



Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service Scientist Professional Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes; September 14, 2021

Via Zoom meeting: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
 Or via phone: (669) 254 5252 or (646) 828 7666; [Global numbers](#)
 Meeting ID: 160 273 2410; Passcode: 401921

Total Attendance: 179 attendees; 27 excused absences

Chief Scientist Officer and Executive Board Members

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Eckert, John	Chief Scientist Officer	Present
CDR	Dee, Deborah	Chair	Present
CDR	Rossiter, Lana	Executive Liaison	Present
CDR	Shumate, Alice	Vice Chair; Rules & Membership Chair	Present
CDR	Wilken, Jason	Ex-Officio Chairperson	Present
LCDR	Bowen, Ginny	Executive Secretary	Present

Voting Members (SC = Subcommittee)

Rank	Name	Role	
CDR	Barbour, Kamil	Science SC Chair	Present
CDR	Bjork, Adam	Policy SC Chair	Present
CDR	Demissie, Zewde	Awards SC Chair	Present
CDR	Halldin, Cara	Career Development SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Pesce, John	Deployment Preparedness SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Chen, Debra	Category Day SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Edwards, Elizabeth	Website SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Gallaway, Shayne	Mentoring SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Levine, Bex	Category Day SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Link-Gelles, Ruth	Website SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Mitzner, George	Recruitment and Retention SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Morris, Kate	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Muniz-Ortiz, Jorge	Deployment Preparedness SC Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Scott, Colleen	Visibility SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Thompson-Paul, Angela	Visibility SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Zhang, Xinzhi	Career Development SC Chair	Present

Non-Voting Liaisons

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Scheckelhoff, Mark	AMSUS Liaison	Present
LCDR	Iturriaga, Luis	SOAGDAG Liaison	Present
LCDR	Rahman, Nazia	PsyPAG co-Liaison	Present
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	PsyPAG co-Liaison	Present
LCDR	Zucco, Julia	COA Liaison	Present
LCDR	Zwald, Marissa	CCWIAB Liaison	Present
LT	Ejike-King, Lacreisha	PACE Liaison	Present
LT	Lin, Michelle	JOAG Liaison	Present
LT	Shaw, Kelly	ICAC Liaison	Present

Participation by Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Nelson Adekoya, CAPT Jennifer Adjemian, CAPT Marco Bennett, CAPT Heidi Blanck, CAPT Jennifer Bodart, CAPT Joseph Despina, CAPT Anne Dobmeyer, CAPT Laura Draski, CAPT Danice Eaton, CAPT Dominic Frasca, CAPT Jeffrey Goodie, CAPT Arlin Hatch, CAPT Sally Hu, CAPT James Kenney, CAPT William Murphy, CAPT Timothy Nelle, CAPT Sara Newman, CAPT Loren Rodgers, CAPT Sukhminder Sandhu, CAPT Erin Sauber-Schatz, CAPT Kenneth Sekulic, CAPT Michael Smith, CAPT Jennifer Thomas, CAPT Robin Toblin, CAPT Fuyuen Yip, CDR Frances Belcher, CDR Tegan Boehmer, CDR Renee Calanan, CDR Dianna Carroll, CDR Minglei Cui, CDR Judy Facey, CDR Anne Marie France, CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor, CDR Sherry Gracey, CDR Seth Green, CDR Brian Harcourt, CDR David Huang, CDR Jean Ko, CDR Alison Laufer Halpin, CDR Terrence Lo, CDR Matthew Lozier, CDR Charlene Maddox, CDR Andrea McCollum, CDR Mark Miller, CDR Lara Misegades, CDR Matthew Newland, CDR Erin Nichols, CDR Carrie Nielsen, CDR Erika Odom, CDR Erin Parker, CDR Cria Perrine, CDR Chris Poulson, CDR Meghan Reilly, CDR Luz Rivera, CDR Emily Streeter, CDR Sharyl Trail, CDR Michelle Tsai, CDR Nadra Tyus, CDR Sara Vagi, CDR Matthew Wise, CDR Geoffrey Wu, CDR Fei Xu, CDR Eric Zhou, LCDR Francis Annor, LCDR Tajah Blackburn, LCDR Samantha DiMisa, LCDR Eboni Galloway, LCDR Rory Geyer, LCDR Vanessa Goosen, LCDR Kathleen Hartnett, LCDR Iram Hassan, LCDR Patrick High, LCDR Brooke Hoots, LCDR Jorielle Houston, LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson, LCDR Michelle Hughes, LCDR Eric Jamoom, LCDR Lisa Jarvis-Durham, LCDR Keisha Jenkins, LCDR Folasade Kombi, LCDR Neal Kimble, LCDR Elaine Knipes, LCDR Jonathan Leshin, LCDR Xiaowu Lu, LCDR Neali Lucas, LCDR Iman Martin, LCDR Shiny Mathew, LCDR Madeline Maysonet-Gonzalez, LCDR Jamie Mells, LCDR Rashid Njai, LCDR Julie O'Donnell, LCDR Jaymin Patel, LCDR Mary Puckett, LCDR Adriana Restrepo, LCDR Erica Rose, LCDR Kari Schlessinger, LCDR Rachel Slayton, LCDR Pilgrim Spikes, LCDR Matthew Steele, LCDR Sarah Swift, LCDR Nancy Tian, LCDR Jessica Tomov, LCDR Esra Toussaint, LCDR Emily Ussery, LCDR Tyson Volkmann, LCDR Teresa Wang, LCDR Nana Wilson, LCDR Shondelle Wilson-Frederick, LT Sophia Ajoku, LT Andrew Brown, LT Evan Brown, LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond, LT Ariella Dale, LT Molly Deutsch-Feldman, LT Brett Dodd, LT N'Jere English, LT Dianca Finch, LT Brett Forshey, LT Robert Gahl, LT Sean Griffing, LT Jayleen Gunn, LT Marisa Hast, LT Carolyn Herzig, LT Amanda Hott, LT Kun-Yueh Hsieh, LT Jessica Jacobs, LT Connie Kang, LT Christine Kim, LT Taneshia Knight, LT Michael Krage, LT Ana Lauer, LT Ying Lin, LT Gina Masessa, LT Kevin McDermott, LT Muktha Natrajan, LT Stephanie Pitts, LT Tia Rogers, LT Adelaida Rosario, LT Beth Rubenstein, LT Marsha Samson, LT Amy Schuh, LT Dantrell Simmons, LT Lillian Smith, LT Kindra Stokes, LT Tanesha Tutt, LT Carrie Whitworth, LT Lindsay Womack, LT Lauren Woodard, LT Shannon York

Excused Absences of Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Drue Barrett, CAPT Althea Grant, CAPT William Satterfield, CAPT Andrea Sharma, CDR Qiao Bobo, CDR Joanna Gaines, CDR Elizabeth Irvin, CDR Emily Jentes, CDR Leigh Ann Miller, CDR Sanny Northbrook, CDR Anne Purfield, LCDR Christine Brady, LCDR William Davis, LCDR Jessica Dunn, LCDR Leora Feldstein, LCDR Brad Goodwin, LCDR Alesha Harris, LCDR Hilda Razzaghi, LT Anna Chard, LT Nicholas Deputy, LT Florence Kanu, LT Oren Mayer, LT Brian McAleney, LT Tiffany McCain, LT Megan Peck, LT Rebecca Woodruff

Key Abbreviations:

CAD = Call to Active Duty

CCLMS = Commissioned Corps Learning Management System

CPO = Chief Professional Officer

EB = Executive Board

LOA = Letter of Appreciation

MAB = Medical Affairs Bureau

OBC = Officer Basic Course

OSG = Office of the Surgeon General

OY = Operational Year

SC = Subcommittee

SG = Surgeon General

SOP = Standard Operating Procedures

Call to Order and Welcome: CDR Deborah Dee

CPO Report: CAPT John Eckert

- Recognized and thanked outgoing Voting & EB members for their service to the PAC
- Recognized and welcomed the incoming Voting & EB members – noted his eagerness to work alongside all officers in the PAC (voting and non-voting members) for the remainder of his term as CPO, which ends November 2021
- Per RADM Orsega, the next Chief Scientist Officer will likely be selected and announced in mid-October
- CPO selections being made for 5 PHS Categories; with competing priorities in the Immediate OSG, CPO selection is expected to take an extended period of time – selection and appointment made by the SG and interviews (multiple rounds) are ongoing
- Reminder: CCHQ sent an email August 31, 2021, regarding the importance of maintaining PHS readiness requirements – not just because it is policy and failure to comply can have career impact, but because we are a deployable force in the midst of multiple public health emergencies; we have an obligation to fellow Officers and the nation to be prepared to respond when need arises
- Reminded Officers of the COVID-19 vaccination mandate for PHS Officers; deadline for completing the series is September 30, 2021; if Officers have not yet started a vaccination series, the Jansen (J&J) vaccine is the only option remaining to avoid being deemed “not qualified” in October; no information is available from CCHQ regarding waivers; please contact MAB if seeking information about a waiver; unclear what, if any, will be granted
- For the Scientist Category, threats about adverse personnel action due to failure to maintain deployment readiness are not necessary; our category has an overall readiness of 96%, with 9 of the 18 Officers not meeting readiness standards being O-6; the most common deficiency among “not qualified” officers is missing PHU; in most cases this is because of conflicts between scheduled exams and deployment
- Announced that our Category is comprised of 409 Officers as September 14, with 4 new Officers in the current OBC (September class) – 3 CDC and 1 USCG (psychologist); we continue to grow as a Category, even in this era of contraction across PHS. This is seen through continuing CADs, retention of Officers with fewer than 15 years of service (other categories are experiencing an increase in losses/separations of Officers in this group)

- and fewer retirements (we had 1 Officer retire in September)
- Invited Officers who still require counseling following this year's promotion board review to contact him to schedule a session; it is taking quite a bit of time due to the large number of Officers requiring counseling; may request additional counseling assistance from O-6 officers; urged patience as he works through the process
 - Encouraged Officers to use annual leave if possible; no word from CCHQ or OSG regarding legislative relief to allow Officers to carry over >60 days of leave this year

Chair Report: CDR Deborah Dee

- Welcome to new SciPAC Voting Members and SC Chairs/Co-Chairs!
- Sincere thanks to our outgoing EB members and SC Chairs for your commitment to Officers and our Category, and your many contributions.
- Special thanks to our Immediate Past Chair, CDR Wilken, for his dedication to our category and PHS, and for his work to improve awareness of the many accomplishments, skills, and contributions of Scientist Officers to public health and to meeting the missions of their agencies and PHS.
- A priority of my term will be supporting Officers' mental health and well-being.
 - Pandemic is ongoing, as are agency and CCHQ/RDB deployments.
 - Unpredictability, separations, disruptions to routines can exacerbate stress.
- Pandemic response is a marathon, not a sprint. Thus, I encourage us to work toward finding some balance across our OPDIV work, SciPAC commitments, and deployment responsibilities—prioritizing the health and well-being of yourselves and loved ones.
 - Model self-care: take your leave if you can; practice healthy habits; if you are a supervisor, encourage your staff to do likewise
- Officers interested in joining efforts to promote this initiative related to Officers' mental health and well-being (compiling resources, identifying tips/tricks Officers can practice routinely, etc.) can email me or call me at **770-337-3197**.

Vice Chair Report: CDR Alice Shumate

- I am honored to be the new SciPAC Vice Chair and thank CDRs Wilken and Dee for setting us up well for the new OY.
- It's a challenging time for Scientists—and for PHS Officers in general—as we carry a heavy burden of both deployment and duty station work while also keeping up with modernization initiatives. I'm interested in hearing about your challenges and your ideas for working within the system to better support our Officers.
- I am deployed through the end of October, so please be patient if it takes me a bit longer to respond to emails.

Executive Secretary Report: LCDR Ginny Bowen

- If you connect to the meeting via Zoom and *can* see your full name listed in the Zoom 'participants' window, you do NOT need to report attendance separately.
- If you dial in to the meeting via phone, if your full name does not appear in Zoom, or if you have an excused absence to report, please report your attendance via email to LCDR Ginny Bowen with the email subject line "SciPAC Meeting Attendance."
- If you are not receiving messages across the SciPAC listserv (search your mailbox for USPHS-SCIENTIST@LIST.NIH.GOV), please contact LCDR Bowen to be added.

- If you are a new Scientist Officer who attended August or September OBC, please contact LCDR Bowen to be added to the listserv and roster.

Executive Liaison Report: CDR Lana Rossiter

- If a SC would like a document reviewed by the EB, would like to elevate an issue for EB discussion, or needs other support, please let me know.
- In the past month, I have supported efforts by the Awards, Career Development, Mentoring, Deployment Preparedness, and Rules and Membership SCs.

Subcommittee Reports

Awards: Chair: CDR Zewditu Demissie

- Welcome to LCDR Mary Puckett, our new SC Co-Chair. Thank you to CAPT James (Jim) Kenney who served several years as SC Chair and Co-Chair.
- The Co-Chairs will be reaching out soon to last year's volunteers to gauge interest in continuing in their SC leadership roles.
- A call for volunteers will be announced for open positions.

Career Development: Chair: LCDR Xinzhi Zhang

- The Promotion Document Review Team will soon be asking for volunteer reviewers. If you are a senior officer (O-5 and above), please consider serving. Additionally, junior O-4 officers are eligible to serve as reviewers for O-3 officers up for promotion. Please look out for the email announcement.
- The New Benchmarks Assessment & Guidance Working Group has completed a draft assessment and guidance for the 2022 All-Category Benchmarks. In addition, the draft document includes examples of how officers can demonstrate fulfillment of the precepts. The WG's developed guidance has been submitted for leadership review.
- The Continuing Education (CE) Contact Hour Initiative Team identifies CE opportunities to support SciPAC officers in meeting the annual CE requirement. The updated CE list for August will be distributed this week. *The team is requesting that Officers share their ideas for training opportunities.*

Category Day: Chair: LCDR Rebecca Levine

- Scientist Virtual Category Day was held on Friday, August 20, 2021, from 11am–5pm ET, followed by a virtual social at 5:30pm ET.
- 156 Officers participated in the Virtual Category Day event (from 5 different countries); 40 Officers participated in the Virtual Social Event.
- Thank you to everyone for their efforts in making the day a success, especially to the members of the Category Day SC. We also thank members of the Awards, Mentoring, and Psychologist Integration SCs who supported the event and presenters and participants for their time and interest.
- The Category Day subcommittee held a “hot wash” meeting on August 26, 2021, where we discussed lessons learned; they will be incorporated into future events.
- Because a SciPAC Survey Monkey account is not currently available, the Category Day Evaluation Team is exploring options for how to distribute an evaluation.
- LOAs for 2021 SC members and Category Day presenters are being drafted.

- SC leadership is drafting the 2021 Category Day SC Annual Report.
- The Category Day SOP is being revised after 1 round of feedback from the SciPAC EB. It will incorporate updates from the virtual program.
- SC leadership is already beginning preparations for Category Day 2022.
 - The SC is actively looking for volunteers to help plan Category Day 2022. If you are interested, please reach out to [LCDR Rebecca Levine](#).

Deployment Preparedness: [CDR John Pesce](#)

- **Readiness Reporting:** As of September, 391 (95.6%) of the 409 Regular Corps Scientist Officers are either basic ready (n= 376) or exempt (n=15). Eighteen (3.4%) are not qualified. There are *not qualified* officers in all ranks (O3–O6). Unless you are planning on retiring soon, you are putting your career at risk by not being basic ready. If you are having trouble with readiness, please reach out to the Deployment Preparedness SC and we will help as we are able.
- The [Deployment Preparedness SC](#) website has been updated.
- The Response Preparedness Team will be implementing a Lunch & Learn Brown Bag Series on ESF8 and NDMS roles and functions during deployment. The presentation schedule will be advertised soon.
- The SC SOP has been revised and the Annual Report has been submitted to the EB for review.
- LOAs for members of the Deployment Preparedness SC this past year are being developed and will be submitted to SciPAC leadership by the end of this week.
- Deployment Preparedness leadership will be meeting shortly to discuss the plan for the year and determine what our staffing profile will look like. We have already identified a need for our new Psychologists officers and would like to invite any of those officers who are interested in being part of our team to contact CDR Pesce or LCDR Muniz-Ortiz.
- Make sure you are up to date on vaccinations. Flu season is approaching, and we are all required to be vaccinated for influenza. Additionally, there are new COVID-19 vaccination requirements (must complete series and upload documentation by September 30, 2021).
- Please be aware of the new training requirements (online courses) that were announced by CCHQ on August 31, 2021. They must be completed by January 2, 2022. All training can be found in the [CCLMS](#) and are focused on the following areas: cultural awareness, harassment, resiliency, and ethics.
 - Training certificates are not required to be added to your eOPF separately. Questions regarding the required annual training should be submitted to PHSCOTA@hhs.gov.
- We encourage officers to visit the [RDB](#) home page for readiness updates. The last updates were released on September 12, 2021. If Officers have questions regarding the information, please contact [SC leadership](#).

Mentoring: [LCDR Shayne Gallaway](#)

- **Mentor Recruitment Team:**
 - The summer is always a busy time for onboarding new CADs to the Scientist Category. We are thrilled to welcome these new Scientists, but—at present—we do *not* have enough mentors in the Peer Support Network (PSN) to ensure they

each have an optimal onboarding experience. If you are an O-3 Officer with 2+ years in PHS, please volunteer your time to this important effort! You will be matched with 1 new CAD for a 1-year commitment. Email [LCDR Matt Steele](#) and [LCDR Folasade Kembi](#) to express interest.

○ **Mentor Matching Team**

- As we transition to a new OY, we continue to accept [applications](#) for those who *need* a mentor or would like to *be* a mentor. Completed applications can be sent to [LCDR Michelle Hughes](#) & [LCDR Leora Feldstein](#).
- The Matching Team—in conjunction with other teams—increased mentor/mentee matches by 7% (from 116 to 124 matches) during the 2021–2022 operational year; additionally, process changes led to a 33% increase in mentor/mentee match renewals. In all, over 180 Scientist Officers engaged with the formal mentoring program during the operational year.
- LOAs for mentors are currently being generated and distributed.

○ **Mentor Capacity-Building Team**

- In conjunction with the Category Day SC, the team successfully completed a Category Day Networking & Mentoring Activity on August 20, 2021, with more than 60 participants.
- There was a well-received Mentoring panel discussion during the August 3rd SciPAC meeting—providing more than 170 Scientists with advice on mentoring and career development. The topic of discussion was *Tips for Maintaining a Successful Mentor/Mentee Relationship*.
- The team has finalized edits to the Mentoring Guidebook and will disseminate the revised Guidebook via the website and listserv in the new OY.

Policy: [CDR Adam Bjork](#)

- We welcome Officers interested in joining the Policy SC. Please don't hesitate to reach out! Email [CDR Adam Bjork](#), [LCDR Matthew Steele](#), and Policy SC Secretary, [CDR Elizabeth Irvin](#).
- The Policy SC stands ready to assist any SC undergoing its triennial SOP review.
- CCMIS issued one new policy since our last report: POM 821.73 “[Annual COER for 2021 Forward](#)”
 - This POM will cover all future COERs. Past practice had been to issue a new COER POM for each year.
 - The POM defines fixed annual due dates (e.g., 31 October), rather than relative due dates used in previous years (e.g., last Wednesday).
 - Other changes in the POM are summarized in the CCHQ email sent on August 11, 2021.

Psychologist Integration: [LCDR Kate Morris](#); [LCDR Patrick Sears](#)

- Outreach and Education has created an informative PowerPoint about psychologists' training, types of degrees, and assignments in the Corps. Once a new Communications Chair is selected, we'll connect and determine best way to distribute.
- Continue to consult with EB about how to integrate PsyPAG and its resources

Recruitment and Retention: [LCDR George Mitzner](#)

- The Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee is assigning leadership roles and responsibilities. Those interested in getting involved can contact LCDR Mitzner. Thank you and look forward to a great year.
- **Resources** LT Erica Rose
 - Initial review of all resource documents and presentations underway.
- **Interested Applicant** (lead officer pending)
 - The Scientist Category is open for recruitment. Please direct interested individuals to usphs.gov.
 - Increased outreach efforts are being devised for this operational year.
- **OBC Engagement** (lead officer pending)
 - If you are interested in attending any of the future OBC Open Houses, please reach out to LCDR Mitzner
- **New CAD Seminars** (LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond)
 - New CAD seminars continue to occur monthly and have included topics such as self-care, awards, COER, and other topics.
 - To receive an invitation for the next Seminar, contact LT Coulliette-Salmond.
- **CDC New Officer Monthly Meeting** (LT Marissa Hast, LT Brandi Freeman, and LT Sean Griffin)
 - 15 CDC Officers met September 17, 2021, to discuss COERs, promotion, and awards.
 - To receive an invite for the new OY or to be added to the distribution list, please contact LT Hast.
- **EIS/LLS** (lead officer pending)
 - The EIS/LLS Team supports EIS Officers and LLS Fellows interested in joining PHS and those who have recently commissioned. If you are or know of an EIS Officer or LLS Fellow who is interested in joining PHS or you have recently commissioned, please contact LCDR Mitzner. We would love to answer any questions you have, connect you to resources, and invite you to our virtual Meet and Greet for 2021–22.
- **Separation Survey** (lead officer pending).
 - If you are or know an officer planning to separate, please contact LCDR Mitzner.

Rules and Membership: CDR Alice Shumate

- We look forward to the new OY and thank CDR Dee and last year’s SC for their work.
- As a reminder, Rules and Membership focuses on administrative operating procedures for the PAC, including:
 - Reviewing and updating the SciPAC Charter, SciPAC SOP, and SC SOPs on a regular schedule
 - Addressing SciPAC bylaws, election procedures, and general operations
 - Facilitating annual SciPAC Voting Membership nomination process
- We will put out a call for volunteers soon; if you’re interested in volunteering for the Rules and Membership SC, please let me know.

Science: CDR Kamil Barbour

- **Bibliography Team:** The SciPAC Bibliography for 2020 was approved by the EB and

posted online by the Website SC. It included 566 publications, of which 121 were COVID-19 related. This valuable resource showcases our Scientist Officers' incredible breadth of knowledge and advancements to the scientific field.

- **End-of-Year Report (EOYR) and LOAs:** The Science SC Chairs have finalized the EOYR and submitted it for SciPAC publication. The draft LOA was approved by the EB and will be disseminated to active team members this week.
- **Recruitment for new SciPAC OY:** Please reach out if you are interested in being involved in our SC for the new OY. This is an excellent SC with a lot of interesting activities going on.

Visibility: LCDR Colleen Scott

- **Newsletter Team**
 - All previous editions are available on the [SciPAC website newsletter page](#).
 - The team is finalizing the Summer edition of the newsletter, which will be shared soon.
 - The call for articles for the Fall edition will be shared soon.
 - Contact Newsletter Team Lead LT Kelly Shaw for any questions regarding article submissions.
- **Atlanta and DC Socials Teams:**
 - The Socials Teams will be meeting Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 1400 EST to brainstorm activities for the new operational year.
 - If you are interested in joining this team, contact LT Lacreisha Ejike-King.
- **The Publications Team:**
 - The team is recruiting for Scientist officers to join the Publications Team. We are enthusiastically encouraging officers from all OPDIVS to join the team, as this will help us extend our reach and inclusion of Scientist Officers across the OPDIVS that comprise our Category. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact LT Tia Rogers.
- **Twitter Team:**
 - In August 2021, [@PHS_Scientist](#) tweeted/retweeted a total of 113 times, and generated 19,575 new impressions, 785 new engagements, 11,100 profile visits, and 552 new likes.
 - For the FOURTH consecutive month we have broken our own records in terms of generating activity and interactions!
 - We have now generated more than 137,300 impressions and 38,180 profile visits for PHS and SciPAC on Twitter since we first began Tweeting in May 2019.
 - Twitter Team is now recruiting new team members for the 2021–2022 OY
 - Contact Twitter team lead LCDR Elaine Knipes with Tweet Ideas and to express interest in joining the SciPAC Twitter Team.
 - As always, find us and follow us on Twitter at [@PHS_Scientist](#).
- **Facebook Team:**
 - In August 2021, there were 119 views, 9 posts, and 13 expressions on the SciPAC Facebook page.
 - There are currently 173 members of the group. If you aren't already a member, you can [request membership here](#).

- **SciPAC Symposium Poster Team:**
 - The slideshow entitled “Highlight of Selected Publications by Scientist Officers in 2020” was shown over breaks during SciPAC Category Day on August 20, 2021.
 - Anyone interested in seeing the complete slideshow can contact [LT Marisa Hast](#) and/or [LT Kerui Xu](#).
- **Conferences Team:** No updates.
- **Fist Bump Team:**
 - In August, 1 new Fist Bump nomination was received. To date this OY, 7 Fist Bumps have been submitted to the Scientist Newsletter, 7 to the USPHS Scientists Facebook page, and 4 to the [@PHS_Scientist Twitter feed](#).
 - These posts have been viewed 649 times and generated 113 reactions on Facebook alone.
 - The SciPAC Fist Bump Form is available on the website on the [Visibility SC page](#). Please use this form to submit Fist Bump nominations, send completed forms to both [LT Olivia McGovern](#) and [LT Kerui Xu](#).
- **SciPAC History Team:** No updates; this team has completed activities and will cease operation this OY.

Website: [LCDR Ruth Link-Gelles](#)

- The SciPAC website is allowing updates again; Website SC has been diligently working through the updates that have accumulated since it went down in April.
- As of August 27, 2021, the SC received 49 update requests; 48 requests are complete, 0 are pending, and 1 is on-hold.
- The History Webpage update is currently on-hold.
- Next Bimonthly SC Meeting: September 21, 2021
- If interested in volunteering, please email [LCDR Link-Gelles](#) and [LCDR Edwards](#). Team member and leadership positions are available.

Liaison Reports—

AMSUS: [CAPT Mark Scheckelhoff](#)

- OSG continues to move forward with AMSUS annual meeting coordination.
- **Conference abstract submission:** AMSUS abstracts should be submitted for PHS review prior to submission to AMSUS. If abstracts are submitted to AMSUS and PHS review *later* identifies concerns, the abstracts must be corrected with AMSUS. This can be challenging; therefore, PHS review *before* AMSUS submission remains the preferred approach. If presentations are agency-related, they must be approved (with email documentation) by the author’s Agency Team Lead. PHS review of abstracts can occur in parallel with local review, but **the PHS Review Team must receive abstracts no later than October 1, 2021. Abstracts are due to AMSUS by October 4, 2021;** no extensions will be granted. Follow AMSUS submission guidelines for abstract development and submit abstracts to [LCDR Matthew Gunter](#), Chair for the Abstracts Review Subcommittee for the PHS review process.
- **Awards Program:** AMSUS acknowledges the abilities of many outstanding federal healthcare individuals each year through their distinguished [Awards Program](#). **The**

submission period is open until October 4, 2021. Award recipients will be announced in November and awards will be presented at the AMSUS Awards Banquet in February 2022. There are 15 competitive AMSUS award categories in addition to 4 PHS-specific awards (PHS Senior Officer, PHS Junior Officer, Humanitarian Service and Global Health Award, Intra-Federal Health Services Award). These PHS-specific awards were developed by OSG in 2019 and 2020, and all nominations are routed through the OSG. Award criteria have been shared with CPOs and PAC Chairs. Nominating PHS Officers shall not submit their awards directly to the OSG. CPOs and PAC Chairs will advertise a process for receiving award nominations, which are due to OSG by October 29, 2021.

- Please submit awards for PHS review to LCDR Minh-Huong Doan, LCDR Maria AgrestaWorkman, and CDR Chaltu Wakijra.

CCWIAB: LCDR Marissa Zwald

- Last meeting: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 (August & September meetings canceled)
- Next meeting: Wednesday, October 6, 2021
- The Anti-Harassment Committee wanted to call attention to the recent required trainings CCHQ emailed to all Officers on August 31, 2021. These training offerings are aligned with policy recommendations made to CCHQ by CCWIAB's Anti-Harassment Committee this year to "Update USPHS-wide training and education requirements and standards for harassment prevention and response."
- You do not have to be a board member to participate in CCWIAB committee activities. If you are interested in joining a CCWIAB committee or if you have any questions about CCWIAB, please contact LCDR Zwald or visit CCWIAB's website. CCWIAB committees include: Pregnancy Committee, Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Committee, Health and Wellness Committee, Website Committee, & Outreach and Membership Committee

COA: LCDR Julia Zucco

- Most recent meeting: August 6, 2021, Annual Board Meeting
- Beginning October 1, 2021, retirees will now get a DD-214 upon exit from service. This is in parity with our sister services; this change was supported and assisted by COA.
- COA will be sponsoring retirement seminars this Fall. Registration will begin soon.
 - Session 1: October 13, 1030-1345 EST
 - Managing Employment Change and Transitioning Successfully into Retirement (Prudential Advisors)
 - Session 2: October 20, 1100-1300 EST
 - TRICARE Medical Benefits (Tricare East)
 - Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) and BENEFEDs.com (BENFEDS)
 - Session 3: October 27, 1100-1300 EST
 - How to Prepare and File your VA Claim (American Legion)
 - TSP Pre-Separation Brief (TSP)
 - Session 4: November 4, 1130-1300 EST
 - Recent Retiree Panel "What I Know Now that I Didn't Know Then"
- Please pay your dues if you haven't already. The fiscal year begins in July, and members are provided a 2-month grace period. For members who have recently lapsed, the

Outreach Committee will be sending renewal reminders shortly.

- CAPT Margo Riggs – Field Officer and Legislative Affairs Committee
 - Legislative Affairs Committee is planning to work on sending out more position statements from COA and will be starting with a statement that aligns with the SGs priority “Confronting Health Misinformation” to build stronger partnership supporting his efforts. The committee continues to work on ensuring bills with congress or senate include “uniformed services” rather than just “armed forces.” There are several statements currently under review regarding TRICARE benefits and other health care/prescription access, professional licenses, disability compensation and survivor benefits.

ICAC: LT Kelly Shaw

- PAC website editing functionality has been restored, but there is a known bug with some advanced features that should be resolved soon.
- No update on any content management system change.

JOAG: LT Michelle Lin

- For the next 2 OY, the point of contact for Officers who want to get involved with JOAG will be LT Xia Michelle Lin
- JOAG held its first Virtual Symposium during August 11–13th. RADM Orsega presented the 2021 JOAG Awards, and RADM (Ret.) Boris Lushniak gave a keynote address.
 - Congratulations to the following Scientists who were recognized as Outstanding JOAG Non-voting Members in 2021:
 - LCDR Tyann Blessington
 - LCDR Scott Steffen
 - LT Xia Michelle Lin
- JOAG Public Health and Community Service Committee, National Prevention Strategy Subcommittee released the first “Why I Vax” publication, which share stories of why Officers received the COVID-19 vaccination. This campaign is JOAG’s effort to support the SG and the ASH’s charge to have Corps Officers serve as force-multipliers on the importance of vaccination. For more information, contact LCDR Ranay Yonkers and LCDR Imoisili Omoye.
- JOAG Communications & Publications Committee, Tip of the Month Subcommittee provides junior Officers with personal and professional development tips. For more information about tips of the month, please contact the Tip of the Month SC Co-Leads, LCDR Jennifer Harlos or LT Paula Ayojiak.
- JOAG took over the Commissioned Corps' official Facebook and Twitter accounts for the month of August! Please consider following and/or liking these pages and liking and sharing our posts to create more engagement.
 - The Facebook page is: Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service
 - Find it on Twitter by searching for: @usphscc
- Upcoming events
 - Virtual Meet and Greet in Scottsdale, AZ, September 21, 2021, 1200 ET
 - Topic: Pharmacy Car?!?!? No, Pharmacy Care in Your Car, CDR Robert Boyle
 - Click here to join WebEx meeting, event number (access code: 2555 561 2088,
 - Event password: M6CtZwMC72E (66289962 from phones)

- JOAG Professional Development Book Club (author joining first 10 min. of call)
 - When: September 24, 2021, 1200–1300 ET
 - Topic: Leadership and Introspection, Book: *The Heart of a Leader: Fifty-Two Emotional Intelligence Insights to Advance Your Career* by Kristin Harper
 - Articles: [Introspection Makes You A Better Leader: 3 Tough Questions To Ask Yourself](#) and [What Self-Awareness Really Is \(and How to Cultivate It\)](#)
 - Join by computer: [Click here to join the Teams meeting](#), Teams Meeting ID: 853 729 179#, Join by phone: 1 (888) 994-4478,,853729179# United States (Toll-free)
- Virtual Meet and Greet in Phoenix, AZ,
 - When: September 27, 2021, 1200 MT
 - Topic: My Deployment Experiences; Speaker: CDR [Jing Li](#)
 - Meeting link: [Click here to join the WebEx meeting](#)
 - Event number (access code): 2557 358 5914
 - Event password: kBJrZME4Q66 (52579634 from phones)
- Visit the [JOAG Website](#) for more information.

PACE: [LT Lacreisha Ejike-King](#)

- **Most recent meeting:** August 12, 2021
- **Next meeting:** October 14, 2021, at 1400 ET
<https://fda.zoomgov.com/j/1608824782?pwd=V1FzWFd4aW4zNGFXM1hpWE9EQ3ZNZz09> Meeting ID 160 882 4782; Passcode 4q#Qqk
- **Recognitions Subcommittee**
 - All Certificates of Appreciation (COA) and one-time Thank You Letters (for officers with any documented hours) have been issued for PACE OY 2020 (June 1, 2020–May 31, 2021). If you believe you should have been issued a COA or Thank You Letter, contact the PACE Recognitions Subcommittee COA Workgroup at [LCDR Stacy Yung](#) and [LCDR Folasade Kembi](#).
 - The annual call for individual, group, and regional PACE Awards was announced September 14, 2021. These are distinct from PACE PHS Awards such as UCs, AM, CMs, etc., which are reviewed by an external awards board at CCHQ. The PACE Annual Awards are reviewed and scored by the PACE Annual Awards Working Group and will be awarded in time for inclusion in the 2022 Promotion Review Cycle. There are 3 PACE Annual Awards: Individual, Group, and Regional. Please see the attached final version of the 3 PACE Annual Awards and required cover sheet (inserted below). The due date is **October 15, 2021, 2359 PST**. Award nominations should be sent to **all** of the following officers: [LCDR Jorielle Houston](#), [LCDR Diane Richardson](#), and [LCDR Stacy Yung](#).
 - Calls for PACE Letters of Appreciation (LOAs) will be issued mid-September.
- **Leadership/Volunteer Opportunities**
 - The Public Information Workgroup of the PACE Communications SC is seeking approximately 10 volunteers to serve as workgroup members and help develop materials related to public affairs for the upcoming year (FY2022). We are looking for Officers with any number of the following special skills and experiences: Interfacing with media groups; Graphic design and layout; Public affairs and press releases; Strong written and verbal communication skills; Photography. Additionally,

- all Workgroup members will rotate through an on-call roster to serve as the Public Information Officer for PACE. Interested volunteers should contact [LCDR Fengyee Zhou](#) and [LCDR Sally Ann Iverson](#).
- PACE is seeking motivated Officers to serve as PACE Local leads. The PACE program leverages the expertise of Corps officers to educate local communities about the benefits of prevention. Appointment Terms for Local Leads are 3 years. Region 9 has openings for Local Leads in the following locations: Whiteriver, AZ; Pinon, AZ; East Bay, CA. Please contact [CDR Kari Harris](#) and [LCDR Thalia Vega](#) for additional information.
 - The new [OSG-approved PACE lessons](#) are now LIVE.

PSYPAG: [LCDR Nazia Rahman](#); [LCDR Patrick Sears](#)

- **Next Meeting:** October 11, 2021, 1400-1500 ET
- The PsyPAG newsletter, *Mind Matters*, is currently accepting submissions for the October 2021 newsletter.
- The American Board of Professional Psychology, the board certifying body for professional psychologists, currently has 15 specialty boards. Two additional specialties, Serious Mental Illness and Addictions, have been granted provisional approval. Proposals to include Forensic Neuropsychology and Psychopharmacology as board certified specialties have been submitted to the American Board of Professional Psychology's Board of Trustees for consideration.
- Questions related to psychologists? Contact the Psychologist Integration SC Chair ([LCDR Kate Morris](#)) or the PsyPAG Chair ([LCDR Nick Buhr](#)).

SOAGDAG: [LCDR Luis Iturriaga](#)

- **Most recent meeting:** July 26, 2021
- **Next meeting:** September 27, 2021 @ 1300 ET

Closing Remarks: [CDR Deb Dee](#)

NOTE: Next meeting Tuesday, **October 5, 2021** @ 1200–1300 ET



Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service Scientist Professional Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes; October 5, 2021

Via Zoom meeting: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Or via phone: (669) 254 5252 or (646) 828 7666; [Global numbers](#)
Meeting ID: 160 273 2410; Passcode: 401921

Total Attendance: 197 attendees; 40 excused absences

Chief Scientist Officer and Executive Board Members

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Eckert, John	Chief Scientist Officer	Present
CDR	Dee, Deborah	Chair	Present
CDR	Rossiter, Lana	Executive Liaison	Present
CDR	Shumate, Alice	Vice Chair; Rules & Membership Chair	Excused
CDR	Wilken, Jason	Ex-Officio Chairperson	Present
LCDR	Bowen, Ginny	Executive Secretary	Present

Voting Members (SC = Subcommittee)

Rank	Name	Role	
CDR	Barbour, Kamil	Science SC Chair	Present
CDR	Bjork, Adam	Policy SC Chair	Present
CDR	Demissie, Zewditu	Awards SC Chair	Present
CDR	Halldin, Cara	Career Development SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Pesce, John	Deployment Preparedness SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Chen, Debra	Category Day SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Edwards, Elizabeth	Website SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Gallaway, Shayne	Mentoring SC Chair	Excused
LCDR	Levine, Rebecca	Category Day SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Link-Gelles, Ruth	Website SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Mitzner, George	Recruitment and Retention SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Morris, Kate	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Muniz-Ortiz, Jorge	Deployment Preparedness SC Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Scott, Colleen	Visibility SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Thompson-Paul, Angela	Visibility SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Zhang, Xinzhi	Career Development SC Chair	Present

Non-Voting Liaisons

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Scheckelhoff, Mark	AMSUS Liaison	Present
LCDR	Iturriaga, Luis	SOAGDAG Liaison	Present
LCDR	Rahman, Nazia	PsychPAG co-Liaison	Present
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	PsychPAG co-Liaison	Present
LCDR	Zucco, Julia	COA Liaison	Excused
LCDR	Zwald, Marissa	CCWIAB Liaison	Present
LT	Ejike-King, Lacreisha	PACE Liaison	Present
LT	Lin, Michelle	JOAG Liaison	Present
LT	Shaw, Kelly	ICAC Liaison	Present

Participation by Non-Voting Scientist Officers: RADM Theresa Lawrence; CAPT Karon Abe; CAPT Nelson Adekoya; CAPT Jennifer Adjemian; CAPT Drue Barrett; CAPT Marco Bennett; CAPT Aditya Bhagwat; CAPT Jennifer Bodart; CAPT Pamela Ching; CAPT Joseph Despins; CAPT Anne Dobmeyer; CAPT Laura Draski; CAPT Danice Eaton; CAPT Dominic Frasca; CAPT Jeffrey Goodie; CAPT Althea Grant; CAPT Sally Hu; CAPT James Kenney; CAPT Tracy MacGill; CAPT William Murphy; CAPT Timothy Nelle; CAPT Sara Newman; CAPT Scott Salvatore; CAPT Sukhminder Sandhu; CAPT Erin Sauber-Schatz; CAPT Kenneth Sekulic; CAPT Andrea Sharma; CAPT Michael Smith; CAPT Jacqueline Tate; CAPT Jennifer Thomas; CAPT Douglas Thoroughman; CAPT Fuyuen Yip; CDR Gelio Alves; CDR Qiao Bobo; CDR Renee Calanan; CDR Dianna Carroll; CDR Dan-My Chu; CDR Cheksha Clingman; CDR Minglei Cui; CDR Judy Facey; CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor; CDR Seth Green; CDR Brian Harcourt; CDR Keisher Highsmith; CDR David Huang; CDR Elizabeth Irvin; CDR Emily Jentes; CDR Jean Ko; CDR Alison Laufer Halpin; CDR Charlene Maddox; CDR Mark Miller; CDR Lara Misegades; CDR Joy Mobley; CDR Erin Nichols; CDR Carrie Nielsen; CDR Ruiqing Pamboukian; CDR Erin Parker; CDR Cria Perrine; CDR Meghan Reilly; CDR Luz Rivera; CDR Alfredo Sancho; CDR Sharon Saydah; CDR Jeff Showalter; CDR Jacqueline Sram; CDR John Stansberry; CDR Peter Thomas; CDR Sharyl Trail; CDR Michelle Tsai; CDR Nadra Tyus; CDR Sara Vagi; CDR Maroya Walters; CDR Matthew Walters; CDR Fei Xu; CDR Ellen Yard; CDR Lauren Zapata; CDR Yi Zhang; CDR Eric Zhou; LCDR Francis Annor; LCDR Tyann Blessington; LCDR Jason Caballero; LCDR Samantha DiMisa; LCDR Jessica Dunn; LCDR Brendan Eberenz; LCDR Jennifer Enigk; LCDR Leora Feldstein; LCDR Amy Freeland; LCDR Eboni Galloway; LCDR Rory Geyer; LCDR Bradley Goodwin; LCDR Alesha Harris; LCDR Kathleen Hartnett; LCDR Iram Hassan; LCDR Andrew Hickey; LCDR Patrick High; LCDR Kelsy Hoffman; LCDR Natasha Hollis; LCDR Brooke Hoots; LCDR Jorielle Houston; LCDR Michelle Hughes; LCDR Eric Jamoom; LCDR Lisa Jarvis-Durham; LCDR Victoria Jeisy-Scott; LCDR Keisha Jenkins; LCDR Alaine Knipes; LCDR Jonathan Leshin; LCDR Xiaowu Lu; LCDR Iman Martin; LCDR Shiny Mathew; LCDR Jamie Mells; LCDR Jonetta Mpofu; LCDR Ashleigh Murriel; LCDR Rashid Njai; LCDR Oliver Ou; LCDR Jaymin Patel; LCDR Mary Puckett; LCDR Hilda Razzaghi; LCDR Adriana Restrepo; LCDR Leslie Rivera-Rosado; LCDR Rachel Slayton; LCDR Pilgrim Spikes; LCDR Matthew Steele; LCDR Matthew Stuckey; LCDR Sarah Swift; LCDR Nancy Tian; LCDR Emily Ussery; LCDR Tyson Volkmann; LCDR Nana Wilson; LT Sophia Ajoku; LT Andrew Brown; LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond; LT Ariella Dale; LT Molly Deutsch-Feldman; LT Brett Dodd; LT Njere English; LT Dianca Finch; LT Brett Forshey; LT Bryan Galvez; LT Sean Griffing; LT Marisa Hast; LT Carolyn Herzig; LT Amanda Hott; LT Pushpa (Suresh) Jayasekara; LT Michelle Johnson; LT Jueichuan (Connie) Kang; LT Florence Kanu; LT Christine Kim; LT Hana Kim; LT Taneshia Knight; LT Ian Kracalik; LT Michael Krage; LT Nang Thu Thu Kyaw; LT Ana Lauer; LT Ying Lin; LT Kristin Marks; LT Jessica Meeker; LT Yasmin Ogale; LT Stephanie Pitts; LT Adelaida Rosario; LT Beth Rubenstein; LT Phillip Salvatore; LT Marsha Samson; LT Amy Schuh; LT Dantrell Simmons; LT Lillian Smith; LT Kindra Stokes; LT Tanesha Tutt; LT Carrie Whitworth; LT Lindsay Womack; LT Lauren Woodard; LT Kerui Xu; LT Shannon York

Excused Absences of Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Julie Chodacki; CAPT Christine Hunter; CAPT Ryan Novak; CDR Tegan Boehmer; CDR Daniela Cohn-Aizic; CDR Matthew Lozier; CDR Andrea McCollum; CDR Leigh Ann Miller; CDR Matthew Newland; CDR Sanny Northbrook; CDR Sharyn Parks Brown; CDR Cesar Perez; CDR Chris Poulson; CDR Anne Purfield; CDR Tyler Sharp; CDR Matthew Wise; LCDR Sharoda Dasgupta; LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson; LCDR Folasade Kembu; LCDR Henraya McGruder; LCDR Kari Schlessinger; LCDR Scott Steffen; LCDR Jessica Tomov; LCDR Teresa Wang; LT Andrew Anderson; LT Nicholas Deputy; LT Marisa Donnelly; LT Robert Gahl; LT Gina Masessa; LT Oren Mayer; LT Kevin McDermott; LT Olivia McGovern; LT Megan Peck; LT Kelsey Sumner; LT Rebecca Woodruff

Key Abbreviations:

CAD = Call to Active Duty

CCLMS = Commissioned Corps Learning Management System

CPO = Chief Professional Officer

EB = Executive Board

LOA = Letter of Appreciation

OBC = Officer Basic Course

OSG = Office of the Surgeon General

OY = Operational Year

SC = Subcommittee

SOP = Standard Operating Procedures

Call to Order and Welcome: CDR Deborah Dee**CPO Report:** CAPT John Eckert

- Interview and selection processes continue for the new Chief Scientist Officer. There is some concern that the search will not be completed by mid-October as originally projected. CAPT Eckert may be asked to continue his CPO service past November 1 if the new CPO is not confirmed.
- As of the September 30, 2021, deadline, the Scientist Category was 99.5% compliant with USPHS's COVID vaccination requirements. Two officers had administrative issues with submission and were deemed non-compliant.
- CAPT Eckert expressed enthusiasm about the selection of a new Deputy Surgeon General.

Chair Report: CDR Deborah Dee

- CDR Dee expressed sincere appreciation to CAPT Eckert for his support and tireless advocacy for Scientist Officers as well as PHS generally during his term as Chief Scientist Officer.
- Thank you to officers who responded and expressed interest in being involved in the SciPAC Mental Health Initiative. The first meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 8, at 1400 hours (Eastern). The meeting will be informal, including introductions and discussions about setting goals and objectives for the group's efforts in the coming operational year.
 - If you would like to participate, please contact CDR Dee to express interest.
 - NEXT MEETING: Date/time TBD. A meeting invitation will be sent to all those who participated in the initial interest meeting or informed CDR Dee of their interest in joining.
- CDR Dee expressed thanks to the Psychologists Integration Subcommittee for the presentation planned for the end of the call.

Vice Chair Report: CDR Alice Shumate

- Nothing to report

Executive Secretary Report: LCDR Ginny Bowen

- If you connected to the meeting via Zoom and *can* see your full name listed in the Zoom

- ‘participants’ window, you do NOT need to report attendance separately.
- If you dialed in to the meeting via phone, if your full name does not appear in Zoom, or if you have an excused absence to report, please report your attendance via email to LCDR Ginny Bowen with the email subject line “SciPAC Meeting Attendance.”
- If you are NOT receiving messages across the SciPAC listserv (search your mailbox for USPHS-SCIENTIST@LIST.NIH.GOV), please contact Lcdr Bowen to be added.
- A “Call for SciPAC Volunteers” email is slated to go out across the SciPAC listserv on Wednesday, October 6, 2021. Respond directly to POCs for positions that interest you.

Executive Liaison Report: CDR Lana Rossiter

- If a SC would like a document reviewed by the EB, would like to elevate an issue for EB discussion, or needs other support, please let me know.
- In the past month, I have supported efforts by the Awards, Career Development, Deployment Preparedness, and Rules and Membership SCs.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Awards Subcommittee:** CDR Zewditu Demissie; Co-chairs: LCDR Mary Puckett, LCDR Nancy Tian
 - Thank you to all SC members who have decided to remain this OY.
 - The SC is currently seeking Officers to fill open positions, and a call for volunteers is forthcoming over the SciPAC listserv
 - In August, CCHQ announced two new AMSUS PHS Service-wide Awards: the Global Health and Humanitarian Assistance Award and Intra-Federal Health Service Award. PAC guidance on how to submit nominations for these awards has been shared across the listserv. We appreciate the PAC’s patience as we operationalize these two new awards.
- **Career Development:** LCDR Xinzhi Zhang; Co-Chairs: CDR Minglei Cui, CDR Cara Halldin
 - **Continuing Education (CE) Contact Hour Initiative Team:** The Continuing Education (CE) Contact Hour Initiative Team identifies CE opportunities to support SciPAC officers in meeting the annual CE requirement. The updated CE list for September was distributed to SciPAC officers before the monthly meeting. *The team is requesting ideas for training opportunities.* If you are aware of training opportunities that could be included in the list, please email the training opportunity information to CDR Eric Zhou, LCDR Christine Brady, and LT Dodd Brett.
 - **Scientist Officer Handbook Team:** The Scientist Officer Handbook provides Scientist officers with guidance on various topics related to career development. Updated sections covering “Award write-up Training,” “Mobility,” and “COA Involvement” are now available on the SciPAC Website. The team is collaborating with the Website Subcommittee to review and post the “Training” update. Individual chapters can be accessed from the Scientist Officer Handbook webpage under Resources and Links. For more information, email CAPT Sukhminder Sandhu and CDR Tamara Henderson.

- **Jobs List Team:** The Job List Team identifies, compiles, highlights, and distributes job/position announcements to aid current officers in securing new billets. The job list highlights the range of billet opportunities and should help those currently seeking a new billet as well as those interested in career progression and planning. For more information, email [LT Sean Marcsisin](#), [LCDR Jessica Dunn](#), [LCDR Tyann Blessington](#), and [LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond](#). Requests for inclusion of job openings in future weekly Jobs List should be emailed directly to [LT Sean Marcsisin](#).
 - **Promotion Document Review Team:** The Promotion Document Review Team provides promotion document reviewing services to individual Scientist officers who are up for promotion. For more information, email [CDR Michelle Rodriguez](#). The team issued a call for Officers to participate in this year's promotion documents review process. We still need more volunteers for this great initiative. Please continue to reach out to [CDR Rodriguez](#) to volunteer. A call for promotion documents has been shared via the listserv, so we encourage Officers to start working on their submissions.
 - **Promotion Guidance Team:** The Promotion Guidance Team provides Scientist Officers with guidance in preparing in advance of being eligible for promotion and in preparing promotion materials. *The team is soliciting ideas for the development of promotion planning and preparation tips.* If you have ideas for inclusion, please email [CDR Gelio Alves](#) and [LCDR Tyann Blessington](#).
 - **Promotion Panel Initiative Team:** The Promotion Panel Initiative Team generates data-driven insight into factors that may relate to success or non-success of promotion-eligible Scientist officers. Previous 2017 and 2018 analyses can be found on the [SciPAC Career Development webpage](#). For more information, email [CDR Nadra Tyus](#), [LCDR Neil Bonzagni](#), & [LT Taneshia Knight](#).
 - **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Team:** The SOP Team maintains a current version of the Career Development SC SOP. The current SOP is available on the [SciPAC Career Development webpage](#). Update suggestions, in preparation for the next submission, can be submitted to [CDR Renee Calanan](#) & [LT Amy Schuh](#).
 - **Training Team:** The Training Team provides professional training seminars and presentations related to the career development of Scientist officers. If you have ideas about future training events, contact [CDR Tamara Henderson](#) & [LCDR Jessica Dunn](#).
 - **Administration & Communication Team:** The Administration & Communication Team provides administrative and communication support to the SC. If you have website questions please contact [CDR Theodore Garnett](#), the SC Website Liaison. For other administrative and communication questions, please contact [LT Robert Gahl](#), the SC Secretary, as well as SC Chair & Co-chairs.
- **Category Day Subcommittee:** [LCDR Rebecca Levine](#); Co-chairs: [LCDR Debra Chen](#), [LCDR Alesha Harris](#), and [LCDR Alaine Knipes](#)
 - Most recent meeting: September 29, 2021, 1:00 PM (Chair and Co-chairs)
 - Established a biweekly meeting for the Chair and Co-chairs.
 - Planning for monthly meetings for the entire SC.
 - Team leaders will be encouraged to set up their own team meeting schedules and will have an option for Co-chairs to join, if desired.
 - Next meeting: October 14, 2021, 1:00 PM (Chair and Co-chairs), TBD (team leads),

TBD (entire subcommittee)

- The Category Day kickoff meeting with COF was held on September 8, 2021, and was attended by the Chair. The Co-chairs have been approved by the CPO and will attend subsequent meetings. The next meeting with COF is October 13, 2021.
 - A request for an extension to the November 4, 2021, speaker deadline was submitted to COF.
 - After discussing with the Psychologist Integration SC, as in years past, CEUs will not be offered for Scientist Officers attending Category Day.
 - Look for an evaluation survey following the 2021 Category Day. There will be historical questions as well as new questions, given the virtual program.
 - Since a SciPAC survey monkey account is not currently available, the Evaluation team is exploring options for how to best distribute the evaluation.
 - The Category Day SOP is being revised after feedback from the SciPAC EB. It will incorporate updates from the virtual program and the subsequent “hot wash.”
 - LOAs for 2021 SC members and Category Day presenters are being drafted.
 - SC leadership is drafting the 2021 annual report.
 - All team leads and co-leads have been identified for the new OY. Many thanks to them in advance for their efforts and willingness to help out in the year ahead.
 - The SC is actively looking for volunteers to help plan Category Day 2022. If you are interested, contact any of the Category Day leadership with at least your top two volunteer roles from the following teams that need volunteers:
 - Abstracts team
 - Panel Discussion team
 - Connections team (mentoring/networking)
 - Keynote Speaker team
 - Awards/State of the Category team
 - Evaluation team
 - Secretary team
 - Symposium/Website Liaison team
- **Deployment Preparedness SC:** CDR John Pesce; Co-chairs: LCDR Jason Caballero, LCDR Jorge Muñiz Ortiz, LT Adelaida Rosario
- **Readiness Reporting:** As of October 1st, 96.8% of the 409 Regular Corps Scientist officers are either basic ready (n=380) or exempt (n=16). Twelve (2.9%) are not qualified. The proportion of Scientists who are basic ready or exempt increased from 95.6% to 96.8% over the past month. If you are having trouble with basic readiness, please reach out to the DP SC, and we will do what we can to help.
 - LOAs have been completed and will be sent to officers who successfully participated in the SC this past OY.
 - Please make sure you are up to date on vaccinations. Flu season is approaching and the deadline for completing COVID vaccinations has already passed.
 - Please be aware of the new training requirements that were announced by CCHQ on August 31, 2021, must be completed by January 2, 2022.
 - Trainings can be found in CCLMS and are focused on the following areas: Cultural Awareness, Harassment, Resiliency, and Ethics

- Certificates are not required to be added to your eOPF separately.
 - Questions regarding the required annual training should be submitted to PHSCOTA@hhs.gov.
 - Our SC is looking for a few officers to work on various projects. Our call for volunteers will be incorporated into the PAC-wide call that will be forthcoming.
 - We encourage officers to visit the [RDB home page](#) for updates on readiness information. The last updates were released on September 12. Please contact SC leadership with any questions.
- **Mentoring:** LCDR Shayne Gallaway; Co-Chairs: LCDR Patrick High, LCDR Tyson Volkmann
- Most recent meeting: September 27, 2021
 - Next meeting: October 25, 2021; 11 AM ET
 - **Mentor Recruitment Team:**
 - If you do not have a Scientist mentor, or are not serving as a Scientist mentor, [apply to be part of the SciPAC Mentoring Program](#). All the cool kids are doing it, and it's a benchmark!
 - We are actively recruiting Peer Support Network (PSN) mentors to help ease onboarding anxieties for new Scientist CADs. If you are an O-3 Officer with 2+ years in PHS, email LCDR Matt Steele and LCDR Folasade Kembi to volunteer.
 - **Mentor Matching Team**
 - 119 active mentor-mentee agreements on file
 - The team recently finalized the [Mentoring Guidebook](#), which provides officers (both mentors and mentees) the necessary tools to establish and maintain a successful mentoring relationship.
 - Completed mentoring [applications](#) can be sent to LCDR Michelle Hughes & LCDR Leora Feldstein.
 - **Mentor Capacity-Building Team**
 - The team recently finalized the Mentoring Guidebook. Uploading to the SciPAC website is in-progress.
 - Discussing a possible onboarding activity for new mentors, including O-4 Officers, to take place in the first quarter of the upcoming OY.
- **Policy:** CDR Adam Bjork; Co-chair: LCDR Matthew Steele
- The SC stands ready to assist any SC undergoing its triennial SOP review
 - On September 24, 2021, DoD authorized a temporary increase to 2021 basic allowance for housing (BAH) rates for certain locations (i.e., 56 housing markets).
 - Uniformed service members who have incurred increased housing costs above their current BAH may be eligible to apply for temporarily higher rates
 - Additional information, including a list of the 56 housing markets eligible for increased BAH, is [here](#).
 - Note: Washington D.C. and Atlanta are not included on the list of eligible markets
 - Carryover leave
 - The recent continuing resolution contained language to preserve carryover leave for at least another year
 - We expect CCHQ will send formal notification soon

- 2021 annual COER
 - See the CCHQ email from Thursday, September 30, for key due dates and links to COER policy documents
 - COERs are due to the rater by October 31, 2021
- **Psychologist Integration SC:** LCDR Kate Morris and LCDR Patrick Sears
 - Most recent meeting: September 27, 2021
 - Next meeting: October 25, 2021; 1:00 pm ET
 - Scheduled presentation for SciPAC Voting Members on October 14, 2021, regarding proposal for integration of existing psychologists resources and future plans for use of their behavioral health expertise
 - **Outreach and Education Team**
 - Prepared distributable pamphlet introducing psychologists to the Scientists
 - **Transitional Mentoring**
 - Matched more than 10 transitioned psychologists to scientists
 - Psychologists transitioning from the HSO PAC are encouraged to seek mentorship through the [PI SC transitional mentoring program](#) and/or the [SciPAC Mentoring SC](#)
- **Recruitment and Retention:** LCDR George Mitzner; Co-Chair: LCDR Julia Zucco
 - The Recruitment & Retention SC is pleased to welcome Co-Chair LCDR Julia Zucco!
 - SC Team Leads are in place
 - All Hands Message/Roster for the SC issued October 1, 2021
 - All Hands Meeting pending for the SC for late October 2021
 - R & R is recruiting☺. Contact SC leadership and Team Leads to get involved!
 - **Resources:** No Update
 - **Interested Applicant:** Inter-PAC recruitment call is pending for later this month.
 - **OBC Engagement:**
 - Thank you to Lcdr Colleen Scott, who represented SciPAC at the 21 SEP 2021 OBC Open House. We wish a warm SciPAC welcome to our newest officers:
 - LT Kelsey Sumner – CDC; Atlanta, GA
 - LT Kristin Marks – CDC; Atlanta, GA
 - LT Jessica Meeker – CDC; Atlanta, GA
 - LCDR Rhondie Tait – USCG; New London, CT
 - If you are interested in attending future OBC Open Houses, please reach out to CDR Cesar Perez.
 - **New CAD Seminars:** CAD seminars will begin soon. To receive an invitation for the next Seminar or if you would like to brief, contact LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond.
 - **CDC New Officer Monthly Meeting:** Next meeting is October 15, 2021. Contact LT Marissa Hast for details and/or to be added to the distribution list.
 - **EIS/LLS:** No Update
 - **Separation Survey:** Planning to separate? Please contact LCDR Jorielle Houston.
- **Rules and Membership:** CDR Alice Shumate; Co-chair: CDR Dan-My Chu

- The SC is continuing to update the SciPAC SOP to align with the Model PAC Charter approved by the Surgeon General in the last OY.
 - The SC will reach out to SC's whose SOP is up for triennial review by the EB this year.
 - If you are interested in volunteering for the Rules & Membership SC, please contact CDR Shumate or CDR Chu.
- **Science:** CDR Kamil Barbour; Co-chairs: LCDR Israel Cross, LCDR Teresa Wang
- **LOAs:** LOAs have been submitted to team leads and members of the Science SC.
 - **Roster:** Working to finalize team rosters. If you are interested in joining the Science SC, please reach out to CDR Barbour. Please look for our announcement this week on the SciPAC Listserv detailing our SC and volunteer needs.
- **Visibility:** LCDR Colleen Scott; Co-Chairs: LCDR Adriana Restrepo, LCDR Angela Thompson-Paul
- **Newsletter Team**
 - All previous newsletters are available on the [SciPAC website newsletter page](#).
 - The newsletter team is finalizing the summer edition and has issued the call for articles for the fall edition – if interested please send submissions to the [SciPAC newsletter inbox](#) by Friday, October 22.
 - Please contact newsletter team lead LCDR Kelly Shaw with any questions regarding article submissions.
 - **Socials Team:** The Socials Team will be hosting virtual events in October and November.
 - Halloween Happy Hour in late October; date/time TBD; announcement will be shared via the listserv.
 - Family Feud event in November; date/time TBD.
 - If you are interested in joining this team, please contact LT Lacreisha Ejike-King.
 - **Publications Team:**
 - The team is recruiting for Scientist Officers to join the publications team. We are enthusiastically encouraging Officers from all OPDIVS to join the team, as this will help us extend our reach and inclusion of Scientist Officers across the OPDIVs that comprise our Category. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact LCDR Tia Rogers.
 - **Twitter Team:**
 - In September 2021, [@PHS_Scientist](#) tweeted/retweeted a total of 80 times, and generated 14,628 new impressions, 523 new engagements, 6,808 profile visits, and 323 new likes.
 - For the THIRD month in a row we have generated more than 10,000 impressions – this is the number of times [@PHS_Scientist](#) tweets/retweets appear to users in either their timeline or search results!
 - We have now generated more than 151,000 impressions and 45,000 profile visits for PHS and SciPAC on Twitter since we first began Tweeting in May 2019!
 - Twitter Team is now seeking new team members for the 2021-2022 OY.

- Contact Twitter team lead [LCDR Elaine Knipes](#) with Tweet Ideas and to express interest in joining the SciPAC Twitter Team!
- As always, find us and follow us on Twitter at [@PHS_Scientist](#).
- **Facebook Team:**
 - In September 2021, there were 360 views, 14 posts, and 51 expressions on the SciPAC Facebook page.
 - There are currently 178 members, with 3 new members this month. If you aren't already a member you can [request membership here](#).
- **SciPAC Symposium Poster Team:** No updates.
- **Conferences Team:** No updates.
- **Fist Bump Team:**
 - No new Fist Bump nominations received in September 2021.
 - The SciPAC Fist Bump Form is available on the website on the [Visibility SC page](#). Please use this form to submit Fist Bump nominations, send completed forms to both [LT Olivia McGovern](#) and [LT Kerui Xu](#).
- **Website Subcommittee:** Chair: [LCDR Ruth Link-Gelles](#); Co-chairs: [LCDR Elizabeth Edwards](#), [LCDR Matthew Stuckey](#)
 - Last bimonthly SC meeting: September 28, 2021
 - Next bimonthly SC meeting: November 18, 2021; 10:00 am ET (tentative)
 - Current Activities
 - As of September 27, 2021, the SC received 5 update requests; 1 request is complete, 0 are pending, and 1 is on-hold.
 - The History Webpage update is currently on-hold.
 - If interested in volunteering, please email [LCDR Link-Gelles](#), [LCDR Edwards](#), and [LCDR Stuckey](#). Team member and leadership positions are available; specifically looking for someone with REDCap experience.

Liaison Reports

- **AMSUS:** [CAPT Mark Scheckelhoff](#)
 - AMSUS abstracts & nominations for AMSUS-wide awards were due on October 4, 2021.
 - **PHS Service-wide Awards:** These awards are coordinated through an individual PAC-managed process. CAPT Eckert has delegated the organization of this process to the SciPAC Awards SC. Please watch the listserv for more information on self-nomination. CAPT Eckert will review and submit final SciPAC nominations to the OSG.
 - **Senior Officer (SO) Award and Junior Officer (JO) Award:** PAC SO and JO award nominations are the *current* PAC-specific SO and JO selectees. No new JO and SO nominations will be accepted for CPO review.
 - **Global Health and Humanitarian Assistance (GH&HA) award and Intra-Federal Health Service (IFHS) Award:** GH&HA awards are nominations drafted by Officers and submitted via a PAC-specific process that is defined by each PAC

- respectively. Officers and PACs may also leverage pre-existing award nomination and selectee award packages that meet the criteria for these awards
- OSG is responsible for reviewing PAC nominations and selecting awardees.
 - OSG is solely responsible for submitting the PHS service-wide award information to AMSUS. Individual Officers and PACs do not need to submit any information on PHS service wide awards to AMSUS.
- **CC Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB):** LCDR Marissa Zwald
 - Last CCWIAB meeting: Wednesday, July 7, 2021
 - Next CCWIAB meeting: Wednesday, October 6, 2021
 - No new updates since last month's report.
 - You do not have to be a board member to participate in committee activities. If you are interested in joining a CCWIAB committee or if you have questions about CCWIAB, contact LCDR Zwald or visit [CCWIAB's website](#).
 - CCWIAB committees include: Pregnancy Committee; Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Committee; Health and Wellness Committee; Website Committee; & Outreach and Membership Committee
 - **COA:** LCDR Julia Zucco
 - Most recent Board Meeting: September 22, 2021
 - COA was successful in advocating for the extension of our leave to allow us to roll over days accumulated this past fiscal year that we were unable to use due to the pandemic. We are currently looking into a more permanent solution.
 - Starting in October, COA will be sponsoring a series of retirement seminars. Details were sent to the SciPAC listserv previously.
 - The Outreach Committee has begun contacting COA members with lapsed memberships within the past few years. Please contact Lcdr Zucco if you have questions on how to renew your dues.
 - **ICAC:** LT Kelly Shaw
 - Nothing to report
 - **JOAG Liaison:** LT Xia Michelle Lin
 - Most recent meeting: Friday, August 13, 2021
 - Next meeting: Friday, October 8, 2021; 1:00-2:00pm ET
 - [Click Here to Access the Zoom Link](#). Zoom Meeting ID 161 772 9993. For Audio: (646) 828-7666, Passcode: 426443
 - The 2021-2022 JOAG Executive Committee was selected
 - Chair: LCDR Stephanie Mros
 - Vice-Chair: LCDR Shamika Brooks
 - Chair-Elect: LCDR Mouhamed Halwani
 - Co-Secretary: LCDR Michael Wandersee
 - Co-Secretary: LT Xia Michelle Lin
 - Operations Liaison: LCDR Jackeline Rodriguez
 - JOAG Readiness and Deployment Committee, Behavioral Health Team developed a

- newsletter on “Laughter is Medicine” for September’s Practicing Wellness – Tip of the Month. The document was attached to the JOAG biweekly announcement on September 13, 2021. For more information, contact Co-Leads: [LCDR Jennifer Weekes](#) and [LT Drew Katherine](#).
- The Recording of the September 3 Koop Seminar is available now at [Max.gov](#)
 - Topic: Development and delivery of COVID vaccines and therapeutics
 - Recording password: m&hCtH&0
 - Speakers: CAPT Branch, CDR Baumblatt, LCDR Chege, LCDR Pfundt
 - The JOAG Peer-to-Peer Network Program is looking to recruit junior officers with <2 years’ experience as mentees. If interested, please visit the Peer-to-Peer Network Program website or contact the Peer-to-Peer Network Program Co-Leads, [LCDR Ingrid St. Amand](#) and [LT Colin Tack](#).
 - Visit the [JOAG Website](#) for more information.
- **[PACE](#)**: [LT Lacreisha Ejike-King](#)
- Most recent meeting: August 12, 2021
 - Next meeting: October 14, 2021; 2:00pm ET
<https://fda.zoomgov.com/j/1608824782?pwd=V1FzWFd4aW4zNGFXM1hpWE9EQ3ZNZz09> Meeting ID 160 882 4782; Passcode 4q#Qqk
 - PACE Awards: The annual call for individual, group, and regional PACE Awards was announced September 14, 2021.
 - These are distinct from PACE PHS Awards (e.g., UC, AM, CM), which are reviewed by an external awards board at CCHQ.
 - The PACE Annual Awards are reviewed and scored by the PACE Annual Awards Working Group and will be awarded in time for inclusion in the 2022 Promotion Review Cycle.
 - There are 3 PACE Annual Awards: Individual, Group, and Regional. The due date is October 15, 2021, 11:59pm PT. Please email [LCDR Jorielle Houston](#), [LCDR Diane Richardson](#), and [LCDR Stacy Yung](#) to request application materials.
 - PACE Recognitions: The call for 2021 PACE Letters of Appreciation (LOAs) was announced October 4, 2021. PACE Executive Board Members, Subcommittee Leads, SGET Leads, and PACE Regional Coordinators can consider submitting an LOA for those officers they would like to recognize for their contributions over the last operational year. The deadline for submission is 10/22/2021 at 2359 EST. Please contact [LCDR Maria Agresta-Workman](#) and [LT Julie Witmer](#) with the Subject: 2021 PACE LOA for specific details regarding LOA submissions.
 - Leadership/Volunteer Opportunities: PACE is seeking motivated Officers to serve as PACE Local leads. The PACE program leverages the expertise of Corps Officers to educate local communities about the benefits of prevention. Appointment Terms for Local Leads are 3 years. Region 9 has openings for Local Leads in the following locations: Whiteriver, AZ; Pinon, AZ; East Bay, CA. Please contact [CDR Kari Harris](#) and [LCDR Thalia Vega](#) for additional information.
 - The new [OSG-approved PACE lessons](#) are now live.
- **[PsychPAG](#)**: [LCDR Nazia Rahman](#), [LCDR Patrick Sears](#)

- Most recent meeting: August 10, 2021
 - Next meeting: October 12, 2021; 2:00-3:00pm ET
 - COVID-19 Hazardous Duty Pay is now authorized for Commissioned Corps officers. Among other criteria, psychologists who provide clinical care to infected or possibly infected patients, or who are continuously at risk for injury or illness as first responders, could be eligible. We encourage you to read the FAQs on CCMIS, contact your agency liaisons, and consult with the Policy SC.
 - Interested in speaking to an expert in behavioral health for consultation, resources, or collaboration? We encourage you to contact LCDR Nick Buhr, the PsychPAG Chair, or LCDR Kate Morris, the Psychologists Integration SC Chair.
- **SOAGDAG: LCDR Luis Iturriaga**
- Most recent meeting: September 27, 2021; 1:00pm ET
 - Next meeting: October 25, 2021; 1:00pm ET
 - Aiming to establish formal liaison positions with all PACs.
 - Pronouns Infographic is under review.
 - SOAGDAG working to finalize a white paper to evaluate ways to recognize PHS officers who have provided service to the LGBT community.
 - Education & Training SC working on the “Language Matters” training initiative with the goal of having a standardized PowerPoint presentation reviewed by SOAGDAG by the end of October with the goal of posting the training on CCLMS for all officers to take. Secondary aim is to use the training to initiate a PACE training around pronouns and Gender 101.
 - All submissions for Voting Member applications have been compiled and distributed to current Voting Members for scoring.
 - “Tobacco Use Among Sexual & Gender Minorities (SGMs)” presentation sent to OSG for review and comment.
 - Virtual Game Night - Join the Social Committee as we host Virtual Game Night; Saturday, October 23, 2021; 7:00-9:00pm ET / 4:00-6:00pm PT
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwucuyprz4vG93-XUQ6W0u YGssOasCC4r>
 - Paint Party - A recommended supply list and affordable vendors will be provided upon registration; November 13, 2021; 4:00-6:00pm ET / 1:00-3:00pm PT
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUscOCoqTwjGtN5lOrc2FalvknmudlYakv8>
 - The SOAGDAG Annual Seasonal Soiree is tentatively scheduled for December 2021.

Presentation: CDR Sharyl Trail

- CDR Trail presented and responded to questions about the roles and backgrounds of Psychologists serving in PHS
- Presentation slides will be distributed across the SciPAC listserv

Closing Remarks: CDR Deb Dee

NOTE: Next meeting Tuesday, **November 2, 2021**; 12:00-1:00pm ET



Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service Scientist Professional Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes; November 2, 2021

Via Zoom meeting: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Or via phone: (669) 254 5252 or (646) 828 7666; [Global numbers](#)
Meeting ID: 160 273 2410; Passcode: 401921

Total Attendance: 203 attendees; 43 excused absences

Chief Scientist Officer and Executive Board Members

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Eckert, John	Chief Scientist Officer	Present
CDR	Dee, Deborah	Chair	Present
CDR	Rossiter, Lana	Executive Liaison	Present
CDR	Shumate, Alice	Vice Chair; Rules & Membership Chair	Excused
CDR	Wilken, Jason	Ex-Officio Chairperson	Present
LCDR	Bowen, Ginny	Executive Secretary	Present

Voting Members (SC = Subcommittee)

Rank	Name	Role	
CDR	Barbour, Kamil	Science SC Chair	Present
CDR	Bjork, Adam	Policy SC Chair	Present
CDR	Demissie, Zewditu	Awards SC Chair	Excused
CDR	Halldin, Cara	Career Development SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Pesce, John	Deployment Preparedness SC Chair	Excused
LCDR	Chen, Debra	Category Day SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Edwards, Elizabeth	Website SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Gallaway, Shayne	Mentoring SC Chair	Excused
LCDR	Levine, Rebecca	Category Day SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Link-Gelles, Ruth	Website SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Mitzner, George	Recruitment and Retention SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Morris, Kate	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Muniz-Ortiz, Jorge	Deployment Preparedness SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Scott, Colleen	Visibility SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Thompson-Paul, Angela	Visibility SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Zhang, Xinzhi	Career Development SC Chair	Present

Non-Voting Liaisons

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Scheckelhoff, Mark	AMSUS Liaison	Present
LCDR	Iturriaga, Luis	SOAGDAG Liaison	Present
LCDR	Rahman, Nazia	PsychPAG co-Liaison	Present
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	PsychPAG co-Liaison	Present
LCDR	Zucco, Julia	COA Liaison	Excused
LCDR	Zwald, Marissa	CCWIAB Liaison	Present
LT	Ejike-King, Lacreisha	PACE Liaison	Present
LT	Lin, Michelle	JOAG Liaison	Present
LT	Shaw, Kelly	ICAC Liaison	Present

Participation by Non-Voting Scientist Officers: RADM Theresa Lawrence; CAPT Karon Abe; CAPT Nelson Adekoya; CAPT Jennifer Adjemian; CAPT Drue Barrett; CAPT Marco Bennett; CAPT Aditya Bhagwat; CAPT Heidi Blanck; CAPT Pamela Ching; CAPT Julie Chodacki; CAPT Meghan Corso; CAPT Joseph Despina; CAPT Anne Dobbmeyer; CAPT Laura Draski; CAPT Danice Eaton; CAPT Arlin Hatch; CAPT Sally Hu; CAPT Ruth Jiles; CAPT James Kenney; CAPT Tracy MacGill; CAPT Sara Newman; CAPT Ryan Novak; CAPT Margaret Riggs; CAPT Loren Rodgers; CAPT Scott Salvatore; CAPT Sukhminder Sandhu; CAPT William Satterfield; CAPT Erin Sauber-Schatz; CAPT Kenneth Sekulic; CAPT Paul Seo; CAPT Andrea Sharma; CAPT Michael Smith; CAPT Jacqueline Tate; CAPT Douglas Thoroughman; CAPT Robin Toblin; CDR Gelio Alves; CDR David Barry; CDR Renee Calanan; CDR Dianna Carroll; CDR Chekesha Clingman; CDR Daniela Cohn-Aizic; CDR Minglei Cui; CDR Judy Facey; CDR Anne Marie France; CDR Joanna Gaines; CDR Jose Gomez; CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor; CDR Keisher Highsmith; CDR David Huang; CDR Elizabeth Irvin; CDR Emily Jentes; CDR Jean Ko; CDR Matthew Lozier; CDR Charlene Maddox; CDR Matthew Newland; CDR Erin Nichols; CDR Carrie Nielsen; CDR Erika Odom; CDR Eduardo O'Neill La Luz; CDR Erin Parker; CDR Cesar Perez; CDR Cria Perrine; CDR Chris Poulson; CDR Meghan Reilly; CDR Alfredo Sancho; CDR Tyler Sharp; CDR John Stansberry; CDR Nadra Tyus; CDR Sara Vagi; CDR Jeremy Wally; CDR Maroya Walters; CDR Angela Williams; CDR Matthew Wise; CDR Geoffrey Wu; CDR Fei Xu; CDR Ellen Yard; CDR Lauren Zapata; CDR Yi Zhang; CDR Eric Zhou; LCDR Tajah Blackburn; LCDR Tyann Blessington; LCDR Jason Caballero; LCDR Israel Cross; LCDR Sharoda Dasgupta; LCDR Samantha DiMisa; LCDR Jessica Dunn; LCDR Leora Feldstein; LCDR Charlotte Francia; LCDR Amy Freeland; LCDR Rory Geyer; LCDR Bradley Goodwin; LCDR Iram Hassan; LCDR Andrew Hickey; LCDR Kelsy Hoffman; LCDR Natasha Hollis; LCDR Jorielle Houston; LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson; LCDR Michelle Hughes; LCDR Eric Jamoom; LCDR Lisa Jarvis-Durham; LCDR Keisha Jenkins; LCDR Folasade Kembu; LCDR Alaine Knipes; LCDR Jonathan Leshin; LCDR Xiaowu Lu; LCDR Neali Lucas; LCDR Jamie Mells; LCDR Emily Mosites; LCDR Jonetta Mpfou; LCDR Ashleigh Murriel; LCDR Julie O'Donnell; LCDR Mary Puckett; LCDR Hilda Razzaghi; LCDR Adriana Restrepo; LCDR Leslie Rivera-Rosado; LCDR Erica Rose; LCDR Rachel Slayton; LCDR Pilgrim Spikes; LCDR Matthew Steele; LCDR Matthew Stuckey; LCDR Rhondie Tait; LCDR Nancy Tian; LCDR Emily Ussery; LCDR Tyson Volkmann; LCDR Teresa Wang; LCDR Shondelle Wilson-Frederick; LT Sophia Ajoku; LT Prince Awuah; LT Evan Brown; LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond; LT Ariella Dale; LT Peter DeJonge; LT Nicholas Deputy; LT Molly Deutsch-Feldman; LT Brett Dodd; LT Njere English; LT Dianca Finch; LT Brett Forshey; LT Robert Gahl; LT Jayleen Gunn; LT Marisa Hast; LT Carolyn Herzig; LT Amanda Hott; LT Suresh Jayasekara; LT Michelle Johnson; LT J. (Connie) Kang; LT Florence Kanu; LT Hana Kim; LT Michael Krage; LT Nang Thu Thu Kyaw; LT Anastasia Lambrou; LT Ana Lauer; LT Ying Lin; LT Sean Marcsisin; LT Kristin Marks; LT Gina Masessa; LT Oren Mayer; LT Tiffany McCain; LT Kevin McDermott; LT Olivia McGovern; LT Jessica Meeker; LT Muktha Natrajan; LT Stephanie Pitts; LT Jazmin Reed; LT Tia Rogers; LT Adelaida Rosario; LT Phillip Salvatore; LT Marsha Samson; LT Amy Schuh; LT Dantrell Simmons; LT Lillian Smith; LT Kindra Stokes; LT Kelsey Sumner; LT David Thorn; LT Carrie Whitworth; LT Lindsay Womack; LT Kerui Xu

Excused Absences of Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Jeffrey Goodie; CAPT Christine Hunter; CAPT Jennifer Thomas; CDR Robert Belde; CDR Qiao Bobo; CDR Dan-My Chu; CDR Juana Figueroa; CDR Artensie Flowers; CDR Aimee Geissler; CDR Brian Harcourt; CDR Alison Laufer Halpin; CDR Terrence Lo; CDR Andrea McCollum; CDR Leigh Ann Miller; CDR Lara Misegades; CDR Sharyn Parks Brown; CDR Anne Purfield; CDR Michelle Tsai; LCDR William Davis; LCDR Eboni Galloway; LCDR Patrick High; LCDR Brooke Hoots; LCDR Iman Martin; LCDR Shiny Mathew; LCDR Kari Schlessinger; LCDR Scott Steffen; LCDR Jessica Tomov; LT Andrew Brown; LT Anna Chard; LT Elizabeth Johnson; LT Christine Kim; LT Taneshia Knight; LT Yasmin Ogale; LT Beth Rubenstein; LT Tanesha Tutt; LT Lauren Woodard; LT Rebecca Woodruff; LT Shannon York

Key Abbreviations:

CAD = Call to Active Duty

CCLMS = Commissioned Corps Learning Management System

CPO = Chief Professional Officer

EB = Executive Board

LOA = Letter of Appreciation

OBC = Officer Basic Course

OSG = Office of the Surgeon General

OY = Operational Year

SC = Subcommittee

SOP = Standard Operating Procedures

Call to Order and Welcome: CDR Deborah Dee**CPO Report:** CAPT John Eckert

- The November meeting marked CAPT Eckert's final meeting presiding as the 11th Chief Scientist Officer. He delivered farewell remarks, highlighting the tragic deaths of 2 Scientists (CDR Tim Cunningham and CDR Sara Lowther) as low points of his 4-year tenure. He noted how the Scientist Category rallied following those tragedies and cited that strength and closeness as a highlight of his time. He also expressed his admiration for the resiliency of all Scientist Officers during the COVID-19 pandemic and public health response. He praised both 'new' and 'old' Scientist Officers who handled the transition of 49 HSO Psychologists into the Scientist Category with grace and aplomb.
- CAPT Eckert was recognized and praised in the comments box for his fierce advocacy for Scientist Officers, his full transparency, and his open style of communication.
- CAPT Eckert announced that 3 new Scientists attended October 2021 OBC, bringing our Category total to 412; this includes our first Ready Reserve CAD.
- He expressed enthusiasm about RADM Hilton's appointment as the new Deputy Surgeon General and RADM Childs's appointment as Acting Director of CCHQ.
- CAPT Eckert reminded all Officers about the 4 new required CCHQ trainings, which must be completed before January 1, 2022; these can all be found on [CCLMS](#).
- CAPT Eckert recognized 3 recently retired Scientists with the Outstanding Service Award—CAPT Kate Brett, CAPT Bryan Davidson, and CAPT Rick Troiano.
- CAPT Eckert congratulated CAPT Sukhminder Sandhu for her selection as the new Chief Scientist Officer. CAPT Sandhu is an FDA Officer and a long-time contributor to SciPAC, including most recently to the Career Development SC's work.

Chair Report: CDR Deborah Dee

- CDR Dee congratulated and welcomed CAPT Sandhu, incoming CPO for the Scientist Category, and expressed looking forward to working with her and to her leadership.
- CDR Dee thanked the organizers of the Halloween Social, expressing gratitude in seeing other Scientist attendees, including CAPT Eckert, via video.
- SciPAC Mental Health Initiative: CDR Dee mentioned a poll was sent seeking input on availability for recurring meetings of those interested in participating. An invitation will be forthcoming once a best day/time is identified through the poll.
- Last, but not least, CDR Dee thanked CAPT Eckert for his dedicated leadership and

support of the category as CPO for the past four years. She acknowledged the substantial time demands on CPOs and reminded officers of the many changes that have occurred in our Service over the past four years. Through it all, CAPT Eckert supported and encouraged us, and most importantly, stood beside us as our staunch advocate. She pointed to CAPT Eckert's transparency and honesty, which were examples and evidence for us, as Scientists, of the respect he has for each of us. Combined with CAPT Eckert's fierce advocacy for recognition of the many important contributions Scientist officers make to PHS and its mission, the guidance and information he provided, along with his dry, sarcastic wit, allowed us to stay focused on our work rather than to be distracted. She reminded CAPT Eckert that we appreciate him and will miss him.

Vice Chair Report: CDR Alice Shumate

- Nothing to report

Executive Secretary Report: LCDR Ginny Bowen

- If you connected to the meeting via Zoom and *can* see your full name listed in the Zoom 'participants' window, you do NOT need to report attendance separately.
- If you dialed in to the meeting via phone, if your full name does not appear in Zoom, or if you have an excused absence to report, please report your attendance via email to LCDR Ginny Bowen with the email subject line "SciPAC Meeting Attendance."
- If you are NOT receiving messages across the SciPAC listserv (search your mailbox for USPHS-SCIENTIST@LIST.NIH.GOV), please contact Lcdr Bowen to be added.
- Scientists attending October 2021 OBC will be added to the SciPAC roster and listserv by Friday, November 5.

Executive Liaison Report: CDR Lana Rossiter

- If a SC would like something reviewed by the EB or needs any other support, please let me know.
- In the past month, I have supported efforts by the Awards, Career Development, Deployment Preparedness, and Rules & Membership SCs.
- Review of SC SOPs will resume soon. SC Chairs, please be on the lookout for requests related to SOP updates. If there are questions, please contact me (email above).

Subcommittee Reports

- **Awards Subcommittee:** CDR Zewditu Demissie; Co-chairs: LCDR Nancy Tian, LCDR Mary Puckett
 - Thank you to all the officers who answered our call for volunteers; our SC roster is now full.
 - Thanks to the officers who pursued nominations for the AMSUS PHS Service-wide Awards. We hope to see SciPAC represented at the AMSUS annual awards dinner!
 - SciPAC has recognized 3 retired Scientist officers through our Retirement Awards program. CAPTs Kate Brett, Bryan Davidson, and Richard Troiano were all awarded the Retiring Scientist Outstanding Service Award. We congratulate these officers on their PHS retirement.

- The Retirement Awards Team is continuing to solicit self-nominations for the non-competitive Retiring Scientist Awards. Any Scientist Officer planning to retire during this operational year should consider nominating themselves. Interested officers should send their current CV to [CDR Andrea McCollum](#) and [LCDR Matthew Steele](#). An email will be distributed to the PAC.
 - The call for nominations for the 2022 Responder of the Year award is under development and will be distributed to the PAC before the end of the year.
- **Career Development:** [LCDR Xinzhi Zhang](#); Co-Chairs: [CDR Cara Halldin](#) and [CDR Minglei Cui](#)
- **Congratulations to CAPT Sukhminder Sandhu!** The entire Career Development SC sends our greatest appreciation to CAPT Sandhu for her excellent leadership for the SC; cheers all around for her recent appointment as the Chief Scientist Officer.
 - **Continuing Education (CE) Contact Hour Initiative Team:** The Team identifies CE opportunities to support SciPAC officers in meeting the annual CE requirement. CE Contact Hour Initiative team distributed the updated CE list for November to SciPAC listserv. If you are aware of training opportunities that could be included in the training list, please email the training opportunity information to [CDR Eric Zhou](#), [LCDR Christine Bradley](#), and [LT Dodd Brett](#).
 - **Scientist Officer Handbook Team:** The Scientist Officer Handbook provides Scientist officers with guidance on topics related to career development. Sections covering “Mentoring Commissioned Officers,” “Basic Readiness,” “Commissioned Corps Awards,” “Promotion,” “Commissioned Officers’ Effectiveness Report (COER),” and “Uniforms” have been submitted for review to the Executive Board. Individual chapters can be accessed from the [Scientist Officer Handbook](#) webpage under [Resources and Links](#). The Handbook Team is also looking for another officer to serve given the recent announcement of CAPT Sandhu as our new CPO. For more information, please email [CAPT Sukhminder Sandhu](#) and [CDR Tamara Henderson](#).
 - **Jobs List Team:** The Team compiles and distributes job announcements to aid current officers in making career movements. The Team now has 7 members and has organized into 2 sub-teams (Blue and Gold), which will alternate searching for open positions and compiling the Jobs List. The SciPAC Jobs Team intends to resume publication of a weekly Jobs List. For more information, email [LT Sean Marcsisin](#), [LCDR Jessica Dunn](#), and [LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond](#). Requests for inclusion of jobs in future weekly Jobs List should be emailed directly to [LT Sean Marcsisin](#).
 - **Promotion Document Review Team:** The Team provides promotion document reviewing services to Scientist officers up for promotion. Contact [CDR Michelle Rodriguez](#), [CDR Matthew Wise](#), and [LCDR Scott Steffen](#) for more information.
 - **Promotion Guidance Team:** The Team provides Scientist officers with guidance in preparing in advance of being eligible for promotion and in preparing promotion materials. *The team is soliciting ideas for the development of promotion planning and preparation tips.* If you have ideas for inclusion, please email [CDR Gelio Alves](#) and [LCDR Tyann Blessington](#).
 - **Promotion Panel Initiative Team:** The Team generates data-driven insight into factors that may relate to success or non-success of promotion-eligible Scientist officers. The new Co-Leads for the Promotion Panel Initiative Team met with last

year's Co-Leads to discuss Team activities/priorities and to share resources. The Co-Leads are excited about the number of Scientist Officers interested in volunteering for this important work. The first Team meeting will be on November 4, 2021. Previous 2017 and 2018 analyses can be found on the [SciPAC Career Development webpage](#). For more information please email [CDR Nadra Tyus](#), [LCDR Neil Bonzagni](#), and [LT Taneshia Knight](#).

- **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Team:** The Team maintains a current version of the Career Development SC SOP. The current SOP is available on the [SciPAC Career Development webpage](#). Update suggestions in preparation for the next submission, can be submitted to [CDR Renee Calanan](#) and [LT Amy Schuh](#).
 - **Training Team:** The Team provides professional training seminars and presentations related to the career development of Scientist officers. If you have ideas about future training events, please contact [CDR Tamara Henderson](#) and [LCDR Jessica Dunn](#).
 - **Administration & Communication Team:** The Team provides administrative and communication support to the SC. If you have website questions please contact [CDR Theodore Garnett](#), the SC Website Liaison. For other administrative and communication questions, please contact [LT Robert Gahl](#), the SC Secretary.
- **Category Day Subcommittee:** [LCDR Rebecca Levine](#); Co-chairs: [LCDR Debra Chen](#), [LCDR Alaine Knipes](#), and [LCDR Alesha Harris](#)
- Meetings
 - Most recent leadership meeting: October 28, 2021, 1:00 PM
 - Most recent team lead meeting: October 18, 2021, 1:00 PM
 - Most recent COF meeting: October 13, 2021, 1:00 PM
 - Next leadership meeting: November 12, 2021, 1:00 PM
 - Next team lead meeting: TBD (poll to identify recurring meeting time is underway)
 - Next COF meeting: November 10, 2021, 1:00 PM
 - Please consider submitting an abstract to present at Category Day on May 25, 2022.
 - Abstracts are due before midnight (Eastern) on November 18, 2021.
 - Abstract submission is through an [online portal](#) that may need to be accessed outside of your agency's network.
 - See additional information in the "Call for Abstracts" (redistributed on the SciPAC listserv on November 8.)
 - Planning for Category Day 2022 is underway.
 - At this time, the plan remains to have an in-person Symposium at the end of May, but the trajectory of the pandemic will dictate if this needs to become a hybrid or virtual-only event.
 - All speakers for Category Day 2022 must be finalized and submitted to COF by November 29, 2021. The Abstracts, Keynote Speaker, and Panel Discussion teams are actively working to meet this deadline.
 - Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with the SC this OY. We have filled all positions except one. We are looking for a Scientist Officer from FDA to join the Secretary Team. If interested, please reach out to [LCDR Scott Steffen](#).
 - Look for an evaluation survey following the 2021 Category Day. Given the virtual

- program, there will be historical questions and new questions.
- The Category Day SOP is being revised after one round of feedback from the SciPAC Executive Board. It will incorporate updates from the virtual program and the subsequent “hot wash.”
 - LOAs for 2021 SC members and Category Day presenters are being drafted.
 - SC leadership is drafting the 2021 SC annual report.
- **Deployment Preparedness SC:** CDR John Pesce; Co-chairs: LCDR Jason Caballero, LCDR Jorge Muñoz Ortiz, LT Adelaida Rosario
- **Readiness Reporting:** As of November 1, there are 412 Scientist Officers (411 Regular Corps; 1 Ready Reserve). 97.7% are either basic ready or exempt (slightly up from last month). Nine officers (2.2%) are not qualified. If you are having trouble with readiness, please reach out to the DPSC and we will do what we can to help.
 - LOAs have been completed and will be sent to officers who successfully participated in the SC this past OY.
 - We have received many responses to our call for help and will be having our first SC meeting within the next week to share our plans for the year with the team and discuss new opportunities.
 - The latest update to the RDB self-service page was September 12, so there are no new updates to report.
 - Please ensure you complete the training requirements announced by CCHQ on August 31. All training must be completed before January 1, 2022. Training modules can be found in the [CCLMS](#) and are focused on the following areas: Cultural Awareness; Harassment; Resiliency; Ethics. Certificates do not need to be added to your eOPF. Questions regarding required annual training should be submitted to PHSCOTA@hhs.gov.
 - We encourage officers to visit the [RDB home page](#) for updates on readiness information. If any officer has questions regarding the information, please contact the SC leadership.
- **Mentoring:** LCDR Shayne Gallaway; Co-Chairs: LCDR Tyson Volkmann, LCDR Patrick High
- Most recent meeting: October 25, 2021, 11:00am ET
 - Next meeting: November 27, 2021, 11:00am ET
 - **Mentor Recruitment Team**
 - If you do not have a Scientist mentor, or are not serving as a Scientist mentor, [apply to be part of the SciPAC Mentoring Program](#).
 - We are actively recruiting Peer Support Network (PSN) mentors to help ease onboarding anxieties for new Scientist CADs. If you are an O-3 officer with 2+ years in PHS, email LCDR Matt Steele and LCDR Folasade Kembi to volunteer.
 - We held an initial team meeting to begin to identify priority projects for the OY.
 - The SC has received information that 3 new officers (including 1 Ready Reserve) have completed OBC.
 - **Mentor Matching Team**
 - There are 124 active mentor-mentee agreements on file, with 46% of all Scientist

Officers engaged in the formal mentoring program; fewer than 10 prospective mentees are currently unmatched.

- The new application for mentorship has been finalized and is now available [online](#). Completed mentoring applications can be sent to LCDR Michelle Hughes & Lcdr Leora Feldstein.
- **Mentor Capacity-Building Team**
 - The co-leads met to introduce themselves and discuss goals, objectives, and new mentor training to build mentorship capacity.
 - The updated Mentoring Guidebook has been uploaded to the Mentoring [page](#) and will be advertised along with other resources.
- **Policy:** CDR Adam Bjork; Co-chair: LCDR Matthew Steele
 - The Policy SC stands ready to assist any SC undergoing its triennial SOP review.
 - Agency vaccination reporting
 - CCHQ sent an email on October 21, 2021, instructing all officers to report their COVID-19 vaccination status to their Agency.
 - Officers assigned to ACF, AHRQ, SAMHSA, and the Office of the Secretary should use the [HHS Vax](#) reporting tool. Officers assigned to all other OPDIVs should follow their respective agency requirements.
 - Carryover leave
 - The recently passed continuing resolution contained language to preserve carryover leave.
 - CCHQ sent official notification on October 1, 2021. Officers must use their carryover annual leave by September 30, 2023.
- **Psychologist Integration SC:** LCDR Kate Morris and LCDR Patrick Sears
 - Most recent meeting: October 25, 2021, 1:00pm EST
 - Next meeting: November 22, 2021, 1:00pm EST
 - Presented proposal to SciPAC Voting Members on October 14, 2021, regarding possible configurations of psychologist resources. No vote was called at that time.
 - Examining possible ways to move forward
 - Actively soliciting feedback from Commissioned Corps Psychologists regarding their experience of the transition and additional requests, inquiries, and needs
 - Re-working and editing our SOP to reflect the SC's work accurately
- **Recruitment and Retention:** LCDR George Mitzner; Co-Chair: LCDR Julia Zucco
 - All Hands Meeting was held October 26, 2021, where all SC Team Leads, co-Leads, and members had a virtual meet and greet, providing status updates and operational goals.
 - **Resources:** No Update
 - **Interested Applicant:** Attended last R&R Inter-PAC Call and new Scientist recruitment efforts are underway.
 - **OBC Engagement**
 - Thank you to Lcdr Colleen Scott, who represented SciPAC at the October 26 OBC 131 Open House. We wish a warm SciPAC welcome to our newest officers,

LT Jazmin Reed (FDA), LT Anthony Powell (BOP), and LTJG Naeemah Jones (Ready Reserve, OS).

