

# United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) OY 2022-2023 Accomplishments



**JOAG** | JUNIOR OFFICER ADVISORY GROUP

# OY 2022-2023 Senior Advisor and Executive Committee

Position	Officer	Category	Agency/OPDIV
Senior Advisor	CAPT David Lau	HSO	FDA
Chair	LCDR Mouhamed Halwani	HSO	FDA
Chair-Elect	LCDR Michael Wandersee	ENG	USFWS
Vice Chair	LCDR Ubong Akpan	PHARM	DOD
Executive Co-Secretary	LCDR Michelle Lin	SCI	CDC
Executive Co-Secretary	LCDR Colin Tack	ENG	FDA
Operations Liaison	LCDR Jackeline Rodriguez	NURSE	CMS



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# Voting Membership

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Agency/OPDIV</b>
LCDR Ubong Akpan	PHARM	DOD
LCDR Sandra Carpio	EHO	ASPR
LCDR Joshua Caulder	THER	BOP
LCDR Stephanie Chiang	HSO	CMS
LCDR Tabitha Dillinger	PHARM	IHS
LCDR Kodilichi Echeozo	PHARM	FDA
LCDR Delice Echols	HSO	IHSC
LCDR Mouhamed Halwani	HSO	FDA
LCDR John-Martin Jackson	HSO	FDA
LCDR Kaveh Kayvani	DENT	IHS
LCDR Xia Michelle Lin	SCIENTIST	CDC
LCDR Adam Loyson	PHARM	BOP
LCDR Rachel McBride	DIET	ASPR
LCDR Laura McCluney	PHARM	IHS
LCDR Ogochukwu Ogoegbunam	PHARM	FDA
LCDR Jackeline Rodriguez	NURSE	CMS
LCDR John Rossow	VET	CDC
LCDR Colin Smith	MED	IHS
LCDR Colin Tack	ENGINEER	FDA
LCDR Michael Wandersee	ENGINEER	USFWS
LCDR Sarah Whittington	NURSE	IHS
LCDR Fengyee Zhou	PHARM	USCG

# Goal 1. *Provide advice and consultation to the Surgeon General and other Corps entities on issues affecting junior officers (JOs)*



**Provided consultation to Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) and Office of the Surgeon General (OSG)** regarding promotion changes, community engagement, training, readiness, and deployments.



**Created and distributed a comprehensive 25-question JO Retention Survey** completed by 420 JOs across 20 agencies and all 11 United States Public Health Service (USPHS) categories. Resulting data to be utilized by JOAG to assist the OSG, Chief Professional Officers, Professional Advisory Committees, and other USPHS groups in developing strategies to improve the retention of JOs in the USPHS.



**Aligned the JOAG Charter** with OSG Charter template and CCHQ priorities by updating the document with changes in JOAG operations.



**Distributed two Junior Officer Chronicles** which included a message from our Chair, officer Spotlights, and numerous articles containing uplifting messages, experiences, and professional tips for fellow JOs. These publications provide JOs with a platform to share their experiences and read about other JOs and potential opportunities.



**Distributed four Career & Life Tip articles and two JO Voice publications** providing a mechanism for JOs to both provide and receive clarification on concerns.

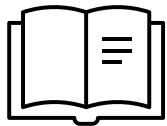
## Goal 2. *Support the Surgeon General's priorities*



**Addressed Youth Mental Health** by launching the JOAG Youth Mental Health Awareness Social Media Campaign that produced 24 social media posts across two platforms reaching over 1,400 individuals.



**Published three Deployment Narratives** to enhance the visibility of JOs deployment accomplishments and promote deployment preparedness for all Junior Officers.



**Organized two seminars, delivered by four Subject Matter Experts** that addressed workplace mental health and suicide prevention to an audience of over 550 individuals and provided 313 continuing education credits to attendees.



**Increased officer preparedness by publishing** four Cybergrams that include Deployment Preparation Plan, Periodic Health Update, Basic Life Support, and Operational Dress Uniform and Medical Review Board.



