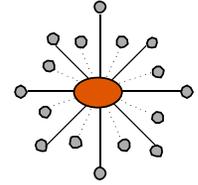


# Clinical Trials Network

Weekly Update for  
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**A different format this update:** The CTN Annual Meeting was held in the Pentagon City Doubletree Hotel on 9/10-11 located across the highway from the Pentagon. We witnessed firsthand the horrific tragedy at the Pentagon. The smoke seeped into our hotel rooms and the sound of helicopters circling pierced the night. Many of our members were stranded in Washington, DC, unable to reach loved ones back home. This update details the experiences and reflections for several of them.

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The tragedies of the past few days have made me question again, the future of human kind and its propensities for violence in the name of religion or ethnic/racial purity. But I am heartened when I reflect about the people that I am privileged to work with in the CTN. Your tireless efforts to help those afflicted with the problems of substance abuse stand in stark contrast to the violence inflicted here in the past few days, and tragically every day in many other areas of the world. Let us take strength from the CTN as an example of how people of all races, religions and ages can work together to diminish human suffering. I am honored to be working with you. **Bob Schuster (PI-Great Lakes Regional Node)**

When I spoke from the podium, I, too, looked across the room and saw a room full of people – men and women, ethnicities, nationalities, and ages. We have common goals and a purpose – Let us hope that this terrorism and violence among people does have an end and soon. Thank you for everything. **Nancy Hamilton (Operation PAR – Florida Node CTP)**

The **Great Lakes Node** chartered bus dropped off 2 of our colleagues from the Ohio Valley Node CTP in Toledo at their office around 6:30 last night, and arrived back at Detroit Metro Airport about 7:30 PM to pick up our cars and return home. We appreciate all you did to see to our comfort and concerns on Tuesday at the Doubletree, and we want to thank you for being so caring. Our trip back was smooth sailing. See you in October. **Bob Zucker (Co-PI GLRN)**

I left with four other members of our node on Wednesday at 5:00 AM and drove in a rental car I had rented when I arrived. The 5 of us arrived safely in **Connecticut** at about 2:00 PM Wed.

afternoon. See you in October. **Patrick McAuliffe (CT Renaissance – New England)**

Most of the **New York** group is back safely... and as best I've been able to determine, all of us and all of our families are safe and accounted for ... although there's hardly anyone who doesn't know at least a few of the missing. This has all been remarkably devastating for NYC... and most of us are pretty numb right now. The coverage in the papers and on TV just doesn't quite convey the impact and the sadness and mourning that you can't miss walking the streets. It's not life or business as usual at all and won't be for some time. Some of our CTPs are in areas that are completely closed off... no power, no phones, no access permitted... and not sure when that will get back to normal. It's chaotic overall, difficult to communicate, phone circuits are often out, and not enough information available. Hope that by next week we're able to get a better picture of everything. NY has always been a great city and we'll get through this. **John Rotrosen (PI – New York Node)**

I finally rented a car with four other **Colorado** delegates as it was certain that we would not get out on Thursday evening and maybe not Friday. We left Thursday morning, drove in shifts, took about 32 hours, 1800 miles, but we all made it safe and sound by Friday around 1 PM. Thanks for caring. See you again in October. **B. J. Dean (Island Grove Regional Treatment Center – Rocky Mountain Node)**

The **Portland** group broke up at noon Friday and headed home in various groups. I headed west in two cars with Dennis McCarty, Sara Lamb, Ann Uhler, Eldon Edmundson, Roy Gabriel, and Diana Kingdon. We got to Cleveland at midnight and got a flight from Cleveland to Detroit to Portland. We got to the airport at 4 AM and after checking in cars, found out the flight had been cancelled. We got back in cars and headed to Chicago. On the way, we got a flight to Salt Lake that would have cut 1400 miles off the drive. But even with two hours lead time, we couldn't get through airport security in time to catch the flight, even with Delta holding the flight just for us. We then decided to take a flight back to Cincinnati with a promise of a Portland flight. When we arrived in Cincinnati (closer to where we had started the

day), we found the plane for our flight was stuck in New York. We eventually got a flight back to Portland at midnight, arriving in Portland at 2 AM on Sunday. Is this a good time to consider canceling the October meeting? *Mitch Greenlick (PI—Oregon Node)*