- If you are interested in attending any of the future OBC Open Houses (OBC 132 on November 16, 2021), please email CDR Cesar Perez & LT Elizabeth Johnson.
- **New CAD Seminars:**
 - Thank you to LCDR Rudolph Francin and LT Shara Francin for leading the timely talk on October 29 entitled “COERs and Coffee.” Stay tuned for the next seminars (December: Promotions; January: Awards; February: Benefits/Perks!)
 - Calling all officers interested in giving a presentation for topics such as CV Writing, Deployments, Officership, Self-care, Life Changes, Retirement Planning, and Financial Independence.
 - To receive an invitation for the next seminar or if you would like to brief, contact LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond and LT Jessica Meeker.
- **CDC New Officer Monthly Meeting:**
 - Last meeting was October 15, with 15 officers in attendance discussing OS, ROS, CVs, awards, and CDC headshots.
 - Next meeting is Friday, November 12, featuring CAPT Eckert.
 - Contact LT Marisa Hast, LT Sean Griffing, and LCDR Jamie Mells for details and/or to be added to the distribution list.
- **EIS/LLS:** No Update
- **Separation Survey:** Planning to separate? Please contact LCDR Jorielle Houston and CDR Wade Keckler.
- **Rules and Membership:** CDR Alice Shumate; Co-chair: CDR Dan-My Chu
 - Thank you to everyone who responded to the SC request for volunteers. We had an overwhelming response and are at maximum capacity.
 - The SC intends to have a November “All Hands” meeting to welcome new members and discuss several SC initiatives.
- **Science:** CDR Kamil Barbour; Co-chairs: LCDR Israel Cross, LCDR Teresa Wang
 - **Team Leads and Roster:** We identified and finalized team leads and team rosters for this SciPAC OY.
 - **Kickoff Call:** We had a great kickoff call on November 1 with many returning and new members. We updated the SC regarding membership requirements. We also discussed each team’s activities and responsibilities and introduced the leadership and roster on each team. We look forward to having another wonderful year on this SC!
- **Visibility:** LCDR Colleen Scott; Co-Chairs: LCDR Adriana Restrepo, LCDR Angela Thompson-Paul
 - **Newsletter Team**
 - The newsletter team is hard at work putting together the fall edition. Previous editions are available on the [SciPAC website newsletter page](#).
 - Please contact newsletter team lead LCDR Kelly Shaw for any questions regarding article submissions.
 - **Socials Team**

- The Halloween Happy Hour social event was held on Friday, October 29, and attended by 9 officers.
- Upcoming social event: Family Feud Trivia on Sunday, November 14 at 2pm.
 - Please RSVP to CDR Zewditu Demissie and LCDR Keisha Jenkins, by COB Tuesday, November 9, 2021.
 - Zoom [link to join the event](#).
- Contact LT Lacreisha Ejike-King to join this fun team!
- **Publications Team**
 - The Publications Team is recruiting new members. We welcome all volunteers and are especially interested in creating diversity within our team that mirrors the diversity of the OPDIVs represented across our PAC. We encourage Scientist Officers from CDC and agencies outside of CDC to join our team and contribute to highlighting the work being done across SciPAC. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact LCDR Tia Rogers.
- **Twitter Team**
 - In October 2021, [@PHS_Scientist](#) tweeted/retweeted a total of 65 times and generated 5,615 new impressions; 386 new engagements; 6,934 profile visits; and 271 new likes.
 - Twitter Team is still seeking new team members for the 2021–2022 OY.
 - Contact Twitter team lead LCDR Elaine Knipes with Tweet Ideas and to express interest in joining the SciPAC Twitter Team!
 - As always, find us and follow us on Twitter at [@PHS_Scientist](#).
- **Facebook Team**
 - In October 2021, there were 296 views, 5 posts, and 31 expressions on the SciPAC Facebook page.
 - Two officers joined the Facebook group, bringing us to 178 members this month. If you aren't already a member you can [request membership here](#).
- **SciPAC Symposium Poster Team**
 - We are currently developing a survey to send to our new Psychologist officers so that we can highlight your roles and accomplishments at the upcoming Category Day. Please look for our email in your inbox!
- **Conferences Team:** No updates.
- **Fist Bump Team**
 - In October 2021, the Fist Bump Team received 1 nomination and submitted 1 Fist Bump for publication in the Scientist Newsletter and the USPHS Scientist Facebook page. Five (5) Fist Bumps are awaiting approval for posting to the @PHS_Scientist Twitter feed.
 - The SciPAC Fist Bump Form is available on the website on the [Visibility SC page](#). Please use this form to submit Fist Bump nominations; send completed forms to both LT Olivia McGovern and LT Kerui Xu.
- **Website Subcommittee:** Chair: LCDR Ruth Link-Gelles; Co-chairs: LCDR Elizabeth Edwards, LCDR Matthew Stuckey
 - Last bimonthly SC meeting: September 28, 2021

- Next bimonthly SC meeting: November 18, 2021, 10am ET (tentative)
- Current Activities
 - As of October 27, 2021, the SC received 12 website update requests; 9 requests are complete and 3 are pending.
 - The History Webpage update is currently on-hold.
 - Our SC held a training on November 1 to provide instruction to new members and a refresher for existing members regarding website editing and responsibilities.
- If interested in volunteering, please email LCDR Link-Gelles, LCDR Edwards, and LCDR Matt Stuckey. Team member and leadership positions are available; specifically looking for someone with REDCap experience.

Liaison Reports—

- **AMSUS: CAPT Mark Scheckelhoff**
 - Most recent meeting: October 22, 2021
 - Next meeting: TBD
 - AMSUS's 2022 Conference Registration is now open. [Click here](#) for in-person or virtual registration. The [updated agenda is now available](#).
 - Hotel reservations [can be made](#) at the Conference Hotel (Gaylord National Resort, National Harbor MD) at federal per diem rates.
 - In-person attendance includes:
 - 20+ CME/CE opportunities
 - Presentations from senior health leaders, clinicians, and other subject matter experts
 - Networking opportunities throughout the Annual Meeting
 - Learning the latest from industry partners in the Exhibit Hall
 - A ticket to the AMSUS Awards Luncheon (RSVP required)
 - Mentoring opportunities for students/residents and other federal health professionals
 - Eligibility to register for pre-conference courses
 - PLUS full access to content and CME/CE opportunities at the Virtual Meeting
 - Virtual-only attendance includes:
 - On-demand educational sessions for learning anytime, from anywhere
 - Approx. 50 additional CME/CE opportunities, with access to content and CME/CE evaluations through March 31, 2022
 - Multi-media poster presentations
 - Opportunities to participate in scheduled Q&A with subject matter experts
- **CC Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB): LCDR Marissa Zwald**
 - Last CCWIAB meeting: Wednesday, October 6, 2021
 - Next CCWIAB meeting: Wednesday, November 3, 2021
 - New CCWIAB leadership was announced at our last board meeting. Incoming Co-Chair is CDR Kiran Perkins (Medical Officer, CDC) and incoming Executive Assistant is LCDR Marissa Zwald (Scientist, CDC).

- After much advocacy by CCWIAB's Pregnancy Committee, CCHQ is supportive of an Air Force initiative to revise recommendations to the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) to allow for reimbursement of breastmilk transport during TDYs during the first 36 months after birth. The board is still awaiting an update on whether the JTR has accepted or incorporated these recommendations.
 - CCWIAB will be taking over the USPHS twitter (@usphscc) and Facebook pages to promote women's health issues, including breast cancer awareness.
 - You do not have to be a board member to participate in committee activities. If you are interested in joining a CCWIAB committee or if you have any questions about CCWIAB, please contact LCDR Zwald, or visit [CCWIAB's website](#).
 - CCWIAB committees include: Pregnancy Committee; Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Committee; Health and Wellness Committee; Website Committee; & Outreach and Membership Committee
- **COA:** LCDR Julia Zucco
 - Most recent meeting: September 22, 2021 (Board Meeting)
 - COA has been hosting a series of retirement seminars, the last one on November 4
 - COA is going to be developing position statements to share on Capitol Hill for several issues such as support for mandating COVID-19 vaccines for officers.
 - COA has representation on The Military Coalition and its subcommittees along with organizations representing other uniformed services to ensure that PHS is included in issues they push for on the Hill
 - The Outreach Committee has been contacting COA members with lapsed memberships within the past few years. Please contact Lcdr Zucco if you have questions on how to renew your membership in COA.
 - **ICAC:** LT Kelly Shaw
 - Nothing to report
 - **JOAG:** LT Xia Michelle Lin
 - Most recent meeting: October 8, 2021
 - Next meeting: December 10, 2021, 1:00–2:00pm ET
 - [Click Here to Access the Zoom Link](#). Zoom Meeting ID 161 772 9993. For Audio: (646) 828-7666, Passcode: 426443
 - The meeting will continue to have leadership training presentations this year.
 - JOAG is requesting nominations for a JOAG Senior Advisor for the 3-year term from 2022–2025; nominations are due by 5:00pm ET on November 24, 2021.
 - All JOAG committees are seeking volunteers.
 - JOAG requests award nominations for the VADM Richard H. Carmona Inspiration Award and VADM C. Everett Koop Junior Officer Award; nominations are due by 5:00pm ET on December 1, 2021.
 - Visit the [JOAG Website](#) for more information.
 - To subscribe, unsubscribe, or change your email address for the JOAG listserv, click [here](#).

- **PACE:** LT Lacreisha Ejike-King
 - Most recent meeting: October 14, 2021, at 2:00pm ET
 - Next meeting: December 9, 2021, at 2:00pm ET
<https://fda.zoomgov.com/j/1608824782?pwd=V1FzWFd4aW4zNGFXM1hpWE9EQ3ZNZz09> Meeting ID 160 882 4782; Passcode 4q#Qqk
 - **Leadership/Volunteer Opportunities:** PACE Region 10 has openings for Local Leads in the following locations: Portland, OR and Salem, WA. Please see the PACE website for additional information and contact LCDR Holly Daverin (R10 Regional Coordinator) or LCDR Pamela Mokoko (R10 Regional Coordinator) for additional information if you are interested in taking on this role.
 - The new [OSG-approved PACE lessons](#) are now live. All in-person PACE events have been placed on hold until further notice. All events must be virtual and in-line with OSG guidance.
- **PsychPAG:** LCDR Patrick Sears; Lcdr Nazia Rahman
 - Most recent meeting: October 12, 2021, 2:00–3:00pm ET
 - Next meeting: December 14, 2021, 2:00–3:00pm ET
 - Attention transitioned psychologists: We would like to hear your experience of the transition to the Scientist category. What has gone well? What concerns do you have? Do you have any suggestions? Please contact LCDR Kate Morris and LCDR Patrick Sears to share your thoughts.
 - Are you interested in speaking to an expert in behavioral health for consultation, resources, or collaboration? We encourage you to contact LCDR Nick Buhr, the PsychPAG Chair, or LCDR Kate Morris, the Psychologist Integration SC Chair.
- **SOAGDAG:** LCDR Luis Iturriaga
 - Most recent meeting: October 25, 2021, 1:00pm ET
 - Next meeting: November 22, 2021, 1:00pm ET
 - SOAGDAG would like to highlight the historical importance of the first openly transgender person to be appointed to lead a uniformed service, with the commissioning of Four-star Admiral Rachel Levine.
 - The Fall SOAGDAG newsletter will be released in the next few weeks, highlighting officers' work and activities.
 - LT Ryder will be presenting on "The Gender Reveal" on November 9, 1:00pm ET. Link:<https://okcihs.webex.com/okcihs/j.php?MTID=mcddb9644764b402f179c5a58396477ac> Call in information: +1-415-527-5035 Access code: 2760 992 8868
 - Social subcommittee would like to re-announce the Guided Paint Party on November 13, 2021, 4:00–6:00pm ET. Registration link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUscOCoqTwjGtN5lOrc2FaIvknmudIYa ky8>

Closing Remarks: CAPT Sukhminder Sandhu and CDR Deb Dee

NOTE: Next meeting Tuesday, **December 7, 2021**; 12:00-1:00pm ET



Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service Scientist Professional Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes; December 7, 2021

Via Zoom meeting: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
 Or via phone: (669) 254 5252 or (646) 828 7666; [Global numbers](#)
 Meeting ID: 160 273 2410; Passcode: 401921

Total Attendance: 205 attendees; 21 excused absences

Chief Scientist Officer and Executive Board Members

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Sandhu, Sukhminder	Chief Scientist Officer	Present
CDR	Dee, Deborah	Chair	Present
CDR	Rossiter, Lana	Executive Liaison	Excused
CDR	Shumate, Alice	Vice Chair; Rules & Membership Chair	Excused
CDR	Wilken, Jason	Ex-Officio Chairperson	Present
LCDR	Bowen, Ginny	Executive Secretary	Present

Voting Members (SC = Subcommittee)

Rank	Name	Role	
CDR	Barbour, Kamil	Science SC Chair	Present
CDR	Bjork, Adam	Policy SC Chair	Present
CDR	Demissie, Zewditu	Awards SC Chair	Present
CDR	Halldin, Cara	Career Development SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Pesce, John	Deployment Preparedness SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Chen, Debra	Category Day SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Edwards, Elizabeth	Website SC Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Gallaway, Shayne	Mentoring SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Levine, Rebecca	Category Day SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Link-Gelles, Ruth	Website SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Mitzner, George	Recruitment and Retention SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Morris, Kate	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Muniz-Ortiz, Jorge	Deployment Preparedness SC Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Scott, Colleen	Visibility SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Thompson-Paul, Angela	Visibility SC Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Zhang, Xinzhi	Career Development SC Chair	Present

Non-Voting Liaisons

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Scheckelhoff, Mark	AMSUS Liaison	Present
LCDR	Iturriaga, Luis	SOAGDAG Liaison	Present
LCDR	Rahman, Nazia	PsychPAG co-Liaison	Present
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	PsychPAG co-Liaison	Present
LCDR	Zucco, Julia	COA Liaison	Present
LCDR	Zwald, Marissa	CCWIAB Liaison	Present
LT	Ejike-King, Lacreisha	PACE Liaison	Present
LT	Lin, Michelle	JOAG Liaison	Present
LT	Shaw, Kelly	ICAC Liaison	Present

Participation by Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Jennifer Adjemian; CAPT Drue Barrett; CAPT Marco Bennett; CAPT Pamela Ching; CAPT Julie Chodacki; CAPT Laura Draski; CAPT Danice Eaton; CAPT John Eckert; CAPT Dominic Frasca; CAPT Jeffrey Goodie; CAPT Arlin Hatch; CAPT Sally Hu; CAPT Timothy Nelle; CAPT Ryan Novak; CAPT Erin Sauber-Schatz; CAPT Kenneth Sekulic; CAPT Andrea Sharma; CAPT Michael Smith; CAPT Jacqueline Tate; CAPT Jennifer Thomas; CAPT Fuyuen Yip; CDR Frances (Lisa) Belcher; CDR Qiao Bobo; CDR Renee Calanan; CDR Dianna Carroll; CDR Dan-My Chu; CDR Chekesha Clingman; CDR Minglei Cui; CDR Anne Marie France; CDR Joanna Gaines; CDR Aimee Geissler; CDR Jose Gomez; CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor; CDR Seth Green; CDR Brian Harcourt; CDR David Huang; CDR Elizabeth Irvin; CDR Emily Jentes; CDR Jean Ko; CDR Matthew Lozier; CDR Charlene Maddox; CDR Andrea McCollum; CDR Leigh Ann Miller; CDR Mark Miller; CDR Lara Misegades; CDR Carrie Nielsen; CDR Erika Odom; CDR Eduardo O'Neill La Luz; CDR Erin Parker; CDR Sharyn Parks Brown; CDR Cesar Perez; CDR Cria Perrine; CDR Tracy Powell; CDR Meghan Reilly; CDR Luz Rivera; CDR Alfredo Sancho; CDR Tyler Sharp; CDR John Stansberry; CDR Emily Streeter; CDR Peter Thomas; CDR Michelle Tsai; CDR Nadra Tyus; CDR Sara Vagi; CDR Jeremy Wally; CDR Maroya Walters; CDR Tenaya Watson; CDR Matthew Wise; CDR Fei Xu; CDR Ellen Yard; CDR Eric Zhou; LCDR Tajah Blackburn; LCDR Tyann Blessington; LCDR Jason Caballero; LCDR Israel Cross; LCDR Mary Lela Demby; LCDR Samantha DiMisa; LCDR Jessica Dunn; LCDR Leora Feldstein; LCDR Amy Freeland; LCDR Eboni Galloway; LCDR Bradley Goodwin; LCDR Vanessa Goosen; LCDR Yoran Grant-Greene; LCDR Alesha Harris; LCDR Kathleen Hartnett; LCDR Iram Hassan; LCDR Andrew Hickey; LCDR Patrick High; LCDR Natasha Hollis; LCDR Brooke Hoots; LCDR Keisha Houston Jenkins; LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson; LCDR Michelle Hughes; LCDR Eric Jamoom; LCDR Lisa Jarvis-Durham; LCDR Alaine Knipes; LCDR Juan Lacayo; LCDR Jonathan Leshin; LCDR Kimberly (Shay) Litton-Belcher; LCDR Xiaowu Lu; LCDR Neali Lucas; LCDR Iman Martin; LCDR Jamie Mells; LCDR Emily Mosites; LCDR Jonetta Mpofo; LCDR Ashleigh Murriel; LCDR Julie O'Donnell; LCDR Oliver Ou; LCDR Mary Puckett; LCDR Hilda Razzaghi; LCDR Adriana Restrepo; LCDR Leslie Rivera-Rosado; LCDR Erica Rose; LCDR Rachel Slayton; LCDR Matthew Steele; LCDR Scott Steffen; LCDR Matthew Stuckey; LCDR Rhondie Tait; LCDR Nancy Tian; LCDR Emily Ussery; LCDR Tyson Volkmann; LCDR Teresa Wang; LCDR Shondelle Wilson-Frederick; LT Sophia Ajoku; LT Andrew Brown; LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond; LT Ariella Dale; LT Brett Dodd; LT Marisa Donnelly; LT Njere English; LT Dianca Finch; LT Brett Forshey; LT Robert Gahl; LT Bryan Galvez; LT Sean Griffing; LT Jayleen Gunn; LT Marisa Hast; LT Carolyn Herzig; LT Amanda Hott; LT Pushpa (Suresh) Jayasekara; LT Elizabeth Johnson; LT Michelle Johnson; LT Jueichuan (Connie) Kang; LT Florence Kanu; LT Christine Kim; LT Taneshia Knight; LT Ian Kracalik; LT Michael Krage; LT Nang Thu Kyaw; LT Ana Lauer; LT Ying Lin; LT Gina Masessa; LT Oren Mayer; LT Tiffany McCain; LT Kevin McDermott; LT Olivia McGovern; LT Eric Mooring; LT Muktha Natrajan; LT Yasmin Ogale; LT Megan Peck; LT Stephanie Pitts; LT Jin Qin; LT Jazmin Reed; LT Tia Rogers; LT Adelaida Rosario; LT Beth Rubenstein; LT Marsha Samson; LT Amy Schuh; LT Dantrell Simmons; LT Lillian Smith; LT Kindra Stokes; LT Kelsey Sumner; LT Carrie Whitworth; LT Nicholas Wiese; LT Lindsay Womack; LT Lauren Woodard; LT Rebecca Woodruff; LT Kerui Xu; LT Shannon York

Excused Absences of Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Josh Mott; CDR Alison Laufer Halpin; CDR Terrence Lo; CDR Matthew Newland; CDR Erin Nichols; CDR Sanny Northbrook; CDR Anne Purfield; LCDR Francis Annor; LCDR Sharoda Dasgupta; LCDR William Davis; LCDR Folasade Kembu; LCDR Jessica Tomov; LT Anna Chard; LT Nicholas Deputy; LT Kristin Marks

Key Abbreviations:

CAD = Call to Active Duty

CCHQ = Commissioned Corps Headquarters

CCLMS = Commissioned Corps Learning Management System

CPO = Chief Professional Officer

EB = Executive Board

LOA = Letter of Appreciation

MAB = Medical Affairs Branch

OBC = Officer Basic Course

OSG = Office of the Surgeon General

OY = Operational Year

SC = Subcommittee

SOP = Standard Operating Procedures

Call to Order and Welcome: CDR Deborah Dee**CPO Report:** CAPT Sukhminder Sandhu

- CAPT Sandhu delivered her first report as Chief Scientist Officer and expressed excitement about hearing from Dr. Barry Simon, of CCHQ Medical Affairs, later during the meeting.
- She provided several administrative updates, including a reminder that 4 CCHQ-required trainings in CCLMS are due before January 1, 2022. She also reminded officers that the Reviewing Official's Statement (ROS) was due within the COER system by December 31, 2021.
- She encouraged officers to spend time with their promotion packets and noted that the new, standardized CV format was optional for promotion year 2022. CAPT Sandhu reminded officers that the new promotion package verification system was live this year and that they needed to have all documents placed in their eOPF by December 31, 2021, with review completed in the new verification system by February 15, 2022.
- She wished all Scientists a restful holiday season and a happy new year!

Chair Report: CDR Deborah Dee

- CDR Dee expressed thanks to Dr. Simon for accepting the invitation to present to SciPAC about myths and realities related to mental health care for PHS officers.
- CDR Dee thanked the SciPAC Mental Health Initiative Workgroup for identifying Dr. Simon as a speaker and for the work they are doing to support PHS officers' mental health and well-being, not only with SciPAC but for all categories. She also thanked CAPT Sandhu for her support of the presentation by Dr. Simon today and of the Workgroup's efforts overall
- Officers who are interested in participating in the SciPAC Mental Health Initiative Workgroup are always welcome. For more information, contact CDR Dee.
- The Workgroup meets the third Friday of each month at 11:00am ET.

Vice Chair Report: CDR Alice Shumate

- Nothing to report

Executive Secretary Report: LCDR Ginny Bowen

- If you connected to the meeting via Zoom and *can* see your full name listed in the Zoom ‘participants’ window, you do NOT need to report attendance separately.
- If you dialed in to the meeting via phone, if your full name does not appear in Zoom, or if you have an excused absence to report, please report your attendance via email to LCDR Ginny Bowen with the email subject line “SciPAC Meeting Attendance.”
- Effective December 1, 2021, Lcdr Bowen’s email address has changed to virginia.bowen@acf.hhs.gov. Messages sent to her CDC address on or after this date were not received and should be re-sent as needed.

Executive Liaison Report: CDR Lana Rossiter

- If a SC would like something reviewed by the EB or needs support, please let me know.
- In the past month, I have supported efforts by the Awards, Career Development, Deployment Preparedness, and Visibility SCs.
- Review of SC SOPs will resume soon. SC Chairs, please be on the lookout for requests related to SOP updates. If there are questions, please contact me.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Awards Subcommittee:** CDR Zewditu Demissie; Co-chairs: LCDR Nancy Tian, LCDR Mary Puckett
 - The Retirement Awards Team is continuing to solicit self-nominations for the non-competitive Retiring Scientist Awards. Any Scientist Officer planning to retire during this OY should consider nominating themselves. Interested officers should send their current CV to CDR Andrea McCollum and LCDR Matthew Steele. An email with additional details was distributed to the PAC on December 2, 2021.
 - The call for nominations for the 2022 Scientist Responder of the Year award is under development and will be distributed to the PAC before the end of the year.
- **Career Development:** LCDR Xinzhi Zhang; Co-Chairs: CDR Cara Halldin and CDR Minglei Cui
 - **Continuing Education (CE) Contact Hour Initiative Team:** The Continuing Education (CE) Contact Hour Initiative Team identifies CE opportunities to support SciPAC officers in meeting the annual CE requirement. CE Contact Hour Initiative team distributed the updated CE list for December to the SciPAC listserv. If you are aware of a training opportunity that could be included in the CE/training list, email CDR Eric Zhou, LCDR Christine Brady, and LT Dodd Brett.
 - **Scientist Officer Handbook Team:** The Scientist Officer Handbook provides Scientist officers with guidance on various topics related to career development. The Handbook Team has undergone several reviews during the last OY. The Team is currently in the process of finalizing & updating the Handbook with the EB. Individual chapters can be accessed from the [Scientist Officer Handbook](#) webpage under [Resources and Links](#).

