



NAME: CAPT VASAVI THOMAS

**JOB TITLE: TEAM LEAD, PREVENTION IN
CLINICAL CARE TEAM**

**AGENCY: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND
PREVENTION (CDC)**

EDUCATION/DEGREES/CERTIFICATES/INSTITUTIONS:

Captain (CAPT) Vasavi Thomas received a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Ferris State University in 1996. She also obtained a Master of Public Health from George Washington University in 2005 and is pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Florida with an anticipated completion date of July 30, 2016.

CAPT Thomas has a broad range of professional expertise including a certificate in Diabetes Care, a certificate from the Excellence in Government Fellows Leadership program, and certifications in Project Management and Program Consultation.

CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION:

CAPT Thomas is the Lead for the Prevention in Clinical Care Team in the HIV Capacity Building Branch under the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention at CDC in Atlanta, Georgia. CAPT Thomas provides oversight and guidance to a team of five behavioral and health scientists that disseminate clinical and biomedical interventions and strategies to support sustainable, cost-effective HIV prevention programs in healthcare settings. The team works with national capacity building assistance (CBA) providers and the HIV prevention workforce to incorporate high-impact, HIV-prevention strategies in low economic and high disease burden communities to achieve the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS 2020) initiative.

QUALIFYING SKILLS FOR CURRENT POSITION:

Prior to being commissioned in the U.S. Public Health Service, CAPT Thomas served in the U.S. Air Force as a pharmacist for 3 years. In 2001, CAPT Thomas transferred to the USPHS as a regulatory management officer in the Division of Antiviral Products in the Office of New Drugs at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

In 2004, CAPT Thomas completed the CDC International Experience and Technical Assistance Public Health Training program. She was detailed to the Botswana Ministry of Health in Gaborone, Botswana to coordinate and organize pharmacy-related activities to support HIV clinical research.

She went on to serve as a senior program management officer consultant in the Division of Antiviral Products at FDA for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

Program. In 2007, she transferred to CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention to support prevention program activities including monitoring HIV prevention grants.

Throughout CAPT Thomas's USPHS career, she has had a broad range of professional experiences and published in the area of HIV prevention. She has been recognized for her work through numerous Agency and USPHS awards.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE USPHS AS A CAREER:

CAPT Thomas joined the USPHS to expand and bridge her clinical experiences to a career in public health.

PREVIOUS USPHS ASSIGNMENTS:

- Senior Program Consultant, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, HIV Capacity Building Branch, CDC
- Public Health Advisor, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, HIV Prevention Program Branch, CDC
- Health Scientist, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Epidemiology Branch, CDC
- Senior Program Management Officer Consultant, Office of New Drugs, FDA
- Regulatory Management Officer, Office of New Drugs, FDA

MOST REWARDING USPHS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

CAPT Thomas has greatly enjoyed the vast opportunities and experiences in the USPHS assignments including the opportunity to engage in international activities and travel. She has had many rewarding professional experiences as a USPHS Officer and has especially enjoyed the ability to collaborate with other officers across multiple agencies.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES:

CAPT Thomas engages in a wide array of professional activities including volunteering at Physicians Care Clinic in Atlanta, Georgia where she provides personalized diabetes and hypertension education to patients.

By CAPT Richardae Araojo