It is good to hear of everyone's arrival back to their homes. How fortunate we are! The **Florida, South Carolina** (and even a couple of **North Carolina**) bus travelers left at 5:30 on Tuesday and arrived home throughout the night and finally in Miami at about 1 PM on Wednesday. We continue to stand as one and pray for all affected. We are personally appreciative of the University of Miami, their staff and generosity in getting us home safely. We are so grateful! We should let our college presidents know how much we appreciate their efforts. *Val Jackson (The Village—Florida)*

Several of us are still in route, Allison Ober is coming in to the Denver area later today, after deciding to drive home. Catherine is flying home today out of Baltimore, also Bill Wendt and his family are scheduled to fly home today. Bob Booth's flight was diverted to Kansas City last Tuesday, where he stayed until Wednesday, and rented a car to drive back that day. Susan Mikilich, Ashley Kayser, Paula Riggs and myself made a flight out of Dulles last Friday afternoon, one of the first to land at DIA in Denver. Will Butler also flew home over the weekend. Erik Stone, Leroy Lucero, Kathy Segal, and BJ Dean rented a van, left early Thursday morning, and arrived home this weekend. We are all happy to be home. *Marilyn Macdonald (Rocky Mountain Node)*

**New York City** seemed somewhat changed today. New Yorkers are generally friendly but today there seemed fewer boundaries than ever. It certainly has been an exciting few days. I began the journey home by car with Alex (from the New York node) on Tuesday. When we learned that the bridges were blocked to incoming traffic, we drove within 20 minutes of the city and reluctantly stayed overnight at a Newark hotel. My husband works (worked) at the World Financial Center and I worried for his safety. You can't imagine my relief when he finally reached me by cell phone to inform me that he was running home. He had gotten as far as Tribeca. As you know LESC's Administrative Offices are located very close to the World Trade Center on Chambers Street...so close that some

of my staff actually saw people on fire leaping to their death from the upper floor windows. My building is now locked tight since the National Guard are stationed at the McDonalds on the corner. It also served as an infirmary immediately following the incident. I'm hoping that we'll be able to return next week but it's unlikely...Chambers Street is buried deep in concrete dust. I returned home to find several of my husband's co-workers staying in my home. They lived in Battery Park and were forced to evacuate. I am grateful that the world is still intact and that we live in a country of caring people. The outpouring of concern from many from within our beloved CTN means the world to me. With heartfelt appreciation, always.

*Eileen Pencer (Lower Eastside Service Center — New York Node)*

To *Ann Uhler (CODA — Oregon Node)*

I am writing to thank you for your kindness and bravery. During the horrific moments of the terrorist attacks on the Pentagon last Tuesday, it was comforting to see you stand tall and make sense amidst the chaos and confusion. From the bit of strength you managed to muster to organize crisis counseling, others were able to gain their strength and pool resources to help those most overwhelmed. Still others, like myself, were able to feel less helpless, and to feel proud, and even a tiny bit strong, just by being associated with you, and with the CTN. I know that many others were touched by your courage. Thank you Ann. *Charla Nich (New England)*

With the exception of two **OVN** members from Toledo, who hitched a ride on the **Great Lakes** bus, the entire **OVN** (and the two PR people from the University of Cincinnati) boarded a chartered bus at about 8:45 yesterday morning. Our plan was to drop off the Columbus folk on the way and then head for Cincinnati; our Indianapolis members would then rent a car to finish the journey. However, at our first stop, our on-the-ball driver noticed another bus with a hand-lettered sign announcing that it was headed for Indianapolis. He initiated a conversation with that bus, which turned out to be on the same type of trip we were on and was planning to stop in Columbus, Dayton, OH (to drop off Cincinnati people) and then Indianapolis. We were able to trade our five Indianapolis passengers for their ten Cincinnati passengers, allowing everyone to end up closer to home. Of the **OVN** members, only Genise Heflin of

