to patients in late February.

We hope that you can help us in building this clinic by spreading the word in your workplace and communities to Brooklyn-based 9/11 responders.



Pictured above are counselors in our new smoking cessation program: Janna Coronel, Lindsay Pratt, Janet Lavelle, and Nancy Campo.

Long Island Clinic Awarded Money for Multiple Research Projects

In July 2011, NIOSH awarded money for research studies that will help to better understand the effects of the WTC disaster on the responders.

We are very excited to tell you about one important study that is currently underway at the Long Island Clinic: the WTC Responder Health and Wellness Study.

As some of you may have read in Newsday on December 29, 2011, a research team headed by Dr. Benjamin Luft recently published

a study in *Psychological Medicine* on the relationship between physical and mental health. An important finding of this study is that physical health and mental health conditions are often linked to each other. Understanding this relationship is important for effectively treating these health conditions.

Therefore, the Long Island Clinic developed a follow-up study to investigate this issue in more depth. A brief interview will be

conducted with thousands of responders across the WTC Health Consortium to collect better information about their health and well-being.

We are very excited about this project and hope to shed light on this important topic, one that affects so many WTC responders.

If you are interested in participating in an interview, please call Janna or Lindsay at 631-855-1200.

New Smoking Cessation Program to Be Piloted at the Islandia Clinic

Early this Spring, a new smoking cessation program trial will be available to responders who experience anxiety and want to quit smoking.

This important program will provide responders with necessary tools to quit the habit and lead them to a healthier lifestyle.

Some highlights of the program include:

- A group-setting that offers support and camaraderie
- Specialty trained counselors

who guide you through the process

- A step-by-step approach that keeps expectations realistic
- Vital tools you need to quit smoking for good

Even if you have tried to quit in the past, this program may be the one that works for you.

This program is different from others, because it will teach you to identify personal obstacles that prevent you from kicking the

habit and help you develop the skills necessary to overcome them.

We want you to experience all the health benefits of a smoke-free lifestyle and hope you take advantage of this wonderful new program.

Please look for our brochure and speak to your WTC clinician if you are interested.

For general information, please call the clinic and ask for Janna or Lindsay: 631-855-1200.



9/11 Responders are Making History and Creating Legacy for the Library of Congress

The "Remembering 9/11" oral history program began 2 years ago, through the guidance of Dr. Benjamin Luft, Director of WTC Health Program's Long Island Clinical Center of Excellence.

He recognized the need for this archive because he felt that the 9/11 responders -the men and women who made many sacrifices for their city and country- were being lost in the sometimes raucous debate over federally funded healthcare for them.

From the start, our main goal was to create materials for the public that would inspire and enrich their lives and teach about 9/11 from the first-hand accounts of the responders.

In these 2 years, we have assembled more than 150 responder stories in a public archive that will be preserved by the Library of Congress and the New York Historical Society. We have also produced a documentary film, "9/11: An American Requiem", which premiered at the Stony

Brook Film Festival in July 2011, and a book, "We're Not Leaving: 9/11 Responders Tell their Stories of Courage, Sacrifice and Renewal". You may have seen CBS' "60 Minutes" story on Dr. Luft and our program, or an abridged version of our documentary on local PBS stations, both which aired on the 10th Anniversary of September 11th.

Any 9/11 responder is welcome to record their story as part of this archive. We will continue to collect stories for the next year and hope you take this opportunity to record your unique story.

Through this project, you have an opportunity to be a part of history and impact generations of Americans. Your stories add complexity and meaning to our understanding of 9/11 and its aftermath. They are important stories for everyone to hear, especially our youth and young adults, many who were quite young at the time.

The beauty of our archive is that

it is a collection of human stories that not only give us a clear account of 9/11, but compel us to look at the human impact of this disaster from the point of view of the responder.

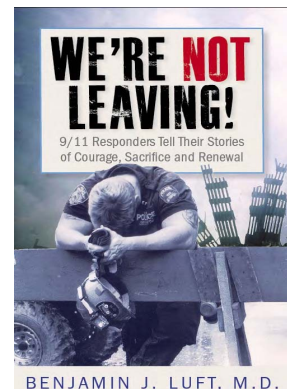
These stories inspire us to reflect on the spirit and integrity of the men and women who responded to the tragedy of 9/11. They make us think about the long-lasting effects of 9/11 on our community and our nation. More importantly, they remind us of who we are as a people and what common values we embrace.

Through this oral history program, you have an opportunity to leave a legacy in our nation's archives in Washington, D.C. You will be helping America to remember.

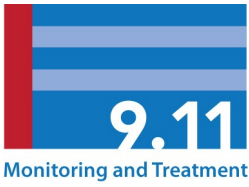
For more information, please call Julie or Sonia at the Islandia clinic: 631-855-1200.

Also visit our website:

www.911respondersremember.org



For more
information on
We're Not Leaving
Please call the clinic
at : 631-855-1200



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