

CDR Lawrence Zubel is being nominated for the OPAG's Ed Hamilton Award for his continued perseverance and dedication to the Mission of the PHS and IHS Optometry Program. CDR Zubel repeatedly goes beyond his role as an eye care provider and takes on numerous additional assignments to ensure that the hospital/health care facility in which he works is successful. This drive goes beyond his local facility and spills into the National IHS Optometry Program and the USPHS. Thus far CDR Zubel has practiced as an optometrist in the both the Aberdeen and Phoenix Area's.

The efforts of CDR Zubel's commitment are represented in the following national venues.

At the Uintah and Ouray Health Center CDR Zubel coordinated the arrival of the Remote Area Medical (RAM) Team mission to the Ute Reservation. RAM is a charity that has gain national attention for providing free healthcare to the underserved in remote areas of the USA and the world. CDR Zubel was instrumental in inviting RAM to the U&O reservation, credentialing each volunteer provider, and providing the necessary information to all parties concerned to assure food, lodging and workspace was available for the five-day RAM mission. The results of this effort were 708 patients receiving \$287,000 worth of eye, dental, gynecologic and audiology services. This effort is becoming the template for further work with the RAM team in more of the planned combined missions.

Another example of CDR Zubel's service is active participation as the IHS Optometry's Program OFRD liaison. In this role he works closely with OFRD to ensure optometry's role in deployments and disaster responses. With his coordination, three commissioned corps officers participated with the USNS Comfort humanitarian efforts in the spring '09.

During his appointment as secretary to the Optometry Professional Advisory Group (OPAG), CDR Zubel assisted in the mission of the OPAG in serving the optometrists within all Federal Agencies. This group is a link to the Health Services Professional Advisory Committee whose chair reports to the Assistant Surgeon General.

In reference to CDR Zubel's commitment to the profession of optometry he actively participates as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Optometry at three different Schools/College of Optometry. This allows his to preceptor optometry students during their clinical rotations. Thus increasing access to patient care and exposing student to the IHS's mode of practice and enhancing recruiting.

Zubel, OD Lawrence
CDR UPHS
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On a local level CDR Zubel has numerous responsibilities well beyond his eye clinic. As a member of the U&O Governing Body he assists in policy, procedures and priorities for all clinic operations. As credentialing coordinator for the medical staff he must closely adhere to CMS and regulations in regards privileging of providers. This key role is imperative to ensure quality care is provided to patients of U&O. Additional duties CDR Zubel maintains that are key to any health care organization are, Chair of Performance Improvement Committee and GPRA Coordinator. These positions are directly tied his health organizations accreditation.

CDR Zubel's leads by example. As an optometrist he meets and exceeds the eye care needs of the U&O community. In addition he carries out numerous administrative duties on a local and national level. These duties coincide with the PHS and IHS Missions and are an integral part of the success he achieves. These factors are a firm basis for CDR Zubel's nomination for the OPAG's Ed Hamilton Award.