

Town & Village

Stuyvesant Town, Peter Cooper Village, Waterside, Gramercy Park, Union Square, East Midtown Plaza and Kips Bay

69TH YEAR, No. 4

Thursday, February 9, 2017

\$1.00

10 — Thursday, February 9, 2017 — Town & Village

Ebola grant doubled to \$24M

Bellevue a participating hospital in training program

A \$12 million grant awarded in 2015 for an Ebola training center has been doubled to \$24 million to allow for a variety of expanded services, including creation of a special pathogens research network.

Bellevue Hospital is one of three facilities to benefit from the funding, as it is part of the National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC). The grant awarded to the co-leads of NETEC – the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Emory University in Atlanta, and Bellevue in New York City – will run in tandem with the original five-year grant.



Photo courtesy of NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue Hospital

A NETEC training session held at Bellevue Hospital last year with participants from all over the country

The supplemental \$12 million funding will allow the three partner institutions to perform additional site visits, conduct more educa-

tion and training courses, as well as build the special pathogens research network. This network will include the 10 regional Ebola treatment

centers located throughout the U.S. that are specially trained and equipped to handle patients with highly infectious diseases.

Laura Evans, M.D., co-principal investigator of NETEC and medical director of Critical Care and the Special Pathogens Program at NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue, said the additional funding makes it possible to train more health care providers around the country.

She added, "Public hospitals such as Bellevue are an essential part of U.S. preparations to manage highly contagious infectious diseases."

Funding is provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The special pathogens research network will allow investigators to conduct rapid response research when a new outbreak occurs, said Chris Kratochvil, M.D., co-principal investigator of NETEC for UNMC, associate

vice chancellor for clinical research and vice president for research at Nebraska Medicine, UNMC's clinical partner.

"It's not 'if,' but 'when,' because it's only a matter of time before another outbreak like Ebola happens," Dr. Kratochvil said. "When Ebola hit, UNMC, Emory and other institutions were all independently trying to determine the best drug for treatment. It was inefficient – we weren't using the same protocols, and there was no consistency to the research. Now we can all collaborate to develop medical counter measures together."

Dr. Kratochvil said the research infrastructure should be complete by this summer. "Then, research projects will be more efficient and less expensive to conduct because of the shared resources," he said.

Since December 2014, the three institutions have trained more than 840 health care workers on all aspects of infection control and patient care for individuals with Ebola.

STAY CONNECTED. FOLLOW US.

NYCHealthandHospitals.org/Bellevue

NYCHealthandHospitals.org

twitter.com/BellevueHosp

twitter.com/NYCHealthSystem

facebook.com/NYCHealthSystem

instagram.com/NYCHealthSystem

instagram.com/NYCYouthHealth

youtube.com/NYCHealthSystem

@BellevueHosp

#BellevueProud

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Bellevue Information Line
Operator
Patient Advocacy

(212) 562-4141
(212) 562-4311
(212) 562-6071