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Submitter Name
Rachel Lidov

Rachel Lidov, Concerned Stuyvesant Community

I am speaking on behalf of parents whose children were exposed to the WTC disaster. In 2001, I was a member of the Stuyvesant High School Parents Association Political Action Committee which later became Concerned Stuy. In 2002, I co-founded 9/11 Environmental Action. Both organizations worked with many groups to press for a science-based indoor cleanup. We then fought for healthcare and compensation for those affected.

I have long been watching the deteriorating health of many WTC responders. While I fully understood the different exposure scenarios, I also knew that babies' and children's bodies were still developing and could be harmed by exposures. I have testified before to the STAC about the need for more research into the risk that these youngsters would develop similar and DIFFERENT WTC-related conditions.

Similarly, if NIOSH had committed to fund research on the survivor population, which is half female, we would have a better understanding of WTC impacts to women.

I am going to speak now about a downtown resident I met many years ago, Kathleen Bachand.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, Kathleen and her husband were in the Battery Park City apartment they shared with their son, about 600 feet from the World Trade Center. Her husband cried out from their bedroom which had a clear view of the towers. They feared the worst when they heard the 2nd plane come down the Hudson and turn east at their building, just before it slammed into the South tower.

They grabbed their puppy, some essentials and joined the pandemonium on the ground floor, exiting onto the Battery Park esplanade. Walking uptown, they reached the north intersection at Liberty Street and the Marina. There was a terrible rumbling noise; the earth shook. They dove to the ground as everything went black and silent. They were fully covered in white ash. Someone yelled RUN. As they reached Canal Street, the second tower collapsed.

They walked to Chelsea to get their son from school. Thus began a long period of displacement. Like many others, they made several trips back home with an escort from the National Guard.

They saw WTC dust had intruded well into their apartment. At the end of January of 2002, they moved back into their apartment. It was professionally cleaned, at their insurer's expense.

Kathleen wrote this in a statement that was to accompany her WTCHP application:

“And now the worst has happened to me. I was diagnosed with uterine cancer in the Spring of 2018. My form of uterine cancer is rare and I have gone through rounds of chemo and radiation and needed 35 transfusions because I now had anemia. I had to be admitted to the Emergency Room 5 times, and had hospitalizations. I had to have a full hysterectomy on May 14, 2018.”

On New Year's Eve 2019, she learned that her cancer was back, and in 2020 she was back for another round of heavy chemo and radiation but in November, she died from the complications of uterine cancer.

Now is the time to say very clearly, that uterine cancer must be now included in the WTC Health Program's list of certified conditions. It is an embarrassment to the WTC Health Program that this has not already happened.

As I watched Dr. Udasin's presentation on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals and uterine cancer at a 20TH Anniversary conference, I was reminded of a meeting of the Stuyvesant PA nearly two decades ago in which a doctor, father to one of the students, warned us of the possible damage to our children's reproductive systems by these chemicals released in the disaster.

The Inventory of 9/11 Agents includes a long list of EDCs. It is urgent to increase funding for research so that 9/11 survivors can understand both their own risks and the risks to their children, the youngest of whom are now young adults. We know that EDCs can lead to spontaneous abortions, birth defects and cancers in the next generation. Leaving this population in the dark is totally irresponsible.

Thank you