



# WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH REGISTRY



# 9/11 and Beyond

## Fall 2021—20th Anniversary Issue

# 18 Years. 70,000 Enrollees. Over 140 Research Papers.

The Registry has published over 140 research papers on short- and long-term 9/11 health outcomes, unmet health care needs, quality of life and functioning. The scope of the research includes existing and potentially emerging 9/11-related health conditions, many of which fall under the conditions covered by the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program. Registry research findings have helped inform

federal policymaking, including the work of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

The Registry continues its mission of researching the long-term physical and mental health effects of 9/11. To view the infographic in high resolution, visit [www1.nyc.gov/assets/911health/images/newsletter/wtchr-infographic.pdf](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/911health/images/newsletter/wtchr-infographic.pdf).

**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAST 15 YEARS**

**Emerging Conditions**  
 Persistent Hearing Loss Among World Trade Center Health Registry Residents, Passersby and Area Workers, 2008-2007  
 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Risk of Prescription Opioid Use, Over-Use, and Misuse Among World Trade Center Health Registry Enrollees, 2015-2016  
 Substance Use

**Mental Health**  
 Trajectories of Scores on a Screening Instrument for PTSD Among World Trade Center Rescue, Recovery, and Clean-Up Workers  
 Asthma and Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms 5 to 6 Years Following Exposure to the World Trade Center Terrorist Attack  
 Physical Health

**Comorbidities**  
 Co-Occurring Lower Respiratory Symptoms and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder 5 to 6 Years After the World Trade Center Terrorist Attack

**Unmet Health Care Needs**  
 Respiratory and Other Health Effects Reported in Children Exposed to the World Trade Center Disaster of 11 September 2001  
 Children and Young Adults  
 Mental Health of Those Directly Exposed to the World Trade Center Disaster: Unmet Mental Health Care Need, Mental Health Treatment Service Use, and Quality of Life  
 Treatment Referral Program  
 Considerations for Future Disaster Registries: Effectiveness of Treatment Referral Outreach in Addressing Long-Term Unmet 9/11 Disaster Needs

**Multiple Disasters**  
 Posttraumatic Stress Disorder After Hurricane Sandy Among Persons Exposed to the 9/11 Disaster

**Disaster Response**  
 Respiratory Protective Equipment, Mask Use, and Respiratory Outcomes Among World Trade Center Disaster and Landfill Recovery and Clean-Up Workers After 9/11  
 Relationship Between Persistent Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Human Remains Exposure for Staten Island Bargle and Landfill Recovery and Clean-Up Workers After 9/11  
 Disaster Planning

**100 COVERED CONDITIONS**

**Acute Traumatic Injuries**  
 Burn  
 Complex sprain  
 Eye injury  
 Fracture  
 Head trauma  
 Tendon tear

**Cancers**  
 Childhood cancer  
 Malignant neoplasms  
 Leukemia  
 Myeloma  
 Hodgkin's disease  
 Non-Hodgkin lymphoma  
 Myeloid leukemia  
 Unspecified lymphoid  
 Lymphoid leukemia  
 Blood and lymphoid tissue  
 Monocytic leukemia  
 Malignant plasma cell neoplasms  
 Hematopoietic and related tissue  
 Malignant neoplasms of skin  
 Respiratory system  
 Parotid gland  
 Piriform sinus  
 Soft tissue

**Aerodigestive Disorders**  
 Asthma  
 Chronic cough syndrome  
 Chronic laryngitis  
 Chronic rhinosinusitis

**Chronic respiratory disorder**  
 Gastroesophageal reflux disorder (GERD)

**Mental Health Conditions**  
 Acute stress disorder  
 Adjustment disorder  
 Anxiety disorder  
 Depression  
 Panic disorder  
 Substance use disorder  
 Major depressive disorder  
 Generalized anxiety disorder  
 Post-traumatic stress disorder

**Musculoskeletal Disorders**  
 Carpal tunnel syndrome  
 Low back pain  
 Other musculoskeletal disorders

**Other conditions:** Urinary system, Bladder, Kidney, Urinary organs, Lymphoma, Breast, Female reproductive organs, Unspecified major salivary glands, Mesothelioma, Female breast, Breast, Colon, Larynx, Nervous system, Thyroid gland, Head and neck.

## The Art of Remembrance

**Major League Baseball** – Turner Sports is producing a documentary titled “More Than Just a Game: Baseball Remembers 9/11,” about baseball’s role in New York and America’s 9/11 recovery.



**Spike Lee** – Together with HBO, Spike Lee has produced a documentary titled “NYC Epicenters 9/11 -> 2021½,” which looks at New Yorkers’ lives from 2001 to 2021.



Al Bello/Allsport / Gettyimages.com

## CDC Museum

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) David J. Sencer CDC Museum is creating a unique installation on WTC disaster exposures and related health conditions. The exhibition will also look at related work since 2001 by groups like the Registry and WTC Health Program. To learn more, visit [cdc.gov/museum/index.htm](http://cdc.gov/museum/index.htm).



Layne Harris / Shutterstock.com



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## Enrollee Stories

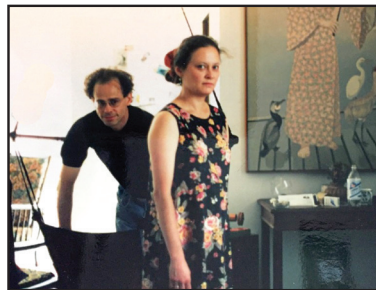
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### **Marya Columbia:** Her Music Was a Glimmer of Light as She Played for the Workers at Ground Zero

After 9/11, Marya Columbia played in a group of musicians for the rescue and recovery workers who came to St. Paul's Chapel for a break from their physically and emotionally draining daily work at ground zero.