- **SEEKING VOLUNTEER:** The Handbook Team is also looking for another officer to serve given the recent announcement of CAPT Sandhu as our new CPO. For more information, email [CDR Tamara Henderson](#).
 - **Jobs List Team:** The Job List Team identifies, compiles, highlights, and distributes job/position announcements to aid current officers in securing new billets. The job list highlights the range of billet opportunities and should help those currently seeking a new billet as well as those interested in career progression and planning. For more information please email [LT Sean Marcsisin](#), [LCDR Jessica Dunn](#), and [LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond](#). Requests for inclusion of job openings in future weekly Jobs List should be emailed directly to [LT Sean Marcsisin](#).
 - **Promotion Document Review Team:** The Promotion Document Review Team provides promotion document reviewing services to individual Scientist officers who are up for promotion. The team received a total of 39 requests for CV and OS reviews for promotion year 2022. We thank the 62 junior and senior officers who volunteered to serve as reviewers, as well as the Team's Co-Lead. We are finalizing the review process, which is scheduled to conclude by December 3rd. If you have questions, contact [CDR Michelle Rodriguez](#), [CDR Matthew Wise](#), and [LCDR Scott Steffen](#).
 - **Promotion Guidance Team:** The Promotion Guidance Team provides Scientist officers with guidance in preparing in advance of being eligible for promotion and in preparing promotion materials. As part of these efforts, a new Working Group has been created. The New Benchmarks Assessment & Guidance Working Group (WG), led by [CDR Gelio Alves](#) and [CAPT Althea Grant-Lenzy](#), has completed a draft assessment and guidance for the 2022 All-Category Benchmarks. The draft document includes examples of how officers can demonstrate fulfillment of the precepts. The draft guidance was a collaborative effort with numerous SciPAC officer volunteers, Policy SC, and leadership. The WG received comments back from SciPAC EB and the WG is addressing comments and finalizing edits. The WG expects to provide an updated version to the EB in December. For additional information, email [CDR Gelio Alves](#) and [LCDR Tyann Blessington](#).
 - **Promotion Panel Initiative Team:** The Team completed its first meeting on November 4, 2021, and discussed prior SciPAC promotion surveys and reports, Team activities and priorities for the OY, potential survey platforms, and ways to enhance the Team's data collection activities. Previous 2017 and 2018 analyses can be found on the [SciPAC Career Development webpage](#). For more information, email [CDR Nadra Tyus](#), [LCDR Neil Bonzagni](#), and [LT Taneshia Knight](#).
 - **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Team:** Nothing to report.
 - **Training Team:** Nothing to report.
 - **Administration & Communication Team:** Nothing to report
- **Category Day Subcommittee:** [LCDR Rebecca Levine](#); Co-chair(s): [LCDR Debra Chen](#), [LCDR Alaine Knipes](#), and [LCDR Alesha Harris](#)
- Meetings
 - Most recent leadership meeting: October 28, 2021, 1:00 pm ET
 - Most recent team leads meeting: November 18, 2021, 1:00 pm ET
 - Most recent COF meeting: November 10, 2021, 1:00 pm ET
 - Next leadership meeting: December 9, 2021, 1:00 pm ET

- Next team leads meeting: December 16, 2021, 1:00 pm ET
 - Next COF meeting: December 8, 2021, 1:00 pm ET
 - Planning for Category Day 2022 is actively underway.
 - The plan remains to have an in-person Symposium May 23–27, 2022, but the pandemic trajectory will dictate if this will become a hybrid or virtual-only event.
 - The agenda and speakers for Category Day 2022 were confirmed and submitted to COF on November 29, 2021. The Abstracts, Keynote Speaker, and Panel Discussion teams were truly outstanding in meeting this deadline. We also thank the SciPAC Executive Board for their rapid turn-around on all items.
 - Confirmation of the one remaining panelist speaker is expected shortly.
 - Decisions on Keynote Speaker funding requests are expected from COF by December 8.
 - All speakers will receive an email on/around December 18 requesting that they login to COF's agenda management system and upload their information. **The deadline for speakers to enter their information is January 10, 2022.**
 - Huge thanks to everyone who submitted an abstract to present at Category Day 2022. As always, the submissions were stellar and far exceeded our expectations.
 - Everyone who submitted an abstract should have been notified about the selection decision by December 3, and if accepted, whether or not any edits were requested.
 - All submitters with an accepted abstract have confirmed that they are willing and able to present on Category Day 2022 in Arizona.
 - All accepted abstracts were put forward to COF to be included as speakers on the official agenda for Category Day 2022.
 - The Category Day 2021 evaluation survey was posted to the SciPAC listserv on November 12 and closed on November 26. Our Evaluation team is working on analyzing the results, which will be used to improve Category Day 2022.
 - LOAs for all 2021 SC members and Category Day 2021 presenters were finalized and distributed before Thanksgiving.
 - **SEEKING VOLUNTEER:** We are still looking for a Scientist Officer from FDA to join the Category Day Secretary Team. If interested, please reach out to LCDR Scott Steffen.
 - SC leaders are drafting Category Day's section of the 2021 SciPAC Annual Report.
 - The Category Day SOP is being revised following feedback from the SciPAC EB. It will incorporate updates from the virtual program and the subsequent "hot wash."
- **Deployment Preparedness SC:** CDR John Pesce; Co-chairs: LCDR Jason Caballero, LCDR Jorge Muñoz Ortiz, LT Adelaida Rosario
- **Readiness Reporting:** As of December 1, we have 414 Regular Corps Scientists and 1 Ready Reserve officer. 96.5% are either basic ready or exempt (slightly up from last month). 14 are not qualified. If you are having trouble with getting basic ready, please reach out to the DPSC and we will do what we can to help.
 - We met on November 15, established working groups, and went over expectation for the OY. Teams are working on an array of topics, including trainings and publications. We look forward to seeing their progress.
 - Reminder that new trainings in cultural awareness, harassment, resiliency, and ethics

- must be completed before January 1, 2022. All trainings can be found in the CCLMS. Certificates are not required to be added to your eOPF. Questions regarding the required annual training should be submitted to PHSCOTA@hhs.gov.
- We encourage officers to visit the [RDB home page](#) for updates on readiness information. The last updates were released on November 5 and focus mainly on making sure your vaccinations are current. There is some information about deployment history and FMRB that should be reviewed.
 - **Mentoring:** LCDR Shayne Gallaway; Co-Chairs: LCDR Tyson Volkmann; LCDR Patrick High
 - Most recent meeting: November 22, 2021, 11 am ET
 - Next meeting: December 27, 2021 (team updates will be collated via email)
 - **Mentor Recruitment Team:**
 - CALL FOR MENTORS: We are currently in need of mentors who are in the ranks of O5-O6 who are either psychologists or behavioral scientists. If you are not actively serving as a SciPAC mentor or are willing to take on an additional mentee please contact LCDR Leora Feldstein and LCDR Michelle Hughes and self-identify as a psychologist or behavioral scientist.
 - If you do not have a Scientist mentor, or are not serving as a Scientist mentor, [apply to be part of the SciPAC Mentoring Program](#). For any questions, email LCDR Shayne Gallaway.
 - If you have been called to active duty in the past year, a Peer Support Network (PSN) mentor can ease the transition during assimilation into the Corps and guide you through the onboarding process. Please email LCDR Matt Steele and LCDR Folasade Kembi to request a PSN mentor.
 - If you are an O-3 officer (≥ 2 years since call to active duty) you can serve as a PSN mentor to a new Scientist call to active duty. Please email LCDR Matt Steele and LCDR Folasade Kembi to volunteer as a PSN mentor.
 - Discussing internally how to handle mentorship of Ready Reserve officers.
 - Coordinating with other Mentoring SC teams to inquire about specific recruitment needs (i.e., by rank, agency, discipline). In the coming months, specific mentor recruitment needs will be shared widely.
 - **Mentor Matching Team**
 - Currently 132 active mentor-mentee agreements on file, and there are 10 unmatched mentee applicants (8 from CDC, 1 from FDA, 1 from ICE).
 - 51% of Scientist Officers are engaged as either a mentor or mentee.
 - Presented an overview of the mentor matching and renewal processes and led discussion on how to better coordinate internally to offset the burden of communications with mentors and mentees.
 - Due to the overwhelming number of O-4 Officers who volunteered to serve as mentors, there is a delay in matching all O-4 mentors until we receive more O-3 Officers who need a mentor. If you are an O-3 Officer and do not have an official SciPAC mentor, [apply to be part of the SciPAC Mentoring Program](#).
 - **Mentor Capacity-Building Team (MCBT)**

- SciPAC mentoring resources were distributed through the SciPAC Listserv on 11/9, including the updated Mentoring Guidebook, Career Fact Sheet, COVID-19 Mentor Outreach document, and Mentoring Program Application.
- Planning a Mentoring Orientation for January 2022. This orientation will provide resources for new O-4 mentors and serve as a refresher for senior Officers currently serving as a mentor. Please email CDR Neal Kimble and LCDR Christine Brady with any questions.
- Planning a SciPAC Mentoring Panel Discussion in July/August 2022. Panelists will respond to several questions related to promotion, career progression, and other topics that impact officers (e.g., PHS policies).
- A Category Day liaison has been identified (LCDR Kembi) and a meeting will be scheduled between the Team Leads and Category Day liaison to determine how the MCBT can support the Category Day activity.

- **Policy:** CDR Adam Bjork; Co-chair: LCDR Matthew Steele
 - CCHQ posted a minor change to the uniform policy CCI413.01 “Special Uniform Situations.” This change allows for the wear of compression leggings, shorts, and shirts under the PT uniform.
 - The 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) has passed the House and is pending in the Senate. The 2021 NDAA proposes the following notable changes, which may affect PHS Officers:
 - It would amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to give PHS officers the right to place an active duty alert on their credit file.
 - It makes changes to Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) eligibility, allowing PHS officers to receive instruction at the university ‘within the scope of their employment.’
 - Extends the authority for the Secretary of Defense to make temporary increases to the Basic Allowance for Housing for certain areas until December 31, 2022. This does not guarantee that such an increase will be implemented.
 - Amends the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) to require that uniformed service members and their spouses be allowed to transfer their professional licenses between states if they are ordered to relocate.
 - The above changes HAVE NOT become law. The Policy SC will make further announcements if the bill becomes law with the above changes. Additionally, these changes may require further policy revisions from other agencies, departments and/or CCHQ to be placed into effect.

- **Psychologist Integration SC:** LCDR Kate Morris and LCDR Patrick Sears
 - Most recent meeting: November 22, 1:00pm ET
 - Next meeting: December 21, 1:00pm ET
 - Working to catalog the historical and current work of PsychPAG as we transition its duties to the Scientist Category
 - Actively soliciting feedback from PHS Psychologists regarding their experience of the transition to the Scientist category and additional requests, inquiries and needs
 - Editing our SOP in order to properly reflect our work

- **Recruitment and Retention:** LCDR George Mitzner; Co-Chair: LCDR Julia Zucco
 - **Resources:** OBC Welcome Document has been updated for the current OY
 - **Interested Applicant:** SC Chair attended the December 3, 2021, R&R Inter-PAC Call; new Scientist Recruitment efforts are being finalized before EB review.
 - **OBC Engagement:** OBC 132 welcomed more Scientists!
 - We wish a warm SciPAC welcome to our newest officer(s):
 - LT Twanna Pearce – DHS/ICE
 - LT Anthony Powell – BOP
 - LT Jin Qin – CDC
 - If you are interested in attending the January 2022 (or other future) OBC Open Houses, please reach out to CDR Cesar Perez and LT Elizabeth Johnson.
 - **New CAD Seminars:**
 - Thank you to CAPT Fran Abanyie and LT Yasmin Ogale for leading another timely talk on CV writing held November 30, 2021, with 50 officers in attendance!
 - What's next: Promotions seminar on Friday, January 7, 2022, at 11:30 ET
 - Calling all officers interested in giving presentations on Deployments, Officership, Self-care, Life Changes, Retirement and Financial Planning.
 - To receive an invitation for the next seminar or if you would like to brief, contact LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond and LT Jessica Meeker.
 - **CDC New Officer Monthly Meeting:**
 - Last meeting was November 19, 2021, with 18 officers in attendance, and featured CAPT Eckert discussing his vision for PHS and the Scientist Category, the role of the CPO, career progression and advice for career planning, taking on leadership roles in the PAC and Corps, and promotion.
 - Contact LT Marissa Hast, LT Sean Griffing, and LCDR Jamie Mells for details and/or to be added to the distribution list.
 - **EIS/LLS:** No Update
 - **Separation Survey:** New separations resource efforts are being finalized before Executive Board review.
 - Planning to separate? Please contact LCDR Jorielle Houston and CDR Wade Keckler.
- **Rules and Membership:** CDR Alice Shumate; Co-chair: CDR Dan-My Chu
 - We are working on final EB approval for several SOPs from last OY, and hope to be finished soon.
 - Once SC SOP revisions from the prior OY are nearly finalized, we will reach out to the subcommittees that are slated to submit SOP revisions this OY. Please stay tuned.
 - Additionally, R&M is looking into a few new initiatives that we are considering taking on this year, including possible creation of a SciPAC membership directory.
- **Science:** CDR Kamil Barbour; Co-chairs: LCDR Israel Cross, LCDR Teresa Wang
 - **Kickoff Calls with Team Leads:** We had 4 great kickoff calls with our teams this month. We primarily discussed expectations, timelines, and deliverables.
 - **2022 State of the Scientists (SoS) Survey:** Science SC leadership reviewed and

approved a draft of the SoS survey. The SoS survey has been sent to the EB for review and approval.

- **Visibility:** LCDR Colleen Scott; Co-Chairs: LCDR Angela Thompson-Paul, LCDR Adriana Restrepo
 - **Newsletter Team:**
 - All previous editions are available on the [SciPAC website newsletter page](#).
 - The fall newsletter is assembled and under review by the editorial team and SciPAC leadership.
 - Contact Team Lead LT Kelly Shaw with questions regarding submissions.
 - **Socials Team:**
 - On November 14, 5 officers joined Family Feud co-hosts, CDR Zewditu Demissie and Lcdr Keisha Jenkins, to guess the most popular answers to Feud questions. The group completed two full games. The winners were LT Jazmin Reed and CDR David Huang. Thank you to everyone who attended.
 - **Publications Team:**
 - The Publications Team is recruiting new members. We welcome all volunteers and are especially interested in creating diversity within our team that mirrors the diversity of the OPDIVs represented across our PAC. If you are interested in joining the team, contact LCDR Tia Rogers.
 - **Twitter Team:**
 - In November 2021, [@PHS_Scientist](#) tweeted/retweeted a total of 89 times, and generated 6,211 new impressions, 536 new engagements, 6,365 profile visits, and 410 new likes.
 - Twitter Team is excited to welcome our newest team member, LT Eric Mooring!
 - Please contact Twitter Team Leads LCDR Elaine Knipes and LT Ian Kracalik with Tweet Ideas; find us and follow us on Twitter at [@PHS_Scientist](#).
 - **Facebook Team:**
 - In November 2021, there were 489 views, 13 posts, and 63 expressions on the SciPAC Facebook page.
 - One officer joined the Facebook group. There are currently 182 Facebook members. If you aren't already a member you can [request membership here](#).
 - Please contact Facebook team lead LCDR Patrick Sears with ideas for posts.
 - **LinkedIn/Instagram Team:**
 - The first meeting of the new team was held on December 1.
 - The team will work on creating an SOP for LinkedIn and IG accounts.
 - Contact LCDR Abby McCabe (LinkedIn Lead) or LT Brian McAleney and LT Tiffany McCain (IG Co-Leads with questions).
 - **SciPAC Symposium Poster Team:**
 - The Poster Team is working to highlight the past and present accomplishments of our Psychologists and currently waiting on survey responses. If you have not done so, we appreciate if all Psychologists can get back to us with your survey responses as soon as possible!
 - **Conferences Team:** No updates.

- **Fist Bump Team:**
 - Received 2 Fist Bump nominations in November.
 - In this OY, Fist Bumps have been submitted to the Scientist Newsletter (1), the USPHS Scientists Facebook page (2), and the @PHS_Scientist Twitter feed (1). These posts have been viewed 242 times and generated 43 reactions on Facebook; compared to this time last year, views and reactions increased by 79% and 31%, respectively. 6 Fist Bumps pending approval for the Twitter feed.
 - The SciPAC Fist Bump Form is available on the website on the [Visibility SC page](#). Please use this form to submit Fist Bump nominations, send completed forms to both [LT Olivia McGovern](#) and [LT Kerui Xu](#).
- **Website Subcommittee:** Chair: [LCDR Ruth Link-Gelles](#); Co-chairs: [LCDR Elizabeth Edwards](#), [LCDR Matthew Stuckey](#)
 - Last bimonthly SC meeting: September 28, 2021
 - Next bimonthly SC meeting: January 20, 2022; 10am ET
 - Current Activities
 - As of December 3, 2021, the SC received 14 website update requests; 9 requests are complete and 5 are pending.
 - Videos from the November 1 SC training session are now available to view on Max.gov; materials include instructions for website editing and an overview of general SC responsibilities
 - If interested in volunteering, please email LCDR Ruth Link-Gelles, LCDR Elizabeth Edwards, and LCDR Matt Stuckey; select team member and leadership positions are still available.

Liaison Reports—

- **AMSUS:** [CAPT Mark Scheckelhoff](#)
 - Most recent meeting: October 22, 2021
 - Next meeting: December 17, 2021
 - AMSUS's 2022 Conference Registration is now open. [Click here](#) for in-person or virtual registration. The [updated agenda is now available](#).
 - Hotel reservations [can be made](#) at the Conference Hotel (Gaylord National Resort, National Harbor MD) at federal per diem rates.
 - In-person attendance includes:
 - 20+ CME/CE opportunities
 - Presentations from senior health leaders, clinicians, and other subject matter experts
 - Networking opportunities throughout the Annual Meeting
 - Learning the latest from industry partners in the Exhibit Hall
 - A ticket to the AMSUS Awards Luncheon (RSVP required)
 - Mentoring opportunities for students/residents and other federal health professionals
 - Eligibility to register for pre-conference courses
 - PLUS full access to content and CME/CE opportunities at the Virtual Meeting

- Virtual-only attendance includes:
 - On-demand educational sessions for learning anytime, from anywhere
 - Approx. 50 additional CME/CE opportunities, with access to content and CME/CE evaluations through March 31, 2022
 - Multi-media poster presentations
 - Opportunities to participate in scheduled Q&A with subject matter experts
- **CC Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB):** LCDR Marissa Zwald
 - Last CCWIAB meeting: Wednesday, November 3, 2021
 - Next CCWIAB meeting: Wednesday, January 5, 2021
 - No new updates since November 2021 SciPAC call.
 - You do not have to be a board member to participate in committee activities. If you are interested in joining a CCWIAB committee or if you have any questions about CCWIAB, please contact LCDR Zwald, or visit [CCWIAB's website](#). CCWIAB committees include: Pregnancy Committee; Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Committee; Health and Wellness Committee; Website Committee; & Outreach and Membership Committee
- **COA:** LCDR Julia Zucco
 - Most recent meeting: November 3, 2021 (Board Meeting)
 - RADM Kis Robertson Hale will be presenting, “Holding on to Authentic Officership” on December 7, 2021, 7:00pm ET. [Preregistration](#) is required.
 - Due to popular demand, COA is hosting another Holiday Open Mic Night! December 15, 2021, 7:00-8:30pm ET. Last year, we were astounded by the talent of our officers and look forward to another amazing, fun-filled evening. [Register here](#).
 - Check the [COA Facebook page](#) for more details.
- **ICAC:** LT Kelly Shaw
 - Nothing to report
 - Next meeting: December 10, 2021
- **JOAG:** LT Xia Michelle Lin
 - Most recent meeting: Friday, October 8, 2021
 - Next meeting: Friday, December 10, 2021; 1:00-2:00 ET
 - [Click Here to Access the Zoom Link](#). Zoom Meeting ID 161 772 9993. For Audio: (646) 828-7666, Passcode: 426443
 - Leadership presentation – CAPT Kenneth Bryan and Lcdr Adam Loyson
 - JOAG published “Practicing Wellness Tips for November – Sleeping during Deployment.”
 - Deadline for VADM Richard H. Carmona Inspiration Award nominations extended to Friday, December 10, 2021.
 - The 2022–2025 JOAG Senior Advisor application deadline has been extended to 5:00pm ET on December 29, 2021.
 - JOAG requests award nominations for the JOAG Junior Officer of the Year Award and JOAG Excellence Award.

- Due by 5:00pm ET on December 29, 2021.
 - Visit the [JOAG Website](#) for more information.
 - To subscribe, unsubscribe, or change the email address for the JOAG listserv, click [here](#).
- **PACE:** [LT Lacreisha Ejike-King](#)
 - Most recent meeting: December 9, 2021, at 2:00pm ET
 - Next meeting: February 10, 2022, at 2:00pm ET
 - <https://fda.zoomgov.com/j/1608824782?pwd=V1FzWFd4aW4zNGFXM1hpWE9EQ3ZNZz09> Meeting ID 160 882 4782; Passcode 4q#Qqk
 - As of December 9, officers are able to resume in-person presentations. Officers should follow all local restrictions (e.g., mask requirements). Virtual presentations may also continue.
 - A 1-time thank you letter for less than 5 hours of outreach will be issued to officers this year for documented outreach activities.
 - The new [OSG-approved PACE lessons](#) are now live. All in-person PACE events have been placed on hold until further notice. All events must be virtual and in-line with OSG guidance.
 - **PsychPAG:** [LCDR Patrick Sears; LCDR Nazia Rahman](#)
 - Most recent meeting: October 12, 2021, 2:00pm ET
 - Next meeting: December 14, 2021, 2:00pm ET
 - Moving forward, all questions, comments, concerns, or requests regarding SciPAC psychologists can be addressed to the [Psychologist Integration Subcommittee](#).
 - **SOAGDAG:** [LCDR Luis Iturriaga](#)
 - Most recent meeting: November 22, 2021; 1:00pm ET
 - Next meeting: TBD; 1:00pm ET
 - Edit to the charter to update language by removing “Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM)” and insert “LGBTQ+”.
 - Fall/Winter SOAGDAG newsletter will be coming out in the next few weeks. The newsletter covers stories highlighting officers’ work and activities and does not need to be specific to deployments.
 - The “Language Matters” presentation has been finalized and submitted to CCHQ. This training will be indexed into CCLMS and will be available for all officers going forward.
 - The Tobacco Use among LGBTQ+ population PowerPoint presentation and Uniform Wear white paper have been completed and sent to OSG for review.
 - The Social Committee hosted a total of 8 events during this past fiscal year.

