

“I retired from clinical practice a few years ago. This gave me the opportunity to volunteer as a medical worker at Elmhurst General Hospital in Queens, NY. Nothing in my training prepared me for what I encountered there. The hospital was at 260% capacity because the crisis and the Governor required that. There were 100 desperately ill ventilated patients, half of whom were on transport ventilators intended for home use, but modified to accommodate the critically ill. Forty ventilated patients were admitted to a step-down unit re-designated as an ICU. We had to accept levels of oxygenation, CO₂ and pH unimaginable prior to this pandemic. It was like a war zone, but exponentially more intense than anything I encountered in that far away land in the 1970's. The Elmhurst staff, deployed military medical workers and other volunteers were amazing. This is why we chose medicine as a career!”

Gene Grindlinger, MD, (MED'70)