



NAME: CDR JANELLE DERBIS

JOB TITLE: DIRECTOR, HEALTH PROMOTION,
OFFICE OF SPECIAL HEALTH ISSUES, OFFICE OF
THE COMMISSIONER

AGENCY: FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
(FDA)

EDUCATION/DEGREES/CERTIFICATES/INSTITUTIONS:

Commander (CDR) Janelle Derbis graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa in 1999. She went on to pursue a certificate in Pharmacy-based Immunization Delivery. In addition, she has completed various FDA Leadership courses.

CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION:

CDR Derbis is the Director of Health Promotion with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Office of Health and Constituent Affairs (OHCA) in Silver Spring, Maryland, and works in the Chicago, IL field office.

CDR Derbis serves as a liaison to national health professional organizations through OHCA's Health Professional Liaison Program (HPLP). The program provides a central point of contact between FDA and health professional organizations. One of OHCA's roles is to educate health professional organizations on FDA-related issues and activities as well as encourage their active participation in forming FDA regulatory policy so that the Agency's decisions take into account a wider range of perspectives. Recent examples of her engagement with health professional stakeholders include issues such as pharmacy compounding, drug shortages, and Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS).

Her responsibilities include writing articles for professional newsletters and journals, developing continuing education courses for pharmacists, physicians, and nurses and speaking at national conferences on FDA-related topics.

QUALIFYING SKILLS FOR CURRENT POSITION:

CDR Derbis has experience as a pediatric oncology pharmacist and has had an extensive career within the FDA. She has worked in the health promotion capacity for over 12 years.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE USPHS AS A CAREER:

CDR Derbis felt that the USPHS offered a unique opportunity for pharmacists to make important contributions to public health and experience different challenges, while maintaining career continuity. She states of the PHS and FDA, "The issues that confront the Agency and health professionals keep my work fresh and exciting and I'm always learning." The Corps, through its evolution over the years, provided CDR Derbis with a unique opportunity to contribute to national public health. She is thankful that she can interact directly with health professionals, patients and caregivers.

PREVIOUS USPHS ASSIGNMENTS:

Since 2000, CDR Derbis has worked with the FDA, Office of Health and Constituent Affairs (formerly the Office of Special Health Issues), in the Office of the Commissioner. During that time her role has expanded from Senior Health Promotion Officer to her current role as Director of Health Promotion. From 2000-2006 she worked directly with patients with serious and life-threatening diseases and their advocates educating them on the FDA drug approval process, enrollment in clinical trials, and access to investigational therapies. In addition she strived to ensure that patient perspectives were taken into consideration during drug development and formation of FDA policy.

Her duties included measuring compliance with Federal law and ensuring that clinical trial information is made available through the public clinical trials database, ClinicalTrials.gov.

CDR Derbis also managed the FDA Pharmacy Student Experiential Program for four years and served as a preceptor to pharmacy students.

MOST REWARDING USPHS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Student recruitment and mentoring is one rewarding aspect of CDR Derbis' career in the USPHS. She enjoys working alongside other officers in the Chicago area at various career fairs and providing guest lectures at colleges of pharmacy. She feels strongly about giving back to the profession of pharmacy by educating students about what the USPHS represents and how to prepare for this career. Administering the FDA Pharmacy Student Experiential program was especially rewarding as it served as a recruitment tool and increased the visibility of both the FDA and USPHS.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES:

CDR Derbis conducts policy development work that impacts the professions of pharmacy and medicine. She serves as FDA's representative to the PHS delegation at the American Medical Association House of Delegates and has served in various roles with the American Pharmacists Association House of Delegates. She writes articles and essays for professional journals and presents posters and lectures at Annual meetings related to her FDA work. CDR Derbis is a voting member of the PharmPAC, and enjoys participating in the University Point of Contact Program

SPECIAL NOTES OF INTEREST:

In 2006, the former Office of Special Health Issues was directed by Agency leadership to serve as a liaison to the health professional community through the Healthcare Professional Liaison Program (HPLP). CDR Derbis was instrumental in establishing the program and has enjoyed watching the program evolve over the past seven years.

By LT Garrette Martin-Yeboah