Marya volunteered for months, and her time at ground zero greatly contributed to her lung cancer diagnosis in May 2019. The Registry worked alongside Marya and her husband Ron to have her admitted into the WTC Health Program as the first musician to receive benefits through the program.



When asked, Marya said she joined the Registry out of principle so other musicians could access benefits too. Sadly, Marya Columbia passed away from lung cancer on October 23, 2019.



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## Registry Stories

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### **Dr. Marijo Russell O'Grady:** Remembering Her Professional Dedication and Inspiring Personality

With great sadness we note the 2020 passing of Dr. Marijo Russell O'Grady, who served for many years as chair of the Registry's Community Advisory Board (CAB). We fondly remember her dedication, focus, availability and calmness in the wake of 9/11. Her ability and desire to communicate helped immensely in guiding the CAB through trying times.



While chair of the CAB, Dr. O'Grady also served as associate vice president and dean for students at Pace University's Manhattan campus, coauthored the book "Crisis, Compassion, and Resiliency in Student Affairs," and received awards for her extensive public and community service.

She leaves behind the loves of her life, her husband Mark D. O'Grady and their son James Russell O'Grady. The Registry expresses condolences to Dr. O'Grady's family and is thankful for all of her inspiring work.

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### **20 Years Later**

Listen to enrollees talk about their relationship with the Registry and their lives 20 years after 9/11. View their testimonials, including Marya's, at [www1.nyc.gov/site/911health/enrollees/testimonial-videos.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/911health/enrollees/testimonial-videos.page).

### **20th Anniversary Virtual Town Hall with the NYC Health Department and Registry**

In September, view a special NYC Health Department town hall online about the 20th anniversary and the Registry's work since 2003. Visit [nyc.gov/911health](http://nyc.gov/911health) or email [wtchr@health.nyc.gov](mailto:wtchr@health.nyc.gov) for more information.

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“We were and still are committed to responding whenever the need arises. When asked if I knew then what I know now of the dangers and the health issues, would it have changed what I did? My response was and remains, ‘In a heartbeat, we go where we are needed. As a retired police officer, we never ran away from the danger; we went head-on to meet and deal with the situation.’”

I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve on 9/11 and the aftermath. I am proud of all those who served with us. I am especially proud as a chaplain to have been allowed the opportunity to bring some comfort, and I hope healing to ... [the] brave police and fire personnel who climbed those stairs to rescue those people from certain death. They gave their lives to save others; they are the real heroes. May God bless them and reward them with eternal life in heaven. They served their time in hell on 9/11.”

— Anonymous

“Dear WTCHR,

As a Pearl and Catherine Slip resident, I want to thank you so very much for being there, caring and never giving up on your health watch over all these years.

A friend recently posted an image of the World Trade Center ‘skeletal ghost’ taken on 9/11. She is a photojournalist and was documenting the site. The image caught me off guard and brought me back to when I saw that with my own eyes on that day. On seeing that photo, I broke down and began to cry. It was odd, but assume it was an outlet of years of buried hurt — a wound of love.

My apartment was coated with dust, and I did continue to live downtown after 9/11. Luckily, my physical health appears to be OK. However, I do have a series of unsettling images that are seared into my memory. Your presence and your work are a godsend. It is wonderful to know you are still there on this 20th anniversary.”

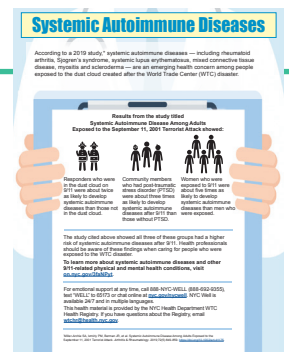
— A Pearl Street resident

## The Continued Health Impacts of 9/11

According to a 2019 study, systemic autoimmune diseases are an emerging health concern among people who were exposed to the dust cloud created after the WTC disaster.

The Registry’s health materials are one of its most popular sources of information. They describe symptoms and treatments for some of the 52 conditions, including

melanoma and sinusitis, covered by the WTC Health Program. To read the systemic autoimmune diseases handout and others, visit [nyc.gov/911health](http://nyc.gov/911health) and search for [health materials](#).



### Need Care?

If you are an enrollee and think you may have a 9/11-related health condition, email the Registry’s Treatment Referral Program at [trp@health.nyc.gov](mailto:trp@health.nyc.gov). A staff member will respond to help see if you are eligible.

### Resources

The federal WTC Health Program provides monitoring and treatment, including medications for physical and mental health conditions related to 9/11. Services are offered at no cost to you, no matter where you live now. You can apply online at [cdc.gov/wtc](http://cdc.gov/wtc) or call 888-982-4748 to have an application mailed to you.

### Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19

It has never been easier to get a COVID-19 vaccination in NYC. People age 12 and older can get vaccinated. Many vaccination sites do not require appointments. It is important that people with chronic conditions get vaccinated. Visit [nyc.gov/vaccinefinder](http://nyc.gov/vaccinefinder) to find a city vaccination site near you. Outside NYC, visit [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov).