



NAME: Captain Richard Fejka, USPHS (ret)

TITLE: SENIOR CLINICAL ANALYST

AGENCY: FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
(FDA), DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES (HHS)

EDUCATION/DEGREES/CERTIFICATES/INSTITUTIONS:

Captain Richard Fejka, USPHS (ret.), attended Duquesne University where he received his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 1980. In 1981, he completed a Masters of Science in Radiopharmacy from the University of Southern California.

CAPT Fejka has been a Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacist since receiving his certification in August of 1982. Of special note, he was part of the first group of board certified nuclear pharmacists which were the first pharmacist specialists recognized in the profession of pharmacy.

CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION:

CAPT Fejka currently serves as a Senior Clinical Analyst and is the Senior Manager of the National Radioactive Drug Research Committee (RDRC) Program at FDA. In this role, CAPT Fejka directs and manages FDA's RDRCs to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. His responsibilities include: in-depth analysis of research radioactive drug use approved by RDRCs, briefing office leadership of review findings, and collaboration with RDRC representatives and FDA compliance staff to remedy deficiencies. In addition, as a subject matter expert in radiopharmacy, CAPT Fejka provides guidance to other offices within FDA on the use of radioactive drugs in clinical practice and research.

QUALIFYING SKILLS FOR CURRENT POSITION:

CAPT Fejka was commissioned into the USPHS in 1981 and started his career as a clinical radiopharmacist at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). After serving over 20 years in this capacity, he joined FDA in 2003 bringing with him broad clinical and management skills in the practice of radiopharmaceuticals from his clinical work at NIH. In 2011, CAPT Fejka retired from the USPHS and transitioned to civil service at FDA in his current position. In addition, CAPT Fejka has served as chair on numerous radiopharmaceutical related boards and committees throughout his career and has provided expert testimony and review to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission as a Board Certified Radiopharmacist.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE USPHS AS A CAREER:

CAPT Fejka first learned about the USPHS as a possible career choice during a pharmacy school internship at the NIH Radiopharmacy. This influenced him to pursue a Masters in Radiopharmacy and subsequently accept a position in the radiopharmacy department at NIH. In addition, while completing his Masters he often sought advice from his uncle, a retired U.S. Navy sailor, who strongly influenced him to enter government service as a commissioned officer.

MOST REWARDING USPHS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

While working in a clinical hospital practice environment, CAPT Fejka found there was minimal free time for involvement in opportunities which lied outside of the immediate work environment. However, the time which he found to be the most professionally rewarding was the time he served on the Pharmacy Professional Advisory Committee (PharmPAC) as a representative from the NIH, and also during a term as the Chair of the PharmPAC.

The number of board certified pharmacists began to grow after 1988, especially the increasing number of Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialists in the Indian Health Service. Having worked on the PharmPAC to increase recognition of board certified pharmacists in the Corps with eventual implementation of non-physician board certification pay was a rewarding experience for CAPT Fejka. In addition, he was honored when RADM Richard Bertin, USPHS (ret.), then Executive Director of the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties, arranged for a photograph of CAPT Fejka to appear on the cover of the Journal of the American Pharmacist Association January 1991 issue devoted to the topic of specialization in pharmacy.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES:

CAPT Fejka enjoys attending annual meetings of the American Pharmacist Association and the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, to network and reconnect with fellow nuclear pharmacist colleagues. In addition, he values his weekly professional development time at the NIH Clinical Radiopharmacy and is able to apply this continued knowledge of the practice of radiopharmacy in his current position.

CAPT Fejka and his wife enjoy spending time with their three grown children who live nearby and he is especially proud of his daughter who followed in his footsteps and is a PHS Commissioned Corps nurse officer assigned to the pediatric oncology services at NIH.

In his free time, CAPT Fejka enjoys traveling with his wife, collecting model trains, and photographing North American railroads.

by CDR Melina N. Griffis