Huntington, WV, did not end up in her home city. But her husband was waiting for her in Cincinnati when we arrived. Our bus also carried five members of the Oregon Node, who were planning to spend a restful night in a Cincinnati hotel before deciding how to continue their journey home, perhaps by train. We will be eager to hear of their safe arrival home. As with other national disasters in the past, those who have experienced them will surely remember where they were when they heard the news of this one. I'm sure that the CTNers will feel a bond with each other as a result of sharing the experience of this terrible tragedy. **Gene Somoza (PI- Ohio Valley Node)**

To follow up on Ron's comments -- most of us were able to get onto flights on Friday, and have made it home safely. To say the least, we found it an ongoing process to finally get onto flights that actually took off. Don Calsyn and I took a flight from Baltimore / Washington (BWI). We got to the airport at 5:15am Friday morning for a scheduled 7:30 flight to Pittsburgh. When we got to the US Airways area we found a line about three football fields long -- many of the people had been at the airport overnight(s). As others came around a corner and saw the lines you could hear repeatedly, "Oh my God!" We were lucky to have been on the flight we were on, since another flight scheduled to leave to Pittsburgh at 7:36 was cancelled. And of course, both our flight to Pittsburgh and the subsequent flight from there to Seattle were delayed a couple of hours beyond their scheduled departure -- the biggest problem was getting the pilot, 1st officer, and stewardesses. When the plane landed in Seattle there was a round of cheers and applause. To say the least, we are all relieved and glad to be home. **Dennis Donovan (PI- Washington Node)**

All **MA Node** personnel arrived home by Wednesday evening, and were all present and accounted for at our offices today. Late on Tuesday, I finally received word that my cousin was able to evacuate the WTC before it collapsed - he is now safe at home with his wife and two children. Thank you to everyone who kept him in their prayers... **Marc Copersino (Mid-Atlantic Node)**

**South Carolina** arrived via chartered bus (teaming up with **Florida** delegation) in the wee hours this morning. I actually got to my house around 3:30 AM. Thanks for asking, and we

look forward to seeing you under less stressful conditions. **Kathleen Brady (PI- South Carolina Node)**

As you may remember, I originally wanted to do a road trip, but we got reservations on a Friday AM flight out of Dulles. Chris and I met at the taxi on Friday at 4 AM and went out to Dulles thinking there was no chance of getting on a plane to leave at 7:30. We got our boarding passes, but Chris was randomly selected to have her baggage X-rayed at the security checkpoint, so she had to go with the Red Cap and wait while they checked her out. I went to the gate to implore them to hold the plane there, the plane that was to take us to PDX had been cancelled in Orlando, so the airline sent the flight from Cincinnati on to PDX. We actually landed here at 1:30 PM and, feeling extremely lucky, got home by 3 PM. The next day was very hard, as I felt the adrenaline flow out of me. I couldn't stop watching the relief operations in NY on CNN, and spent a lot of the day in tears. My kids were a relief, though, and we actually had some fun in the evening. I'm very happy to hear that you're home, and I believe that we're now all accounted for. **Richard Drandoff (ChangePoint Inc. - Oregon Node)**

The **Baltimore-Washington** group had a relatively easy time of it, as they were able to drive home by late Tuesday afternoon. This does not mean they weren't very scared and traumatized by the event. **Maxine Stitzer (PI- Mid-Atlantic Node)**

#### **News from the CTN Office**

- Bup/NX protocol training for CTN 0003 scheduled for 10/1-2 has been canceled
- Presentations from the Annual Meeting have been posted to Live Link in a folder labeled "CTN Annual Meeting Crystal City"
- The DSMB Meeting has been rescheduled to October 29, 2001, in Bethesda, MD
- **In order to facilitate the healing process and to have the business of the CTN back to normal, the SC has voted to hold our next SC meeting as planned on October 22-24, 2001, in Bethesda, MD. Please contact the Bethesda Marriott Hotel at 301-897-9400 to make your reservations.**

Updates for this report should be sent to Carol Cushing at [ccushing@nida.nih.gov](mailto:ccushing@nida.nih.gov)