Special Presentation: Dr. Barry Simon, CCHQ Medical Affairs Branch

- Dr. Simon presented “Medical Affairs Branch Updates and Discussion of Impact of Receiving Mental Health Care,” in which he addressed some common myths about PHS officers seeking mental health care, taking mental health-related medications, and answered questions submitted by officers

- Some highlights from the presentation included:
 - Encouragement by Dr. Simon for all PHS officers to seek whatever kind of care they need, whether mental health care or care for any physical health issue – don't delay seeking care of any sort
 - Dr. Simon discussed fitness for duty evaluations and the associated criteria, which relate to an officer's ability to do their duty after a reasonable amount of treatment time, and reiterated that MAB is not concerned when an officer is able to obtain care and can function in their duty; MAB typically becomes involved only if a mental health condition is associated with breaks in reality or concerns about the officer's judgment, reliability, or trustworthiness
 - Differentiation between current accession and retention standards related to mental health
 - Materials (slides/recording) will be posted upon receipt of CCHQ approval to do so
- Dr. Simon also provided reminders about the deployment waiver request submission process; 2022 PHU and common reasons for PHU rejection; DD 2807-1 (medical history form); Verified Weight Form PHS-7044-1; and more
- Questions can be submitted to MAB at MACCHQ@hhs.gov

NOTE: Next meeting—Tuesday, **January 4, 2022**; 12:00–1:00pm ET



Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service Scientist Professional Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes; January 4, 2022

Via Zoom meeting: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Or via phone: (669) 254 5252 or (646) 828 7666; [Global numbers](#)
Meeting ID: 160 273 2410; Passcode: 401921

Total Attendance: 239 attendees; 35 excused absences

Chief Scientist Officer and Executive Board Members

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Sandhu, Sukhminder	Chief Scientist Officer	Present
CDR	Dee, Deborah	Chair	Present
CDR	Rossiter, Lana	Executive Liaison	Present
CDR	Shumate, Alice	Vice Chair; Rules & Membership Chair	Present
CDR	Wilken, Jason	Ex-Officio Chairperson	Present
LCDR	Bowen, Ginny	Executive Secretary	Present

Voting Members (SC = Subcommittee)

Rank	Name	Role	
CDR	Barbour, Kamil	Science SC Chair	Present
CDR	Bjork, Adam	Policy SC Chair	Present
CDR	Demissie, Zewditu	Awards SC Chair	Present
CDR	Halldin, Cara	Career Development SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Pesce, John	Deployment Preparedness SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Chen, Debra	Category Day SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Edwards, Elizabeth	Website SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Gallaway, Shayne	Mentoring SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Levine, Rebecca	Category Day SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Link-Gelles, Ruth	Website SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Mitzner, George	Recruitment and Retention SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Morris, Kate	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Muniz-Ortiz, Jorge	Deployment Preparedness SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Scott, Colleen	Visibility SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Thompson-Paul, Angela	Visibility SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Zhang, Xinzhi	Career Development SC Chair	Present

Non-Voting Liaisons

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Scheckelhoff, Mark	AMSUS Liaison	Present
LCDR	Iturriaga, Luis	SOAGDAG Liaison	Present
LCDR	Zucco, Julia	COA Liaison	Present
LCDR	Zwald, Marissa	CCWIAB Liaison	Present
LT	Ejike-King, Lacreisha	PACE Liaison	Present
LT	Lin, Michelle	JOAG Liaison	Present
LT	Shaw, Kelly	ICAC Liaison	Excused

Participation by Non-Voting Scientist Officers: RADM Theresa Lawrence; CAPT Nelson Adekoya; CAPT Drue Barrett; CAPT Marco Bennett; CAPT Heidi Blanck; CAPT Jennifer Bodart; CAPT Jill Breitbach; CAPT Julie Chodacki; CAPT Heidi Daniels; CAPT Joseph Despina; CAPT Danice Eaton; CAPT John Eckert; CAPT Dominic Frasca; CAPT Jeffrey Goodie; CAPT Arlin Hatch; CAPT Sally Hu; CAPT Ruth Jiles; CAPT James Kenney; CAPT Tracy MacGill; CAPT Mehran Massoudi; CAPT Matthew Murphy; CAPT Sara Newman; CAPT Hae-Kyung (Amy) Park; CAPT Margaret Riggs; CAPT Scott Salvatore; CAPT Erin Sauber-Schatz; CAPT Richard Schobitz; CAPT Kenneth Sekulic; CAPT Michael Smith; CAPT Ross Spears; CAPT Jacqueline Tate; CAPT Jennifer Thomas; CAPT Fuyuen Yip; CDR Candido Alicea; CDR David Barry; CDR Qiao Bobo; CDR Robert Burns; CDR Renee Calanan; CDR Dianna Carroll; CDR Dan-My Chu; CDR Daniela Cohn-Aizic; CDR Minglei Cui; CDR Judy Facey; CDR Theodore Garnett; CDR Laura Gieraltowski; CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor; CDR Sherry Gracey; CDR Seth Green; CDR David Huang; CDR Elizabeth Irvin; CDR Emily Jentes; CDR Neal Kimble; CDR Jean Ko; CDR Alison Laufer Halpin; CDR Matthew Lozier; CDR Andrea McCollum; CDR Leigh Ann Miller; CDR Mark Miller; CDR Erin Nichols; CDR Carrie Nielsen; CDR Ruiqing Pamboukian; CDR Erin Parker; CDR Sharyn Parks Brown; CDR Cria Perrine; CDR Tracy Powell; CDR Sara Pulliam; CDR Anne Purfield; CDR Meghan Reilly; CDR Luz Rivera; CDR Alfredo Sancho; CDR Sharon Saydah; CDR Heather Scobie; CDR Jeff Showalter; CDR Jacqueline Sram; CDR John Stansberry; CDR Sharyl Trail; CDR Nadra Tyus; CDR Jeremy Wally; CDR Maroya Walters; CDR Tenaya Watson; CDR Angela Williams; CDR Matthew Wise; CDR Geoffrey Wu; CDR Ellen Yard; CDR Lauren Zapata; CDR Yi Zhang; CDR Eric Zhou; LCDR Francis Annor; LCDR Tajah Blackburn; LCDR Tyann Blessington; LCDR Israel Cross; LCDR Jessica Dunn; LCDR Leora Feldstein; LCDR Rudolph Francin; LCDR Amy Freeland; LCDR Eboni Galloway; LCDR Rory Geyer; LCDR Bradley Goodwin; LCDR Vanessa Goosen; LCDR Jason Ham; LCDR Kathleen Hartnett; LCDR Patrick High; LCDR Natasha Hollis; LCDR Brooke Hoots; LCDR Jorielle Houston; LCDR Keisha Houston Jenkins; LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson; LCDR Michelle Hughes; LCDR Asha Ivey-Stephenson; LCDR Eric Jamoom; LCDR Lisa Jarvis-Durham; LCDR Folasade Kembi; LCDR Alaine Knipes; LCDR Jonathan Leshin; LCDR Kimberly (Shay) Litton-Belcher; LCDR Xiaowu Lu; LCDR Neali Lucas; LCDR Iman Martin; LCDR Shiny Mathew; LCDR Abby McCabe; LCDR Jamie Mells; LCDR Emily Mosites; LCDR Jonetta Mpfu; LCDR Ashleigh Murriel; LCDR Julie O'Donnell; LCDR Oliver Ou; LCDR Mary Puckett; LCDR Hilda Razzaghi; LCDR Adriana Restrepo; LCDR Leslie Rivera-Rosado; LCDR Erica Rose; LCDR Stephanie Rutledge; LCDR Kari Schlessinger; LCDR Rachel Slayton; LCDR Pilgrim Spikes; LCDR Matthew Steele; LCDR Scott Steffen; LCDR Matthew Stuckey; LCDR Rhondie Tait; LCDR Nancy Tian; LCDR Jessica Tomov; LCDR Emily Ussery; CDR Tyson Volkmann; LCDR Teresa Wang; LCDR Nana Wilson; LCDR Shondelle Wilson-Frederick; LCDR Marcienne Wright; LT Sophia Ajoku; LT Olubukola Banmeke; LT Andrew Brown; LT Evan Brown; LT Anna Chard; LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond; LT Ariella Dale; LT Nicholas Deputy; LT Molly Deutsch-Feldman; LT Brett Dodd; LT Marisa Donnelly; LT Njere English; LT Dianca Finch; LCDR Brett Forshey; LT Brandi Freeman; LT Robert Gahl; LT Bryan Galvez; LT Marisa Hast; LT Carolyn Herzig; LT Jessica Jacobs; LT Pushpa (Suresh) Jayasekara; LT Elizabeth Johnson; LT Michelle Johnson; LT Jueichuan (Connie) Kang; LT Florence Kanu; LT Hana Kim; LT Martin Kimani; LT Taneshia Knight; LT Ian Kracalik; LT Michael Krage; LT Anastasia Lambrou; LT Ana Lauer; LT Ying Lin; LT Kristin Marks; LT Gina Masessa; LT Oren Mayer; LT Olivia McGovern; LT Jessica Meeker; LT Neil Milan; LT Eric Mooring; LT Yasmin Ogale; LT Megan Peck; LT Stephanie Pitts; LT Jin Qin; LT Jazmin Reed; LT Brian Reiner; LT Tia Rogers; LT Adelaida Rosario; LT Beth Rubenstein; LT Marsha Samson; LT Amy Schuh; LT Dantrell Simmons; LT Lillian Smith; LT Raymond Soto; LT Kindra Stokes; LT Kelsey Sumner; LT David Thorn; LT Carrie Whitworth; LT Nicholas Wiese; LT Lindsay Womack; LT Lauren Woodard; LT Rebecca Woodruff; LT Shannon York

Excused Absences of Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Laura Draski; CAPT Aaron Fleischauer; CAPT Joshua Mott; CAPT Ryan Novak; CDR Chekesha Clingman; CDR Aimee Geissler; CDR Brian Harcourt; CDR Keisher Highsmith; CDR Terrence Lo; CDR Lara Misegades; CDR Joy Mobley; CDR Matthew Newland; CDR Sanny Northbrook; CDR Erika Odom; CDR Cesar Perez; CDR Chris Poulson; CDR Jessica Schultz Fischer; CDR Ameer Schwitters; CDR Michelle Tsai; CDR Sara Vagi; LCDR Christine Brady; LCDR Jason Caballero; LCDR Sharoda Dasgupta; LCDR William Davis; LCDR Mary Lela Demby; LCDR Yoran Grant-Greene; LCDR Rashid Njai; LT Jayleen Gunn; LT Christine Kim; LT Brian McAleney; LT Tiffany McCain; LT Muktha Natrajan; LT Tanesha Tutt; LT Kerui Xu

Key Abbreviations:

CAD = Call to Active Duty

CCHQ = Commissioned Corps Headquarters

CCLMS = Commissioned Corps Learning Management System

CPO = Chief Professional Officer

EB = Executive Board

eOPF = electronic Official Personnel Folder

LOA = Letter of Appreciation

MAB = Medical Affairs Branch

OBC = Officer Basic Course

OSG = Office of the Surgeon General

OY = Operational Year

PIR = Promotion Information Report

SC = Subcommittee

SOP = Standard Operating Procedures

VM = Voting Member

Call to Order and Welcome: CDR Deborah Dee**CPO Report:** CAPT Sukhminder Sandhu

- Wished Scientist Officers a happy new year; 2022 marks the 133rd birthday of the USPHS!
- Reported no change in force numbers; the Category remains steady at 415 Scientist Officers strong
- Noted that CCHQ announced an extension until January 31, 2022, to complete mandatory trainings on cultural awareness, harassment, resiliency, and ethics; encouraged officers to complete trainings and ensure they remain basic ready
- Reminded Officers to remain vigilant and take precautions to protect themselves, their families, and their friends—especially in light of the Omicron variant’s rapid spread

Chair Report: CDR Deborah Dee

- Happy New Year to all Scientist officers!
- The start of the new year is always a good time to assess/reassess priorities. Consider prioritizing your health and well-being in 2022. Taking care of yourself allows you to help others, too.
- Not sure how to prioritize yourself? Join CAPT Sandhu and me in the 2022 USPHS Exercise Challenge. Week one is now! It’s not too late to join.
 - To join, [subscribe here](#).
 - Exercise 150 mins+ / week at a moderate intensity
 - Complete weekly Survey Monkey links sent to you by the initiative
 - Complete 8 of 10 weeks successfully and earn a Letter of Appreciation (Jan 3 – Mar 11)
 - Questions about how to join? Contact our own LCDR Angela Thompson-Paul or LCDR Christie Cosenza

Vice Chair Report: CDR Alice Shumate

- Nothing new to report

Executive Secretary Report: LCDR Ginny Bowen

- Congratulations to CDR Tyson Volkmann and LCDR Brett Forshey who pinned on new ranks effective January 1, 2022.
- Thanks for your patience as I cancelled SciPAC monthly calendar invitations sent from my inactive CDC email account and re-issued them from my new ACF email account. Call-in information for our meetings has *not* changed!
- If you dialed in to the meeting via phone (only), if your full name does not appear in Zoom, or if you have an excused absence to report, please report your attendance via email to LCDR Ginny Bowen with the email subject line “SciPAC Meeting Attendance.” Those dialing into Zoom with a full name will be captured automatically in the Zoom attendance log—no emails needed.

Executive Liaison Report: CDR Lana Rossiter

- If a SC would like something reviewed by the EB or needs support, please let me know.
- There are several items pending review by the EB; these should be moving forward in the next few weeks.
- Review of SC SOPs will resume soon. SC Chairs, please be on the lookout for requests related to SOP updates. If there are questions, please contact me.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Awards SC:** CDR Zewditu Demissie; Co-chairs: LCDR Nancy Tian, LCDR Mary Puckett
 - The call for nominations for the 2022 Scientist Responder of the Year award was distributed to the PAC on December 16, 2021. **The deadline for nominations is Monday, January 17, 2022.** Please consider nominating yourself or other deserving officers.
 - The calls for nominations for the 2022 Senior Scientist, Junior Scientist, and Mentor of the Year awards are currently under development. We hope to distribute the calls by the end of January.
- **Career Development SC:** LCDR Xinzhi Zhang; Co-Chairs: CDR Cara Halldin and CDR Minglei Cui
 - **Continuing Education (CE) Contact Hour Initiative Team:** *The team is requesting that officers share their ideas for training opportunities.* If you are aware of training opportunities that could be included in the training list, please email the training opportunity information to CDR Eric Zhou, LCDR Christine Brady, and LT Brett Dodd.
 - **Scientist Officer Handbook Team:** The Handbook Team is seeking a volunteer given CAPT Sandhu’s new role as CPO. For more information, please email CDR Tamara Henderson. Individual chapters of the handbook can be accessed from the [Scientist Officer Handbook](#) webpage under [Resources and Links](#).

- **Jobs List Team:** Requests for inclusion of job openings in future weekly Jobs List should be emailed directly to LT Sean Marcsisin.
- **Promotion Document Review Team:** Nothing new to report.
- **Promotion Guidance Team:** Nothing new to report.
- **Promotion Panel Initiative Team:** The Team held a meeting on December 2, 2021 and discussed 2019–2020 Promotion Panel Survey questions and suggestions for additional or revised questions/topics, and survey platforms to consider. Previous 2017 and 2018 analyses can be found on the [SciPAC Career Development webpage](#). For more information, please email CDR Nadra Tyus, LCDR Neil Bonzagni, and LT Taneshia Knight.
- **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Team:** Nothing new to report.
- **Training Team:** Nothing new to report.
- **Administration & Communication Team:** Nothing new to report.
- **Category Day SC:** LCDR Rebecca Levine; Co-chairs: LCDR Debra Chen, LCDR Elaine Knipes, and LCDR Alesha Harris
 - Meetings
 - Most recent leadership meeting: December 9, 2021, 1:00 PM
 - Most recent team leads meeting: December 16, 2021, 1:00 PM
 - Most recent COF meeting: December 8, 2021, 1:00 PM
 - Next leadership meeting: January 6, 2022, 1:00 PM
 - Next team leads meeting: January 27, 2022, 1:00 PM
 - Next COF meeting: January 12, 2022, 1:00 PM
 - Planning for Category Day 2022 is actively underway.
 - At this time, the plan remains to have an in-person Symposium at the end of May, but the trajectory of the pandemic will dictate if this needs to become a hybrid or virtual-only event.
 - The one remaining panelist speaker was confirmed.
 - Decisions on Keynote Speaker funding requests we received and all requests for meals and transportation costs for our two speakers were approved.
 - All speakers will receive an email in mid-December requesting that they log in to COF’s agenda management system and upload their information. The deadline for speakers to enter their information is January 10, 2022.
 - General registration will open soon and officers will be able to start reserving hotel block rooms in early 2022.
 - The Category Day 2021 evaluation survey was posted to the SciPAC listserv on November 12 and closed on November 26. Only 16 responses were received, but it was decided that the event was too far away at this point to seek additional responses. Instead, the Evaluation team will focus on improving access to platform use to provide a robust online evaluation survey immediately after Category Day 2022.
 - SC leaders are drafting Category Day’s section of the 2021 SciPAC Annual Report.
 - The Category Day SOP is being revised after one round of feedback from the SciPAC EB. It will incorporate updates from the virtual program and subsequent “hot wash.”
- **Deployment Preparedness SC:** CDR John Pesce; Co-chairs: LCDR Jason Caballero, LCDR Jorge Muñoz Ortiz, LT Adelaida Rosario

- **Readiness Reporting:** As of January 2, 2022, we have 414 Regular Corps Scientists and 1 Ready Reserve officer. 97.7% are either basic ready or exempt (slightly up from last month). Ten are not qualified. If you are having trouble with getting basic ready, please reach out to the DPSC and we will do what we can to help.
- We met on December 20 and discussed multiple projects, including the possibility of merging the SciPAC CPO/Chair fitness challenge and the PHS-wide group that recognizes officers for APFT performance. LCDR Mitzner is leading this effort.
- The latest update from RDB was emailed to all officers on December 22, 2021. It contained a lot of information, and we suggest every officer review it.
 - A few areas to focus on:
 - **Medical waivers reminder:** Officers must request [waivers](#) for any medical/health issues that may prevent deployment ASAP. This request should be initiated as soon as you become aware of the condition and NOT after you have been identified for deployment. Please visit the Medical Waiver Program for more information and submission instructions.
 - **Required trainings update:** The trainings in cultural awareness, harassment, resiliency, and ethics must now be completed by January 31, 2022. All trainings can be found in [CCLMS](#).
 - **Failure to complete these trainings by January 31, 2022, WILL impact your basic readiness status.**
 - Certificates from the CCLMS trainings do not need to be added to your eOPF. Questions regarding the required annual training should be submitted to PHSCOTA@hhs.gov
 - We encourage officers to visit the [RDB home page](#) for updates on readiness information.
 - Currently, the 'Deployment Preparation Plan' is posted in the FORMS section of the Family Care Plan. We learned that it was incorrectly placed in the forward-facing platform and that CCHQ is working on taking it down.
- **Mentoring SC:** [LCDR Shayne Gallaway](#); Co-Chairs: [CDR Tyson Volkmann](#); [LCDR Patrick High](#)
 - Most recent meeting: December 27, 2021
 - Next meeting: January 24, 2022
 - Mentoring SC standard operating procedures (SOP) were revised and submitted to SciPAC Executive Liaison for Rules & Membership SC review.
 - **Mentor Recruitment Team:**
 - If you do not have a Scientist mentor, or are not serving as a Scientist mentor, [apply to be part of the SciPAC Mentoring Program](#). For any questions, email [LCDR Shayne Gallaway](#).
 - If you have been called to active duty in the past year, a Peer Support Network (PSN) mentor can ease the transition during assimilation into the Corps and guide you through the onboarding process. Please email [LCDR Matt Steele](#) and [LCDR Folasade Kembi](#) to request a PSN mentor.
 - If you are an O-3 officer (≥ 2 years since call to active duty) you can serve as a PSN mentor to a new Scientist CAD. Please email [LCDR Matt Steele](#) and [CDR Folasade Kembi](#) to volunteer as a PSN mentor.

- **Mentor Matching Team**
 - Currently 137 active mentor-mentee agreements on file.
 - 61% of Scientist Officers are engaged as either a mentor or mentee.
- **Mentor Capacity-Building Team (MCBT)**
 - The SciPAC Mentoring orientation entitled, “Mentoring Guidelines for Mentors,” is scheduled for January 19, 2022, 1–2pm EST, led by CDR Neal Kimble and LCDR Christine Brady. This webinar is intended for both mentors and mentees.
 - The objectives of the webinar are:
 - Assure the delivery of high-quality mentoring to guide the mentee’s career
 - Help the mentee prepare for promotion and other career milestones.
 - Encourage senior officers to inject their leadership capabilities back to junior officers to further advance the mission of the Corps.
 - Click [here to join](#) the Mentoring Orientation
 - Meeting ID: 160 843 5269
 - Passcode: Esu2&w
 - Call in number: 1-833-568-8864
 - CDR Kimble and LT Simmons will meet with LCDR Kembli in December/January to determine how the MCBT can support Symposium Category Day activities planned. Once we have a better understanding of the proposed activities, we will request team members to assist in addressing any additional needs identified.
 - MCBT is requesting to host the second annual Mentoring Panel Discussion during the July 5, 2022, SciPAC Monthly Meeting.
- **Policy SC: CDR Adam Bjork; Co-chair: LCDR Matthew Steele**
 - Booster shot—COVID-19 vaccine
 - CCHQ email—sent December 28, 2021—urges officers to get the booster shot, especially in anticipation of an unprecedented number of PHS deployments expected in the coming weeks and months.
 - Additional information will be forthcoming soon regarding when officers will be required to upload booster information.
 - OPPVS—Officer Promotion Package Verification System
 - The final OPPVS pull of documents in the eOPF and PIR was scheduled for January 3, 2022; CCHQ indicated this could take a few days.
 - Once complete, officers will have until February 15, 2022, to review and verify their promotion folders.
- **Psychologist Integration SC: LCDR Kate Morris and LCDR Patrick Sears**
 - Most recent meeting: December 21, 2021
 - Next meeting: TBD
 - We continue to document PsychPAG responsibilities and history. We hope to pass along these duties, with their historical perspectives, to SciPAC committees by next month.
- **Recruitment and Retention SC: LCDR George Mitzner; Co-Chair: LCDR Julia Zucco**
 - **Resources Team:** OBC Welcome Document has been updated for the current OY.

- **Interested Applicant Team:** The Inter-PAC Recruitment Call will be January 7, 2022; and new Scientist Recruitment efforts are with Executive Board/CPO for review.
- **OBC Engagement Team:** The OBC 133 virtual Open House will be January 25, 2022.
 - If you are interested in representing SciPAC at future OBC Open Houses, please reach out to CDR Cesar Perez and LT Elizabeth Johnson.
- **New CAD Seminars Team:** Open to all officers!
 - Promotions - Friday, January 7, 2022; 11:30 am (ET)
 - Awards – Thursday, January 27, 2022; 12:30 pm (ET)
 - Benefits and Perks – Monday, February 14, 2022; 12:00 pm (ET)
 - Calling all officers interested in giving presentations on Deployments, Officership, Self-care, Life Changes, Retirement and Financial Planning.
 - To receive an invitation for the next seminar or if you would like to brief, contact LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond and LT Jessica Meeker.
- **CDC New Officer Monthly Meeting:**
 - Last meeting was December 17, 2021, with 16 officers in attendance; CV formatting, document uploading, and awards were reviewed.
 - Next meeting: January 21, 2022
 - For details or to receive listserv messages, contact LT Marissa Hast, LT Sean Griffing, LT Freeman-Ponder, and LCDR Jamie Mells.
- **EIS/LLS Team:** Nothing new to report.
- **Separation Survey Team:** New separations resource efforts are being finalized before Executive Board review.
 - Planning to separate? Help us learn more about barriers to retention. Please contact LCDR Jorielle Houston and CDR Wade Keckler.
- **Rules and Membership SC:** CDR Alice Shumate; Co-chair: CDR Dan-My Chu
 - Current priorities include:
 - Conducting annual review of the SciPAC SOP to assess whether updates are needed
 - Updating the SOP submission matrix to address SC SOPs that were not finished last year and plan for a reasonable schedule for submissions and reviews this year given multiple ongoing deployments.
 - R&M also plans to aid our ex-Officio Chair (CDR Jason Wilken) in completing last year’s End of the Year report.
 - We are looking into improving the transparency and outcomes of the SciPAC VM selection process. This effort, led by CDR Jason Wilken, involves comparing SciPAC’s process to the other 10 PACs, and surveying previous VM Selection Team members and recent VMs to develop guidance for prospective VMs. Stay tuned for further updates.
 - The SC’s next meeting will be on Friday, January 28, to discuss current and new initiatives.
- **Science SC:** CDR Kamil Barbour; Co-chairs: LCDR Israel Cross, LCDR Teresa Wang
 - **‘State of the Scientists’ (SoS) Survey**
 - 2022 Survey has been sent to EB for review and approval.

- Per EB's request, team is exploring feasibility of alternative platforms to SurveyMonkey (e.g., MS Forms).
- **Visibility SC:** LCDR Colleen Scott; Co-Chairs: LCDR Angela Thompson-Paul, LCDR Adriana Restrepo
 - **Newsletter Team:**
 - Now soliciting articles for the Winter Edition!
 - All previous editions are available on the [SciPAC website newsletter page](#).
 - Please contact newsletter team lead LT Kelly Shaw for any questions regarding article submissions.
 - **Socials Team:**
 - Join the Socials Team virtually for a fun healthy meal cooking experience on January 13, 2022, at 8pm EST! Officers interested in attending the event are encouraged to RSVP with LCDR Alesha Harris.
 - **Publications Team:**
 - In late January, the publications team will begin collecting citations for 2021 Scientist Officer publications. Officers are encouraged to submit their 2021 publications and presentations to ensure their work is included. Officers will be asked to submit their citations in the format that is required for the new PHS CV. Please contact LT Tia Rogers with questions.
 - **Twitter Team:**
 - In December 2021, @PHS_Scientist tweeted/retweeted a total of 147 times, and generated 12,349 new impressions, 862 new engagements, 636 new likes and 10,900 profile visits! This brings us to 71,700 all-time profile visits!
 - Twitter Team is excited to welcome our newest team member, LT Brett Dodd!
 - Please contact Twitter team leads LCDR Alaine Knipes and LT Ian Kracalik with Tweet Ideas and find and follow us on Twitter at @PHS_Scientist.
 - **Facebook Team:**
 - In December 2021, there were 394 views, 15 posts, and 34 expressions on the SciPAC Facebook page.
 - One officer joined the Facebook group. There are currently 183 Facebook members. If you aren't already a member you can request membership [here](#).
 - **LinkedIn/Instagram Team:** No updates.
 - **SciPAC Symposium Poster Team:**
 - Thank you for all the officers who have responded to our survey. If you are a Psychologist and have not done so, we would really appreciate if can get back to LTs Marisa Hast and Kerui Xu with your survey responses as soon as possible!
 - **Conferences Team:** No updates.
 - **Fist Bump Team:**
 - In December, the Fist Bump Team: Published our first Fist Bumps to Twitter! Two Fist Bumps were published generating >379 views and 10 likes
 - Submitted 1 Fist Bump for inclusion in the Quarterly Scientist Report for OSG
 - Prepared 1 Fist Bump for submission to the Scientist Newsletter, PHS Scientists Facebook Page, and Twitter

- The SciPAC Fist Bump Form is available on the website on the [Visibility SC page](#). Please use this form to submit Fist Bump nominations, send completed forms to both [LT Olivia McGovern](#) and [LT Kerui Xu](#).
- **Website SC:** Chair: [LCDR Ruth Link-Gelles](#); Co-chairs: [LCDR Elizabeth Edwards](#), [LCDR Matthew Stuckey](#)
 - Last SC meeting: September 28, 2021
 - Next SC meeting (tentative): January 20, 2022; 10:00am ET
 - Current Activities
 - As of January 3, 2022, the SC received 16 update requests; 14 requests are complete and 2 are pending.
 - Currently some members of the Website SC are experiencing issues with login credentials; we appreciate other SC's patience as we work with OSG to resolve these issues and move pending requests forward.

