



MEMORIAL FOR PRES. AQUINO. A Memorial Service was held last August 4, at Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center to pay tribute to Former Philippine President Corazon Aquino who recently passed away. Mr. Errol Santos of HPMC, who coordinated the event was joined by Deputy Consul Dan Espiritu, Mr. Mike Almanzor, HPMC Comptroller, together with HPMC doctors, nurses and staff who laid wreaths at the symbolic Philippine Flag which was raised at half mast and enjoined in prayer for the late President Cory Aquino.

Immune system cancer found in young 9/11 officers

by DAVID B. CARUSO
Associated Press

NEW YORK – Researchers say a small number of young law enforcement officers who participated in the World Trade Center rescue and cleanup operation have developed an immune system cancer.

The numbers are tiny, and experts don't know whether there is any link between the illnesses and toxins released during the disaster.

But doctors who coordinated the study, published Monday in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, said people who worked at the site should continue to have their health monitored.

"What we are trying to get out there is: Be alert," said Dr. Jacqueline M. Moline, director of the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

The researchers looked at 28,252 emergency responders who spent time amid ground zero dust and found eight cases of multiple myeloma.

Those findings were no surprise. Multiple myeloma is the second most common hematological cancer in the US after non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Normally, researchers would expect to find about seven cases in a group as large as the one examined in the study.

However, four of the people who fell ill were under age 45, and multiple myeloma is thought to be more rare among people of that age. Under normal circumstances, researchers would have expected to find only one case of the disease in that age group.

Those four young multiple myeloma patients included one officer who was caught in the dust cloud on 9/11 and then spent months working long hours at the site. Another spent 111 days at the Staten Island landfill where the rubble was sifted. Two others had less exposure, working 12 and 14 days each in the pit and rubble pile.

The study said it is possible the monitoring program was simply more effective at finding the illness among people who wouldn't ordinarily be subjected to intense medical

tracking. Nevertheless, Moline said, "You shouldn't be seeing so many cases of myeloma in younger folks." The median age of diagnosis for that cancer in the general public is 71.

Several groups are studying New Yorkers exposed to toxic dust when the skyscrapers collapsed.

To date, no study, including the one published Monday, has established a link between that dust and cancer, said Lorna Thorpe, a deputy commissioner and epidemiologist at New York City's health department.

The timing of the four cases examined by the team at Mount Sinai also raised questions about whether they are related to their work at ground zero, she said.

Most research on multiple myeloma indicates that it usually takes 10 to 20 years for someone to develop that cancer after an environmental exposure to a carcinogen.

In these cases, the cancers were diagnosed in as little as three to four years after the attacks, suggesting that something else caused the disease. ■

Typhoon disrupts Asia Internet, telephone service

TAIPEI – Seabed movements believed caused by Typhoon Morakat damaged seven undersea cables linking Asian nations, disrupting Internet and telephone services, a Taiwanese telephone company said Friday.

Taiwan's Chunghwa Telecom, which jointly operates four cables in the Bashi Channel between Taiwan and the Philippines, said service has been slow since the typhoon pummeled Taiwan last weekend. Voice calls and Internet data traffic will be fully restored later Friday, it said.

Meanwhile, two of the Philippines' largest telecommunications providers said their international call and broadband services have suffered partial disruptions since Wednesday because of damaged undersea cables connecting China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.

Chen Hui-yen, an official at Chungwa, said the disruption to communications had been contained as Internet traffic and voice calls were rerouted to other cable networks.

Most international Internet data and telephone calls are transmitted as pulses of light via undersea fiber-optic cables that crisscross the globe. Many cables have "redundancy" — a technical term that means having a backup cable that takes over if the main cable is damaged or completely fails.

An earthquake off the coast of southern Taiwan in December 2006 damaged seven undersea cables and disrupted services for several days but this time there were no reports of seismic activity.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Globe Telecom Inc. said they rerouted Internet traffic and some interna-

tional business circuits to two other cable networks. PLDT said it expects to "normalize services to its business customers" by Friday.

Singapore Telecommunications Ltd., Southeast Asia's largest telephone company, said it had restored 95 percent of its Internet capacity by using other cable systems. (AP)

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