



# HEALTH WATCH

c/o New York State AFL-CIO  
100 South Swan Street, Albany, New York 12210  
646-634-9103 • [www.911healthwatch.org](http://www.911healthwatch.org)

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Mr. Gianrico Farrugia  
CEO  
Mayo Clinic  
200 First St. SW  
Rochester, MN 55905

March 19, 2025

Dear Mr. Farrugia,

I am writing to you on behalf of 9/11 Health Watch regarding the Mayo Clinic's apparent decision to no longer participate in the World Trade Center Health Program Network and provide cancer care and other medical treatment for 9/11 responders and survivors in the World Trade Center Health Program. 911 Health Watch is an independent, 501(c)3 watch group, established to monitor the programs created by the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, including the World Trade Center Health Program.

It is our understanding that after participating in the program's network for years, the Mayo Clinic has discontinued participation in at least two cases of cancer care in Arizona. We believe that there may be many more than the two cases we have identified, but because of the Trump Administration's "Communication Pause" we cannot determine if there are more cases in Arizona or in your locations in Florida and Minnesota.

We are deeply concerned that the Mayo Clinic's refusal to participate in the World Trade Center Health Program and provide cancer care will cause great hardship and harm to 9/11 responders and survivors in the program.

Other national recognized cancer care facilities, including Moffett Cancer Care Center, Roswell Park Cancer Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering and even MD Anderson of Florida are participating in the WTC Health Program. Why has the Mayo Clinic decided to stop?

Last year, MD Anderson of Texas announced that they would no longer participate in the World Trade Center Health Program, but would only provide care to individuals through a cumbersome single-case agreement procedure that would make it much more difficult and costly for WTC responders and survivors to receive needed care. After an outcry from the 9/11 community, MD Anderson reversed their decision. This sorry episode is detailed on our website here: <https://www.911healthwatch.org/issues/md-anderson-cancer-center-of-texas-refuses-to-participate-in-world-trade-center-health-program/>

And in these press reports:

[MD Anderson accused of cutting off sick 9/11 responders](#)

Modern Health, June 12, 2024

<https://www.modernhealthcare.com/hospitals/md-anderson-911-responders-health-watch-peter-pisters>

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is disrupting care for three dozen patients sickened while responding to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack over a payment dispute, the advocacy organization 911 Health Watch alleges.

The renowned Houston-based oncology provider would not comment on these claims but insists it stands ready to treat the 9/11 survivors. Yet 911 Health Watch maintains MD Anderson will not accept reimbursements established under the federal World Trade Center Health Program,.....

[MD Anderson to join program for 9/11 responders after controversy](#)

Modern Health, June 14<sup>th</sup>

<https://www.modernhealthcare.com/politics-policy/md-anderson-9-11-responders-treatment-health-watch>

One of the nation's premier cancer centers said it is joining the network of providers that treat people who were sickened by exposure to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack.



University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center had been [locked in a dispute](#) over how it should be paid by the World Trade Center Health Program, according to the advocacy organization 911 Health Watch.

[MD Anderson joins 9/11 support initiative amid controversy](#)  
Becker's Health IT | June 17, 2024

<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/digital-marketing/md-anderson-joins-9-11-support-initiative-amid-controversy.html>

On June 14, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center took to X to release another statement, saying it would participate in the World Trade Center Health Program Network.

Is your reasoning the same as MD Anderson of Texas when they sought to be reimbursed more than even Sloan Kettering was receiving?

Why would you deny the heroes and survivors of 9/11 cancer care, cancer care that they would receive if they lived anywhere else but Arizona.

We note that every year on September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Mayo Clinic posts on social media their recognition of that tragic day:

Facebook Post 2024: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18yuXLbH3V/>

Facebook Post 2023: <https://www.facebook.com/share/15nbcPKeKb/>

Facebook Post 2022: <https://www.facebook.com/share/19Ug5TUEf8/>

Facebook Post 2021: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CLdGmRez9/>

Facebook Post 2020: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1CFk7gHPSf/>

And even a 20th Anniversary Music tribute:

<https://www.facebook.com/HumanitiesInMedicine/posts/pfbid0JRqDyk3cPG7DkMxENDm57zra23Z5EfnDJP5bsWrTHo9xfz3XAwEEEZnXaxUsB59k1?rdid=q8QmUGl8JIVlqwc3#>

With statements such as this:

*“Mayo Clinic is lighting buildings across the institution in red, white and blue today, the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.*

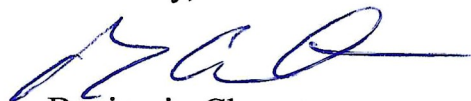
*The building lighting recognizes the memory of those who lost their lives that day in 2001, when planes crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a fourth plane crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.”*

While we have only documented two program members with cancer so far, we would hope you would agree that even just two are too many to be denied care.

Please do not respond by saying you plan on allowing program members access to your facilities through the use of cumbersome single-case agreements—which require an immense amount of paperwork, impose additional costs, and most importantly delay access to care.

Mr. Farrugia, you need to reverse this position and return the Mayo Clinic to participating in the World Trade Center Health Program Network as had been the case for years. We look forward to hearing that you will be reversing this policy decision immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Chevat', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Benjamin Chevat  
Executive Director