



Health Services Category Basic Applied Science Advisory Group

Multidisciplinary in Approach, Connected by Service, Advancing Public Health
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Basic Applied Science Advisory Group Newsletter

Dear Fellow Officers,

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the BASPAG Chair this year. 2017 was an exceptional year primarily because of implementation of new PAG By-Laws and organizational structure but BASPAG leadership worked as a team and provided support throughout the journey. As you will read through the subcommittee accomplishments, you will notice together we have achieved a lot but there is still plenty of work to be done. I am confident the upcoming 2018 Chair, CDR Chad Thompson, will improve upon the existing functions and work towards implementing upcoming new initiatives put forward by the PAC leadership.



BASPAG Representation at 2017 United States Public Health Service Symposium

I would like to introduce BASPAG's Senior Advisors, CAPT George Durgin and CAPT Raquel Peat. They provided immense guidance and advice this past year specially understanding roles and responsibilities of new subcommittees introduced under new PAG by-laws.



Captain Raquel Peat, PhD, MPH, MS is a microbiologist and has over 25 years of experience as a technical and regulatory expert, and as a manager and leader, in a variety of areas including drugs, medical devices and tobacco products. She is stationed at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as a Director for the Division of Premarket and Labeling Compliance in the Office of Compliance, Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) where she is in-charge of enforcing premarket and postmarket requirements, as well as promotion, advertising and labeling requirements for medical devices.



CAPT George Durgin is the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Commissioned Corps Liaison Officer for over 800 USPHS officers providing healthcare to 185,000 federal inmates in 122 institutions from Puerto Rico to Hawaii. CAPT Durgin was formally an Associate Director, Deputy Director, and Resilience Division Chief at the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury; Director in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority; Director of the Operations and Policy Branch for FDA's Division of Import Operations and Policy; and Acting Branch Director for the FDA's Los Angeles District's Import Operation Branch.

As a group, we have had an outstanding year with many accomplishments in 2017. Here are a few highlights from BASPAG Subcommittees:

This past year **Communication Subcommittee** worked to update BASPAG By Laws, Roster and Website and created the yearly newsletter. Additionally, BASPAG launched a new email address baspag.hso@gmail.com to give BASPAG members opportunities to ask questions and share information.

BASPAG Awards Subcommittee awarded both a senior and junior officer awards this year. The awardees were recognized at the 2017 USPHS Symposium in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The BASPAG Officer of the Year Awards were presented to a Senior and Junior Officer who has made significant contributions to the advancement of the Nation's health, demonstrated leadership in their work and the USPHS, and has shown involvement in health-related professional or community organizations or activities.

BASPAG Senior and Junior Officer of the year Award Recipients



CDR Ryan Hill (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

CDR Ryan Hill is a Manager assigned to National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDR Hill has conducted epidemiologic studies to enhance what is known about the health of high-risk populations, identify previously unrecognized hazards, and develop effective public health programs. CDR Hill has made significant and lasting contributions to improving community and worker health by leading high-impact research and prevention activities.



LCDR Tara L. Houda (Environmental Protection Agency)

LCDR Tara Houda is an Environmental Scientist assigned to the Environmental Protection Agency. As a Clean Water Act Enforcement Officer, she works to protect human health and the environment through multiple water programs. She leads inspections across the southeast regions identifying pollution to waterways and enforcement actions. She is a member of Atlanta COA leading its Community Service Committee and has co-led volunteer activities.

During the past year, the Training, Education, and Mentoring (T.E.M.) Subcommittee – was very productive. TEM organized a presentation with the Health Services CPO, CAPT Willis Marsh. During this open discussion and talk CAPT Marsh shared her experiences with progression and recommends step BASPAG officers could take to gain the most of their careers. During this training, officers were given resources to assist in providing in developing leadership and career growth. Additionally, officers learned about how applied science education can allow for diverse career as a health services officer. In November, BASPAG hosted a CV review session to go over new changes and requirements of the HS CV out forward by the PAC Career Development Subcommittee.

In addition to trainings, TEM conducted a survey to garner insight into the concerns of senior and junior officers in professional develop. The **Data Analytics Subcommittee** analyzed the results from the survey and generated a report which was shared with PAC's Analytics Subcommittee. Officers expressed a high level interest in professional development as well a desire for increased guidance in translating science experience and training into careers. Among challenges, officer indicated time constraints and work obligations as things that hindered their participation in BASPAG subcommittees. Officers indicated that they would like to have interactive webinars and self-paced trainings as options in the category. BASPAG will continue to address the training needs of its officers in the coming year(s).

The **Policy and Technical Readiness Subcommittees** were busy this past year in updating SOPs and assisting PAC Readiness Subcommittee in developing the Advanced Readiness program.

The **Administrative Management Subcommittee** conducted a successful Voting Membership Drive including election of 2018 PAG Chair- Elect and provided a BASPAG events calendar to PAC leadership in a timely manner.

The newly formed **Stakeholder & Community Engagement Subcommittee** identified and disseminated information on 25 community engagement events and continues to identify best practices for fostering relationships with professional organizations.

I would like to recognize all the BASPAG officers who have responded to Hurricanes that impacted Puerto Rico, Houston, and Florida. Also, kudos to those that are covering and filling in for those that area away.

Thank you to all the voting members who are transiting off the BASPAG this year. We also welcome the new 2018 BASPAG Leadership who will continue to focus on increasing engagement, membership and professional development of officers.

2018 BASPAG Leadership

Role	Name	Email address
Chair	CDR Chad Thompson	Chad.thompson@fda.hhs.gov
Chair-Elect and Policy Subcommittee	CDR Arthur Hurst	Arthur.hurst@fda.hhs.gov
Secretary	LCDR Cullen Wilson	Cullen.wilson@fda.hhs.gov
Awards Subcommittee	CDR Christina Williams	Christina.williams@hhs.gov
Administrative Management Subcommittee	LCDR Cho Chung	Chung.cho@fda.hhs.gov
Communication Subcommittee	CDR Hilary Hoffman*	Hilary.hoffman@fda.hhs.gov
Data Analytics Subcommittee	CDR Jason Abel	Jason.Abel@fda.hhs.gov
Stakeholder & Community Engagement Subcommittee	CDR Terri McConnell	Terri.McConnell@fda.hhs.gov
Technical Readiness Subcommittee	LCDR LaTonya Jiggetts*	Latonya.jiggetts@fda.hhs.gov
Training, Education, and Mentoring Subcommittee	LCDR John Diehl	John.diehl@fda.hhs.gov

*non-voting member

Thank you BASPAG for giving me an opportunity to serve as your Chair. The experience and knowledge skills gained will help me improve as an officer and strengthen my contributions to Health Services Category and the Commissioned Corps.

Wishing everyone happy holiday season and wonderful 2018!

Sincerely,

LCDR Simleen Kaur
 2017 BASPAG Chair
baspag.hso@gmail.com

