

Congratulations to the 2020 EPAC Award Winners

On behalf of the EPAC Award Subcommittee, please join me in congratulating our awardees for the 2020 PHS Engineer for the Year (EOY), Engineer Responder of the Year (EROY) and the RADM Jerrold M. Michael Engineer Award.

The awards were presented the Engineering Week Awards Ceremony at the FDA White Oak Building in February 13, 2020.

CAPT Stephen B Martin, Jr, PE– USPHS Engineer of the Year Award

CAPT Stephen B. Martin, Jr. (Steve) is a Senior Research Engineer in the Field Studies Branch of the Respiratory Health Division at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in Morgantown, West Virginia. Since joining NIOSH in 1997, he has been involved with research into respirator filter and unit performance, ventilation systems and other engineering controls, environmental tractor cab filter performance and cab integrity testing, indoor air quality investigations, and air/surface disinfection studies using ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI). He works extensively on tuberculosis (TB) outbreak investigations and prevention studies in jails, prisons, and homeless shelters. Additionally, he was involved with the CDC/NIOSH response to the 2001 anthrax attacks, the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreaks in Asia, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, and preparing US hospitals to receive Ebola patients during the recent outbreaks in western Africa. Steve is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of West Virginia. He received his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia and earned an M.S. degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware. He earned his Ph.D. degree from the Department of Architectural Engineering at the Pennsylvania State University, where he developed a microbiologically-based rating system for in-duct UVGI devices. Steve is a founding member and past-chairperson of the ASHRAE Technical Committee on Ultraviolet Air and Surface Disinfection (TC 2.9) and is the chairperson of the ASHRAE Standards Project Committee (SPC 185) that developed ANSI testing methods for in-duct UVGI air and surface disinfection devices. He is an invited member on the Facility Guidelines Institute's (FGI) Health Guidelines Revision Committee responsible for updating the "Guidelines for Design and Construction of Healthcare Facilities," that is used or referenced as code for construction and renovation of healthcare facilities by over 40 states. He also serves as a NIOSH representative on the Federal TB Task Force and as the NIOSH ex officio member of the CDC Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis.



CDR Kris Neset, PE, MSM– Engineer Responder of the Year Award

CDR Kris Neset is currently serving as Tribal Utility Consultant IHS Great Plains Area Minot District Office. In October 2017 CDR Neset deployed to Puerto Rico as part of the Department of Health and Human Services' Hurricane Maria Response. While there he supported the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in completing assessments of 14 major hospitals throughout the island. The reports developed by CDR Neset aided the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the USACE to identify and prioritize temporary repair work needed to ensure safe operation of these hospitals during the federal response efforts. As a result of his outstanding performance during the October 2017 deployment CDR Neset was again identified by leadership of the USPHS Commissioned Corps to deploy to Puerto Rico in March/April 2018 to complete additional assessments on high priority public health facilities during the recovery phase of the federal government's efforts. As part of a team he conducted evaluation of completed temporary work and scoped/documentated needed permanent work.



In 2018 Great Plains Area Division of Facilities Management Program selected CDR Neset to deploy to the Pine Ridge and Rosebud IHS Hospitals to assist with improving and cleaning up the backlog of outstanding preventive maintenance and work order activities. The Pine Ridge and Rosebud IHS Hospitals have a combined 80 beds and supports annually around 92,000 outpatient visits. CDR Neset was selected to deploy because of his project management skills and past experience as a Tribal Utility Consultant. He deployed from October 19, 2018 to November 9, 2018 as part of an USPHS team brought in to help achieve Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) re-accreditation at the Rosebud IHS Hospital. He was also deployed back to the Pine Ridge IHS Hospital for a total of 30 days during the months of February, March, September, and October of 2019 where he worked as part of another team to address Joint Commission Resources (JCR) findings and re-accreditation of the hospital by CMS. CDR Neset effectively provided needed technical assistance to the local facilities staff and was eager to assist with the outstanding facility repair and maintenance issues the Hospitals were facing and was a critical team member helping to improve the condition of both facilities.

LT Wenchi Hsu, PhD –RADM Jerrold M. Michael Award

LT Vicky Hsu is a clinical pharmacology reviewer for oncology and hematology new drugs at the FDA. She received her bachelor's degree in biological resources engineering and her Ph.D. degree in pharmaceutical sciences, both from the University of Maryland. As the lead clinical pharmacology reviewer, LT Hsu is responsible for optimizing the use of drugs in patients by identifying the best dose for each individual patient or specific patient population. During her FDA career, she has led the clinical pharmacology review team in the approval of 1 first-in-class biosimilar product for the treatment of anemia, and 6 new drugs for cancer, providing much-needed treatment options for patients with locally advanced or metastatic melanoma, leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, or urothelial cancer. She is considered an expert in physiologically-based pharmacokinetic (or PBPK) modeling, which combines drug and physiological data in a mathematical modeling framework, to address questions that could not be addressed with clinical studies or to replace simple clinical studies. She has authored 8 publications and presented 12 abstracts related to various aspects of PBPK modeling, which have shaped FDA's thinking on this topic and contributed to several FDA Guidances for Industry regarding the use of PBPK modeling to support drug development and eventual marketing authorization. LT Hsu has been involved in a number of PHS groups, including EPAC's career development subcommittee, PACE's suburban MD outreach for opioids education, JOAG's product research and selection subcommittee, and APAOC's healthy mind initiative. She also serves as the lead flag folding instructor for OBC, lead judge for annual Frederick County Science & Engineering Fairs for DC COA, and alternate executive secretary for APAOC. As a member of the SAT-4 deployment team, she deployed last year for the Unaccompanied Children Reunification Mission and this year for the Covid-19 Mission. As a junior officer, LT Hsu is very humbled and honored to receive the RADM Jerrold M. Michael Award and hopes to continue to be an advocate for the education and training of engineers.

