

# BTMED news



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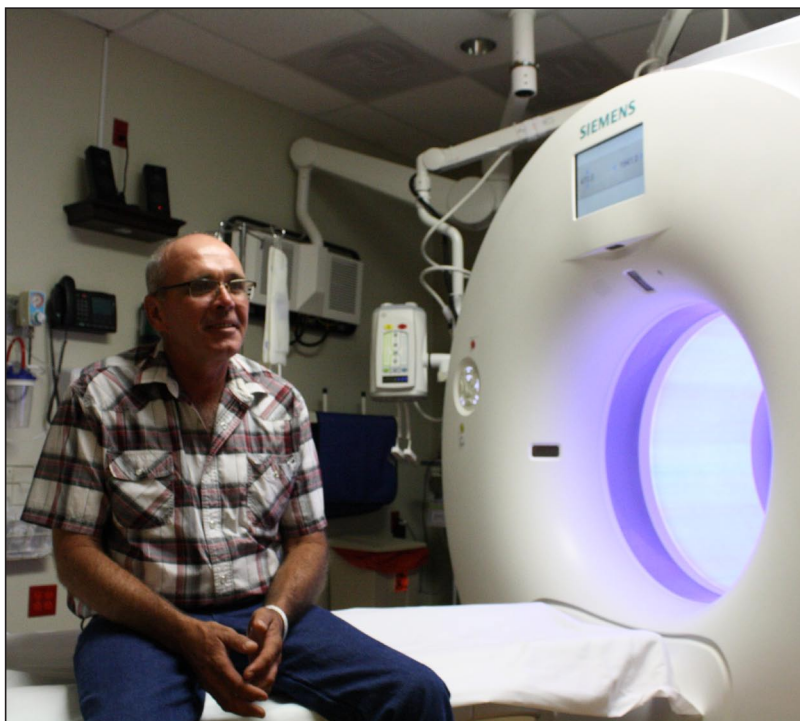
www.btmed.org

## BTMed Wishes Dr. Laura Welch, Medical Director, a Happy Retirement

After 25 years of service as BTMed's Medical Director, Dr. Laura Welch (pictured third from left) is retiring. She has been a tireless advocate for the health and wellbeing of construction workers. BTMed will partner with University of Maryland School of Medicine to fill the role of Medical Director.



## BTMED MEDICAL FINDINGS



*Joseph Goble, a former Portsmouth worker, waits for his CT Scan.*

### Early Lung Cancer Detection Program Findings

- Lung cancer has been detected in 32 of 1417 DOE workers tested.
- 23 of the 32 lung cancers were detected at an early stage when they could be treated effectively. Without the screening it is unlikely those participants would have survived.

### Occupational Health Findings

- Chest x-rays: 19.5% of participants had findings consistent with work-related lung disease.
- Pulmonary function (breathing) tests: 23% of participants had findings consistent with obstructive disease most likely caused by work-related exposures.
- Beryllium Lymphocyte Proliferation Tests (BeLPT): 2.1% of participants had at least one abnormal BeLPT.
- Audiometry: 64% percent of participants demonstrated hearing loss above what is normal in the general population.

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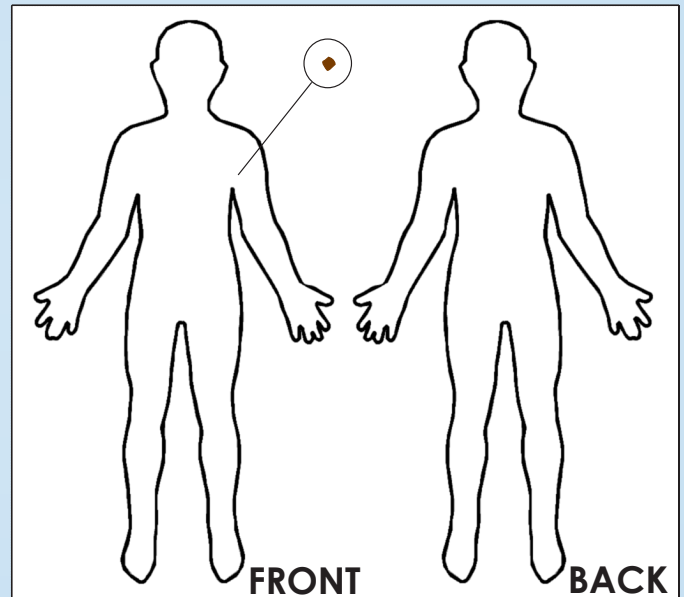
## Help participants check themselves for skin cancer

As former construction workers, those who go through BTMed screenings may have spent long hours working in the sun or around hazardous materials. This makes them at risk for developing skin cancer.

By using a body mole map (shown to the right), BTMed participants can keep track of spots on their body they think are suspicious. This will help them stay informed and educated about their risk for skin cancer when they visit their personal doctors or BTMed medical providers.

Larger body maps and spot tracking tools can be found at <https://www.btmed.org/PortalDocs/AAD-body-mole-map.pdf>

## SAMPLE BODY MOLE MAP



### **BTMed and Research (cont'd from Page 1):**

**BTMed maintains a research function that uses medical screening results (personal identifiers removed) for two purposes:**

- To identify work-related health risks and make recommendations about ways to improve worker protection within the DOE facilities.
- To improve the services we deliver to our participants, make improvements in the delivery of occupational medical services and strengthen occupational medical recommendations.

To date, 14 studies have been published in the scientific literature. Most recently, a study was published on how pleural plaques identified on chest x-rays independently contribute to both the probability of developing COPD and also the severity of the disease. This is the first study using longitudinal data to establish this as a causal relationship. To view this and our other published medical research findings, please go to [https://www.btmed.org/publications\\_findings.cfm](https://www.btmed.org/publications_findings.cfm)

## Meet our partners from the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Dr. Marianne Cloeren will serve as the primary medical consultant to BTMed, bringing decades of experience in cases management, occupational health practice administration and quality improvement. She will be joined in her duties by Dr. Stella Hines, a pulmonary specialist; Dr. Melissa McDiarmid, a seasoned researcher and clinical toxicologist; and, Dr. Joanna Gaitens, an expert in clinical surveillance epidemiology.



**Dr. Marianne Cloeren, MD, MPH**