



NAME: CDR Larry Lim

TITLE: Deputy Director (Acting) and Team Leader for the Division of Drug Information

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration

EDUCATION/DEGREES/CERTIFICATES/INSTITUTIONS:

Commander (CDR) Larry Lim attended Northeastern University, College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions, in Boston, Massachusetts where he received his Baccalaureate of Science Degree in Pharmacy in 1984. He then obtained his Doctor of Pharmacy in 2000 from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. In addition, he has an APhA certificate in Pharmacy-based Immunization Delivery.

CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION:

For the past 15 months CDR Lim has been performing in a dual role: 1) Deputy Director (Acting) and 2) Team Leader for the Division of Drug Information (DDI), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The Division of Drug Information is CDER's focal point for public inquiries regarding human drug products. DDI's mission is to optimize CDER's educational and communication outreach efforts to the public. DDI accomplishes this goal by providing timely and valuable information through traditional and social media channels. DDI provides expert advice and guidance on regulations, the drug approval process, clinical investigations, FDA's MedWatch program, as well as drug product-related information about labeling, marketing, and availability. DDI also supports other government agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Trade Commission to name a few. In 2014, DDI responded to over 73,000 inquiries, which included over 53,000 phone calls and approximately 20,000 written correspondences from industry, consumers, health care providers, attorneys, academia, and government organizations.

DDI also encompasses CDER Trade Press, CDER Small Business and Industry Assistance Program (SBIA), CDERLearn which is the web page for educational tutorials, and CDER's many social media channels including Twitter, Facebook, video podcasts, audio podcasts, webinars and listserves. DDI manages the FDA Pharmacy Student Program and the Regulatory Pharmaceutical Fellowship Program.

QUALIFYING SKILLS FOR CURRENT POSITION:

CDR Lim was commissioned in the USPHS in 2002. His extensive work experience as a Senior Drug Information Officer (2002-03) and a Senior Health Promotion Officer (2003-09) in DDI has honed his skills and knowledge that prepared him to transition into

leadership roles. In the capacity of Deputy Director (Acting), CDR Lim manages a staff of 30 individuals and oversees multiple programs and teams.

CDR Lim's considerable technical expertise and crisis management skills enable him to provide guidance and support to DDI staff during media-sensitive issues related to limiting the strength of acetaminophen-containing prescription products; questions regarding the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in terms of types of symptoms and treatment options; scheduling of hydrocodone combination drug products from Class III to Class II; and testing of triclosan on animals. CDR Lim leads and trains a team of DDI expert writers who provide responses to high-profile and controversial issues, both from domestic and international inquirers.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE USPHS AND FDA AS A CAREER:

CDR Lim chose the USPHS because he could envision making a positive contribution to protect and serve the American public. CDR Lim discovered his niche at the FDA/CDER's Division of Drug Information (DDI) as it fit his skill sets and personality. CDR Lim realized that his role within DDI had domestic, as well global impact in providing accurate information regarding FDA regulated products. Moreover, CDR Lim understood that the FDA's success in protecting and promoting the nation's public health depends increasingly on its ability to reach beyond the U.S. Borders. Since FDA-regulated products originate from more than 150 countries, 130,000 importers and 300,000 foreign facilities, he wanted to engage with government regulatory counterparts in other nations to help ensure the quality and safety of the products before they reach the U.S. CDR Lim was intrigued by the opportunities to help people domestically and abroad. Hence, DDI was a natural choice for him, since it serves as an integral component in FDA's communication to the public.

PREVIOUS AND CONCURRENT USPHS ASSIGNMENTS:

Senior Supervisory Health Promotion Officer, (Acting Deputy Director & Team Leader),
Office of Communication, DDI, FDA
Senior Health Promotion Officer (Team Leader), Office of Communication, DDI, FDA
Senior Drug Information Officer, Office of Training and Communication, DDI, FDA

MOST REWARDING USPHS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

CDR Lim has had numerous rewarding professional experiences during his career in the USPHS. He has interacted with thousands of consumers and patients during his career at DDI. One such poignant interaction involved assisting a patient with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). This patient had tried various drug product regimens without clinical success. CDR Lim helped her access an unapproved drug via FDA's expanded access program. This intervention resulted in the patient being granted access to an unapproved drug which led to an improvement in her quality of life.

OTHER INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES:

CDR Lim is involved with a community youth group where he mentors young members in various sports and other activities.

by CDR Yoon Kong