**Created and provided resources in 12 Practicing Wellness publications** to enable healthy psychological functioning during transitions from pre-deployment to deployment roles to reintegration for over 2,000 officers and their families.



**Organized two Public Health Service (PHS) Athletics events** to promote Junior Officer readiness and fitness standards.

# Goal 3. *Serve as a resource and support network for junior officers*



**Provided 139 direct educational exchanges** at the 2023 Scientific and Training Symposium along with updated guidance on uniform wear.



**Enhanced networking between** 46 pairs of junior and senior officers within the Peer-to-Peer Networking Program.



**Disseminated quarterly newsletters** providing tips to Junior Officers on professional and personal matters in topics such as leadership, listening, boundaries, and time maintenance.



**Developed and distributed an inaugural JOAG Aide-de-Camp Guide**, Space-A Travel Fact Sheet, and an updated Morale Welfare and Recreation Guide to over 3,000 JOAG listserv recipients. These documents serve as resources for officers to understand the responsibilities of serving as an Aide and improve knowledge and access to external opportunities for PHS officers.



**Reviewed and enhanced five outreach documents** which provide Junior Officers with updated guidance and policies from CCHQ to improve officer readiness and resiliency.



**Significantly improved methodology for JOs** to communicate inquiries about topics of interest for JO Voice publications resulting in two released publications for the operational year.

## Goal 4. *Foster the development of junior officers*



**Selected 14 Voting Members (VMs)** from 29 applicants and **nominated 14 VMs for Special Assignment Awards.**



**Selected four award winners** (i.e., Koop, Carmona, Excellence, and JOY) to feature outstanding JOs who championed the SG priorities through national public health impacts.



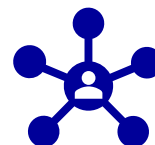
**Enhanced networking** between junior and senior officers by executing the JOAG Breakfast and Awards Ceremony and a presentation resulting in a combined in-person and virtual attendance of over **135** JOs, PAC CPOs, and other leadership members.



**Improved Junior Officer leadership opportunities** by incorporating an additional Voting Member in the JOAG Charter and creating additional leadership positions throughout multiple JOAG subcommittees.



**Coordinated multiple volunteer opportunities** during the USPHS symposium that included over **100** volunteers amongst six JOAG-led activities



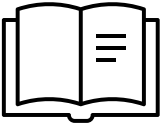
Held a professional development panel on the topic **"A Captain's Perspective on Career Planning"** which was attended by over **80** junior officers.



# Goal 5. *Increase visibility of the Commissioned Corps*



**Expanded promotion of COSTEP** program by relaying information to greater than 100 educational institutions and approximately 10,000 students in health professional programs.



**Published and distributed the Public Health Champions:** Health Advocacy in Action! newsletter featuring four JOs who embrace and advance health advocacy in their communities and shared actionable skillsets.



**Conducted a SRCOSTEP Social Media Recruitment Blitz** that promoted the SRCOSTEP program to over 3,000 prospective applicants.



**Served at 36 Wreaths Across America locations nationwide;** efforts included collaboration of 180 PHS officers and 69 civilians across 20 states and provided 43 leadership roles.



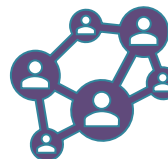
**Organized eleven national physical activity events** with over 300 total participants to commemorate several holidays and promote overall wellness.



**Reorganized and updated website to streamline access of information, enhance functionality and capture historical listing of previous JOAG Leadership;** completed 71 webpage update requests and 35 508-compliance document reviews.



**Attended eight OBC Open House and eight OBC Graduation events** to engage and introduce new CAD officers to JOAG and its programs; efforts included 145 CAD officer impressions.



**Expanded JOAG's social media** following to over 1,100 and produced 85 social media posts highlighting the accomplishments of JOs within their agencies, local communities, and professional organizations reaching over 8,300 individuals across the nation.