



NAME: CAPT LAURA PINCOCK

JOB TITLE: PHARMACIST OFFICER

AGENCY: AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY (AHRQ)

EDUCATION/DEGREES/CERTIFICATES/INSTITUTIONS:

Captain (CAPT) Laura Pincock obtained her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 1996 and Doctor of Pharmacy in 1997 from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, achieving magna cum laude for both degrees. She completed an ASHP accredited residency in Pharmacy Practice at Inova Fairfax Hospital in June 1998. In 2010, CAPT Pincock completed a Master of Public Health from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She holds both a Diabetes Training Certificate as well as an Immunization Training Certificate from the American Pharmacists Association (APhA). In addition, CAPT Pincock has been an instructor for the APhA Immunization Training program for pharmacists and has also instructed smallpox vaccination training.

CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION:

CAPT Pincock's current duties as a pharmacist officer with AHRQ, in the Center for Evidence and Practice Improvement (CEPI), Evidence-Based Practice Center Program (EPC), include working with federal partners and professional associations to formulate and implement a research agenda. She develops and coordinates evidence-based research activities and serves as the Contracting Officer Representative to assist with the technical monitoring and administration of various contracts. CAPT Pincock provides guidance for analyzing, interpreting, disseminating, and implementing complex clinical and scientific studies. She also provides expert review to senior AHRQ leadership on the topics of medications, pharmacists, pharmacy practice and profession, drug pricing and reimbursement, insurance coverage, drug compounding, and drug safety. Additionally, CAPT Pincock serves as the AHRQ representative for the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC), the National Council on Patient Information and Education (NCPPIE), the National Business Group on Health (NGBH), and as alternate for the FDA's Drug Safety Oversight Board.

QUALIFYING SKILLS FOR CURRENT POSITION:

CAPT Pincock developed her skills by maintaining a commitment to higher education in pharmacy practice while demonstrating mobility throughout her career. Her work experience includes retail pharmacy and clinical hospital pharmacy practice. CAPT Pincock practiced clinical pharmacy at Frederick Memorial Hospital full-time and then continued part-time when selected as a Senior Regulatory Review Officer at FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), Office of Medical Policy, Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications (DDMAC). In August 2004, she was selected to be a Safety Evaluator and then Team Lead with CDER's Office of Drug Safety Division of Medication Errors and Technical Support (DMETS). Another position at the FDA was as Team Lead and Safety Evaluator for the Safety and Risk Communication Team which managed the Drug Safety Communication

program. CAPT Pincock continued to move programmatically within the FDA expanding her leadership and public health knowledge while pursuing advances in drug safety, risk communication, and evidence-based practice.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE USPHS AS A CAREER:

When asked about her decision to join the PHS, CAPT Pincock had this to share. Upon entering pharmacy school, she fully intended to graduate with a BPharm and practice as a retail pharmacist. As she progressed through pharmacy school, she had the good fortune of being selected as a Junior COSTEP in the summer of 1995. She decided to work towards a PharmD and residency to expand her options. She had learned about the limitless possibilities for an officer in the PHS. She decided to think and act "outside the retail or hospital box" and pursue non-traditional pharmacy roles. CAPT Pincock realized she could pursue several different interests all within the domain of the PHS, and her time in each position would count towards her long-term career objectives. The possibility of working on policies that would have a global impact was one deciding factor for her joining the USPHS. CAPT Pincock also particularly enjoys the camaraderie and history of the Commissioned Corps and notes, "I have received more job satisfaction than I ever thought possible".

PREVIOUS AND CONCURRENT USPHS ASSIGNMENTS:

CAPT Pincock's professional experience with the US Public Health Service began with two tours of duty, in 1995 and 1996, as a Junior COSTEP with the FDA's Division of Drug Information Resources (DDIR). As a Junior COSTEP, she was involved in extracting and analyzing drug product data from human drug submissions, and acting as a liaison between pharmaceutical companies and the Food and Drug Administration to monitor, document, and update Phase IV commitment status. In April 2001, she became a Senior Regulatory Review Officer with FDA's Office of Prescription Drug Promotion where her duties included reviewing and evaluating promotional materials for prescription human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), metabolic/endocrine, and lipid-lowering drug products. From 2004 to 2010, CAPT Pincock worked in the FDA's Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology as a safety evaluator and team leader on medication errors and adverse reactions with drugs and biological products. Her next FDA position was in the Office of Communications where she worked as a team lead and medical writer for the Safety and Risk Communication Team ensuring appropriate messaging of FDA safety communications from 2010-2014. This experience was a great precursor to her current position where she develops and implements the research proposals and manages projects through evidence report publication into the stages of evidence dissemination and implementation.

MOST REWARDING USPHS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

In her current position as a Pharmacist Officer with AHRQ, CAPT Pincock enjoys working with organizational partners to help scale the scope of research projects that will benefit the public health and improve the availability of sound clinical literature. Problem solving to garner tangible reports and documents that are available to the public on a wide variety of health issues is rewarding.

As an FDA Safety Evaluator, it was fulfilling to know that she contributed to the various news reports about medication errors or other drug safety alerts. She gained satisfaction knowing that medication usage was safer because of the important work at FDA.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES:

CAPT Pincock has a passion for Emergency Response and Preparedness. Since 2001, she has served on Tier 1 teams, including PHS-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) as Deputy Chief Pharmacist, PHS-2 Rapid Deployment Force Team (RDF) as the founding Pharmacy Branch Director, and now National Incident Support Team (NIST-B) as a Public Health/Fusion officer. She has maintained an active engagement in the Corps, and has served as a former Vice Chair for the PharmPAC and voting member of the Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG).

SPECIAL NOTES OF INTEREST:

CAPT Pincock expressed that she is pleased to serve as a USPHS Commissioned Corps officer. She has had a varied career that allowed her to explore non-traditional pharmacy positions and combine her passion for pharmacy with that of emergency response and commitment to evidence research to support public health initiatives. In addition to her Corps, activities, CAPT Pincock enjoys participation in community service, watching musical theatre, leading her Girl Scout troop, and traveling with her family.

*By LCDR Garrette Martin-Yeboah
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