Liaison Reports

- **Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. (AMSUS):** [CAPT Mark Scheckelhoff](#)
 - Most recent meeting: December 16, 2021
 - Next meeting: TBD
 - AMSUS's 2022 Conference Registration is now open. [Click here](#) for in-person or virtual registration. The [updated agenda is now available](#).
 - Hotel reservations [can be made](#) at the Conference Hotel (Gaylord National Resort, National Harbor MD) at federal per diem rates.
 - If selected to deliver an AMSUS presentation, please send your completed presentation to [LCDR Matthew Gunter](#) ASAP.
 - PHS Day Theme— PHS Day focusing on Intraservice and Intergovernmental Work and Assignments of its Officers.
 - Presentations from officers from different agencies (HHS and non-HHS), A Day in the life of a PHS Officer
 - Discuss existing PHS relationship with other services and agencies.
 - Additional potential content; planning committee currently developing.
 - **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Staffing the AMSUS Conference PHS Booth**
 - In-person, PHS booth located next to Defense Health Agency (DoD) booth
 - No registration cost to volunteer at the booth
 - If you wish to volunteer, please contact [CAPT Scheckelhoff](#) ASAP
 - Volunteers must submit full-length photo in SDB to ensure they have full uniform; a uniform inspection will also be conducted prior to exhibit time
 - Booth Staffing hours

Sunday (Set-up)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday (Breakdown)
1200-1700	0900-1800	0900-1700	0900-1500	0900-1200

- **CC Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB):** [LCDR Marissa Zwald](#)
 - Last CCWIAB meeting: Wednesday, November 3, 2021

- Next CCWIAB meeting: Wednesday, January 5, 2022
- CCWIAB has new leadership. Effective January 2022, [CDR Kiran Perkins](#) is now serving as CCWIAB Co-Chair (outgoing Chair is CDR Eunice Chung-Davies) and LCDR Marissa Zwald is now serving as Executive Assistant. CCWIAB Executive Chair, RADM Kelly Taylor, will be retiring in March 2022.
- If you have any questions about CCWIAB or the committees' initiatives below, please contact [LCDR Zwald](#), or visit [CCWIAB's website](#). CCWIAB committees include: Pregnancy Committee; Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Committee; Health and Wellness Committee; Website Committee; & Outreach and Membership Committee
- **[Commissioned Officers Association \(COA\): LCDR Julia Zucco](#)**
 - Most recent meeting: November 3, 2021 (Board Meeting)
 - COA's 2nd Annual Holiday Open Mic Night was a smashing success! Lots of holiday cheer with at least 10 PHS officer performers and with special guest Retired Master Sergeant Caleb Green from "Voices of Service" singing Nat King Cole's version of "The Christmas Song." His group supports veterans' organizations with singers and musicians continuing to serve their nation through music; they have appeared on America's Got Talent.
 - On January 9, 2022, the COA Outreach Committee is hosting a COA Meet and Greet with Ready Reserve Officers as we devise ways to welcome and assist these officers. We are considering having these meet and greets quarterly for all OBC officers as well. If interested in these efforts to welcome new PHS officers of all disciplines, please contact [LCDR Julia Zucco](#).
- **[ICAC: LT Kelly Shaw](#)**
 - December meeting cancelled. Nothing to report
- **[Junior Officer Advisory Group \(JOAG\): LT Xia Michelle Lin](#)**
 - Most recent meeting: Friday, December 10, 2021
 - Next meeting: Friday, February 12, 2022, 1:00pm ET
 - [Click Here to Access the Zoom Link](#). Zoom Meeting ID 161 772 9993. For Audio: (646) 828-7666, Passcode: 426443
 - JOAG Communications & Publications Committee renamed the publication "Tip of the Month" to "Career and Life Tip," which is now a quarterly publication. The first issue was published for Quarter 1, 2022 – Tips for Goal Setting and Self Improvement (see JOAG listserv email from January 3, 2022).
 - JOAG Communications & Publications Committee call for article submissions and officer spotlight nominations for the *Junior Officer Chronicles* Spring 2022 Edition
 - Due by 5:00pm ET on February 28, 2022.
 - JOAG published Practicing Wellness Tips for December – Deployment, Readiness, and Resiliency Tips and Strategies (see JOAG listserv email from December 20, 2021).
 - The Peer-to-Peer Network Program is looking to recruit junior officers that recently completed OBC as mentees. Please visit the [Peer-to-Peer Network Program website](#) for more information.
 - Readiness and Deployment Committee is seeking deployment narratives. More

- information can be found at this [page](#).
- To subscribe, unsubscribe, or change email addresses for the JOAG listserv, click [here](#).
 - **Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE):** LT Lacreisha Ejike-King
 - Most recent meeting: December 9, 2021, at 2:00 pm ET
 - Next meeting: February 10, 2022, at 2:00 pm ET
<https://fda.zoomgov.com/j/1608824782?pwd=V1FzWFd4aW4zNGFXM1hpWE9EQ3ZNZz09> Meeting ID 160 882 4782; Passcode 4q#Qqk
 - Officers may resume in-person presentations. PACE has been granted such permission by the OSG, with some caveats listed below. The full memo has been posted on max.gov.
 - Officers are not required to perform any action they feel may put themselves or the audience at risk.
 - Officers are expected to comply with local, state, tribal, and federal regulations when giving presentations (such as local mask mandates, vaccination mandates, etc). Officers may continue to conduct virtual presentations if this is the preference of the Officer or the host.
 - PACE Executive Leadership is awaiting guidance surrounding presentations to non-profit and/or religious organizations.
 - PACE needs volunteers to help increase community knowledge of COVID-19 transmission and prevention. Please [sign up for the PACE Introduction Training](#) to complete the first step in qualifying for providing the COVID-19 lesson in your local community. The training will take place on **January 12, 2022**, at 5:00pm EST
 - The PACE Recognitions SC announced the 2021 PACE Awards cycle winners. Congratulations to Scientist Officers included on group or regional awards!
 - Outstanding Community Engagement Award (individual): CDR Zanethia Eubanks, NOAA.
 - Collaborative Community Service Award (group): Northeastern Oklahoma SGET.
 - Regional Service Award (region): Region 7 SGET.
 - The new [OSG-approved PACE lessons](#) are now live.
 - **Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Advisory Group (SOAGDAG):** LCDR Luis Iturriaga
 - Most recent meeting: November 22, 2021
 - Next meeting: TBD; 1:00pm EST
 - Nothing significant to report.

NOTE: Next meeting—Tuesday, **February 1, 2022**; 12:00–1:00pm ET



Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service Scientist Professional Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes; February 1, 2022

Via Zoom meeting: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Or via phone: (669) 254 5252 or (646) 828 7666; [Global numbers](#)
Meeting ID: 160 273 2410; Passcode: 401921

Total Attendance: 217 attendees; 49 excused absences

Chief Scientist Officer and Executive Board Members

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Sandhu, Sukhminder	Chief Scientist Officer	Present
CDR	Dee, Deborah	Chair	Present
CDR	Shumate, Alice	Vice Chair; Rules & Membership Chair	Present
LCDR	Bowen, Ginny	Executive Secretary	Present
CDR	Rossiter, Lana	Executive Liaison	Present
CDR	Wilken, Jason	Ex-Officio Chairperson	Present

Voting Members (SC = Subcommittee)

Rank	Name	Role	
CDR	Barbour, Kamil	Science SC Chair	Present
CDR	Bjork, Adam	Policy SC Chair	Present
CDR	Demissie, Zewditu	Awards SC Chair	Present
CDR	Halldin, Cara	Career Development SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Pesce, John	Deployment Preparedness SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Chen, Debra	Category Day SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Edwards, Elizabeth	Website SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Gallaway, Shayne	Mentoring SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Levine, Rebecca	Category Day SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Link-Gelles, Ruth	Website SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Mitzner, George	Recruitment and Retention SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Morris, Kate	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Muniz-Ortiz, Jorge	Deployment Preparedness SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Scott, Colleen	Visibility SC Chair	Excused
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Thompson-Paul, Angela	Visibility SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Zhang, Xinzhi	Career Development SC Chair	Present

Non-Voting Liaisons

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Scheckelhoff, Mark	AMSUS Liaison	Present
LCDR	Iturriaga, Luis	SOAGDAG Liaison	Present
LCDR	Zucco, Julia	COA Liaison	Excused
LCDR	Zwald, Marissa	CCWIAB Liaison	Present
LT	Ejike-King, Lacreisha	PACE Liaison	Present
LT	Lin, Michelle	JOAG Liaison	Present
LT	Shaw, Kelly	ICAC Liaison	Present

Participation by Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Nelson Adekoya; CAPT Jennifer Bodart; CAPT Matthew Breiding; CAPT Jill Breibach; CAPT Julie Chodacki; CAPT Joseph Despains; CAPT Anne Dobmeyer; CAPT Laura Draski; CAPT Danice Eaton; CAPT Jeffrey Goodie; CAPT Arlin Hatch; CAPT Ruth Jiles; CAPT James Kenney; CAPT Mehran Massoudi; CAPT Joel Montgomery; CAPT Timothy Nelle; CAPT Sara Newman; CAPT Ryan Novak; CAPT Ingrid Pauli; CAPT Margaret Riggs; CAPT Loren Rodgers; CAPT Scott Salvatore; CAPT William Satterfield; CAPT Erin Sauber-Schatz; CAPT Kenneth Sekulic; CAPT Paul Seo; CAPT Andrea Sharma; CAPT Michael Smith; CAPT Jacqueline Tate; CAPT Jennifer Thomas; CAPT Robin Toblin; CAPT Fuyuen Yip; CDR David Barry; CDR Frances (Lisa) Belcher; CDR Qiao Bobo; CDR Robert Burns; CDR Renee Calanan; CDR Dianna Carroll; CDR Dan-My Chu; CDR Daniela Cohn-Aizic; CDR Judy Facey; CDR Anne Marie France; CDR Joanna Gaines; CDR Theodore Garnett; CDR Laura Gieraltowski; CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor; CDR Sherry Gracey; CDR Brian Harcourt; CDR David Huang; CDR Elizabeth Irvin; CDR Emily Jentes; CDR Neal Kimble; CDR Jean Ko; CDR Alison Laufer Halpin; CDR Matthew Lozier; CDR Mark Miller; CDR Lara Misegades; CDR Erin Nichols; CDR Carrie Nielsen; CDR Erika Odom; CDR Eduardo O'Neill La Luz; CDR Ruiqing Pamboukian; CDR Erin Parker; CDR Sharyn Parks Brown; CDR Cria Perrine; CDR Tracy Powell; CDR Sara Pulliam; CDR Anne Purfield; CDR Luz Rivera; CDR Alfredo Sancho; CDR John Stansberry; CDR Emily Streeter; CDR Peter Thomas; CDR Sharyl Trail; CDR Michelle Tsai; CDR Nadra Tyus; CDR Sara Vagi; CDR Tyson Volkmann; CDR Jeremy Wally; CDR Maroya Walters; CDR Tenaya Watson; CDR Geoffrey Wu; CDR Fei Xu; CDR Lauren Zapata; CDR Yi Zhang; CDR Eric Zhou; LCDR Lynn Abeita; LCDR Francis Annor; LCDR Tyann Blessington; LCDR Nicholas Buhr; LCDR Samantha DiMisa; LCDR Leora Feldstein; LCDR Amy Freeland; LCDR Eboni Galloway; LCDR Rory Geyer; LCDR Jason Ham; LCDR Alesha Harris; LCDR Kathleen Hartnett; LCDR Iram Hassan; LCDR Patrick High; LCDR Kelsy Hoffman; LCDR NaTasha Hollis; LCDR Brooke Hoots; LCDR Jorielle Houston; LCDR Keisha Houston Jenkins; LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson; LCDR Michelle Hughes; LCDR Asha Ivey-Stephenson; LCDR Folasade Kembi; LCDR Alaine Knipes; LCDR Jonathan Leshin; LCDR Xiaowu Lu; LCDR Neali Lucas; LCDR Shiny Mathew; LCDR Jamie Mells; LCDR Emily Mosites; LCDR Ashleigh Murriel; LCDR Julie O'Donnell; LCDR Oliver Ou; LCDR Mary Puckett; LCDR Hilda Razzaghi; LCDR Adriana Restrepo; LCDR Erica Rose; LCDR Stephanie Rutledge; LCDR Kari Schlessinger; LCDR Rachel Slayton; LCDR Pilgrim Spikes; LCDR Matthew Steele; LCDR Scott Steffen; LCDR Rhondie Tait; LCDR Jessica Tomov; LCDR Emily Ussery; LCDR Teresa Wang; LT Sophia Ajoku; LT Prince Awuah; LT Olubukola Banmeke; LT Andrew Brown; LT Anna Chard; LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond; LT Peter DeJonge; LT Nicholas Deputy; LT Brett Dodd; LT Marisa Donnelly; LT Njere English; LT Brandi Freeman; LT Bryan Galvez; LT Sean Griffing; LT Jayleen Gunn; LT Marisa Hast; LT Charles (CJ) Helm; LT Carolyn Herzig; LT Brent Huber; LT Pushpa (Suresh) Jayasekara; LT Elizabeth Johnson; LT Michelle Johnson; LT Christine Kim; LT Taneshia Knight; LT Ian Kracalik; LT Michael Krage; LT Nang Thu Thu Kyaw; LT Anastasia Lambrou; LT Ana Lauer; LT Ying Lin; LT David Mackenzie-Liu; LT Kristin Marks; LT Gina Masessa; LT Oren Mayer; LT Tiffany McCain; LT Neil Milan; LT Megan Peck; LT Stephanie Pitts; LT Anthony Powell; LT Jin Qin; LT Jazmin Reed; LT Tia Rogers; LT Adelaida Rosario; LT Beth Rubenstein; LT Marsha Samson; LT Amy Schuh; LT Hannah Segaloff; LT Dantrell Simmons; LT Lillian Smith; LT Kindra Stokes; LT Kelsey Sumner; LT Tanesha Tutt; LT Carrie Whitworth; LT Nicholas Wiese; LT Lindsay Womack; LT Lauren Woodard; LT Rebecca Woodruff

Excused Absences of Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Drue Barrett; CAPT Joshua Mott; CDR Vincen Barnes; CDR Chekesha Clingman; CDR Minglei Cui; CDR Juana Figueroa; CDR Aimee Geissler; CDR Frank Hershberger; CDR Terrence Lo; CDR Leigh Ann Miller; CDR Matthew Newland; CDR Sanny Northbrook; CDR Chris Poulson; CDR Meghan Reilly; CDR Novella Williams; LCDR Tajah Blackburn; LCDR Christine Brady; LCDR Jason Caballero; LCDR Israel Cross; LCDR William Davis; LCDR Mary Lela Demby; LCDR Jessica Dunn; LCDR Brendan Eberenz; LCDR Jennifer Enigk; LCDR Raul Gierbolini-Velazquez; LCDR Bradley Goodwin; LCDR Eric Jamoom; LCDR Lisa Jarvis-Durham; LCDR Iman Martin; LCDR Abby McCabe; LCDR Jonetta Mpofu; LCDR Rashid Njai; LCDR Marilyn Park; LCDR Nancy Tian; LT Andrew Anderson; LT Evan Brown; LT Molly Deutsch-Feldman; LT Dianca Finch; LT Carl Gauthier; LT Amanda Hott; LT Florence Kanu; LT Brian McAleney; LT Kevin McDermott; LT Orbelin Montes Zamano; LT Muktha Natrajan; LT Yasmin Ogale

Key Abbreviations:

CAD = Call to Active Duty

CCHQ = Commissioned Corps Headquarters

CPO = Chief Professional Officer

EB = Executive Board

EIS/LLS = Epidemic Intelligence Service / Laboratory Leadership Service

eOPF = electronic Official Personnel Folder

MAB = Medical Affairs Branch

OBC = Officer Basic Course

OSG = Office of the Surgeon General

OY = Operational Year

POC = Point of Contact

SC = Subcommittee

SOP = Standard Operating Procedures

Call to Order and Welcome: CDR Deborah Dee**CPO Report:** CAPT Sukhminder Sandhu

- CAPT Sandhu welcomed 2 new Scientists, LT Yin (assigned to the FDA) and LT Mackenzie-Liu (assigned to IHS).
- She reminded officers who are eligible for promotion in PY2022 that they will need to verify their promotion packages using the new Officer Promotion Package Verification System (OPPVS) by the **February 15 deadline**.
- As we continue to be 'All Hands On Deck' and balancing so many things personally and professionally, CAPT Sandhu encouraged officers to take some downtime, when possible, and to remember to take care of their own health and well-being.

Chair Report: CDR Deborah Dee

- The pandemic continues, as do related deployments and increased work and family demands. Please prioritize yourself in the same way you prioritize your care of others. You will not have the reserves to help others if you don't also care for yourself.
 - Consider incorporating regular exercise into your daily routine. The USPHS Exercise Challenge offers tips
 - Buddy up – help improve your physical activity accountability by asking a friend, family member, or colleague to join you in regular exercise
 - Beneficial exercise doesn't have to mean running 4-minute miles; find the activity you enjoy and will keep doing regularly. Try to get in at least 150 minutes per week (equivalent of 30 mins/day 5 days of the week)
- SciPAC Mental Health Workgroup
 - Engaged CorpsCare to speak to SciPAC on February 1 regarding its purpose and aims, services provided to officers, and to answer questions (LCDR Heather Light presented on behalf of CorpsCare during the SciPAC monthly call)
 - Continuing to develop tools to help overcome misperceptions about seeking mental health care as PHS officers; developed new FAQs for CCHQ/MAB to review for addition to CCMIS information about mental health care and treatment while on active duty

- Officers are invited to join the workgroup (meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month, 1100-1200 Eastern.) Contact CDR Dee to be added to the meeting invitation.
Next meeting: Friday, February 18, 1100-1200 Eastern

Vice Chair Report: CDR Alice Shumate

- Nothing new to report

Executive Secretary Report: LCDR Ginny Bowen

- If you dialed in to the meeting via phone (only), if your full name does not appear in Zoom, or if you have an excused absence to report, please report your attendance via email to LCDR Ginny Bowen with the email subject line “SciPAC Meeting Attendance.” Those logged in to Zoom with a full name will be captured automatically in the Zoom attendance log—no emails needed.
- January was a banner month with 274 officers either in attendance at our monthly meeting or accounted for by excused absence. Please keep it up!

Executive Liaison Report: CDR Lana Rossiter

- If a SC would like something reviewed by the EB or needs other support, please email me.
- The EB has nearly completed their review of several outstanding documents; all pending reviews should be completed in the next couple of weeks.
- Review of SC SOPs will resume soon. SC Chairs please be on the lookout for requests related to SOP updates.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Awards SC:** CDR Zewditu Demissie; Co-chairs: LCDR Nancy Tian, LCDR Mary Puckett
 - The call for nominations for the 2022 Scientist Responder of the Year award has closed and reviews are underway. Thank you to all who submitted nominations.
 - The calls for nominations for the 2022 Senior Scientist, Junior Scientist, and Mentor of the Year awards will be distributed to the PAC very soon. The deadline will be late February or early March. Please be on the lookout for the announcement.
- **Career Development SC:** LCDR Xinzhi Zhang; Co-Chairs: CDR Cara Halldin and CDR Minglei Cui
 - **Continuing Education (CE) Contact Hour Initiative Team:** As advised by the SciPAC EB, the CE Contact Hour Initiative Team is working with the Website Subcommittee on posting the CE list on the SciPAC website. The CE list will be posted on the website later this year and the link will be provided in the meeting minutes. The list will be updated on the website twice a year. In the interim, the February CE listing has been submitted for review.
 - **Scientist Officer Handbook Team:** The Team is currently revising Training, Awards, Mobility, and COA sections in the Handbook and recently submitted revisions of the Promotion, COERs, Basic Readiness, and Mentoring sections to the

- EB for approval. Individual chapters can be accessed from the [Scientist Officer Handbook](#) webpage under [Resources and Links](#).
- **REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEER:** The Handbook Team is looking for another officer to serve. For more information, please email [CDR Tamara Henderson](#).
 - **Jobs List Team:** Requests for inclusion of job openings in future weekly Jobs List should be emailed directly to [LT Sean Marcsisin](#).
 - **Promotion Documents Review Team:** Nothing new to report.
 - **Promotion Guidance Team:** A new Benchmarks Assessment & Guidance Working Group (WG) has been created. The WG provided an updated version of the benchmarks assessment to the EB in January.
 - **Promotion Panel Initiative Team:** The team discussed the 2019–2020 Promotion Panel Survey questions, alignment of questions with promotion precepts and suggestions for additional or revised questions/topics. They are also developing a draft survey using Microsoft Forms (previously used Survey Monkey). Results of 2017 and 2018 analyses can be found on the [SciPAC Career Development webpage](#).
 - **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Team:** Nothing new to report.
 - **Training Team:** Nothing new to report.
 - **Administration & Communication Team:** Nothing new to report.
- **Category Day SC:** [LCDR Rebecca Levine](#); Co-chairs: [LCDR Debra Chen](#), [LCDR Alaine Knipes](#), and [LCDR Alesha Harris](#)
 - Meetings
 - Most recent leadership meeting: January 20, 2022
 - Most recent team leads meeting: January 27, 2022
 - Most recent COF meeting: January 12, 2022
 - Next leadership meeting: February 3, 2022, 1:00 PM
 - Next team leads meeting: February 24, 2022, 1:00 PM
 - Next COF meeting: February 9, 2022, 1:00 PM
 - At this time, Category Day 2022 is still scheduled to be part of the in-person USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium being held in Glendale/Phoenix, AZ, at the end of May; the trajectory of the pandemic will dictate if this needs to become a hybrid or virtual-only event.
 - General registration for the Symposium and hotel block reservations are now open. Please consider attending and complete your registration and room reservation today!
 - [Register](#)
 - [Book your group rate for PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation](#)
 - [Conference Brochure](#)
 - The registration webpage may be blocked by agency firewalls, so please try from a personal device if it doesn't work from your agency device.
 - If any speakers missed the early “speaker registration” deadline of January 10, please complete registration now during the general registration period.
 - Team leads are following up with speakers and moderators who have not yet registered.
 - If designated Symposium hotels are full, there are many others nearby.
 - The Evaluation Team is focusing on improving access to platform use to provide a robust online evaluation survey immediately after Category Day 2022.

- The Category Day SOP is being revised after one round of feedback from the SciPAC EB. It will incorporate updates from the virtual program and subsequent “hot wash.”
- **Deployment Preparedness SC:** CDR John Pesce; Co-chairs: LCDR Jason Caballero, LCDR Jorge Muñiz Ortiz, LT Adelaida Rosario
 - Most recent meeting: January 24, 2022
 - **Readiness Reporting:** As of February 1, 2022, we have 416 Regular Corps Scientist officers and 1 Ready Reserve officer, 96.5% are either basic ready or exempt. Fourteen are not qualified. If you are having trouble achieving basic readiness, please reach out, and we will help as we are able.
 - New deployment narratives are now cleared for publication.
 - We will begin our speaker series on March 16 with a presentation on cultural awareness by LCDRs Iman Martin and Adriana Restrepo.
 - LT Ana Lauer is developing an FAQ documents for readiness-related questions that will be posted on the SciPAC website.
 - **Medical Waivers:** Officers must [request waiver\(s\) for any medical/health issues](#) that may prevent deployment ASAP. Requests should be initiated as soon as you become aware of the condition and NOT after you have been identified for deployment. Please visit the Medical Waiver Program for more information and submission instructions.
 - Visit the [RDB home page](#) often for updates on readiness information.
- **Mentoring SC:** LCDR Shayne Gallaway; Co-Chairs: CDR Tyson Volkmann; LCDR Patrick High
 - Most recent meeting: January 24, 2022
 - Next meeting: February 28, 2022
 - **Mentor Recruitment Team:**
 - If you do not have a Scientist mentor, or are not serving as a Scientist mentor, [apply to be part of the SciPAC Mentoring Program](#).
 - **REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS:** At this time, we specifically need:
 - O-6 Officers at CDC to mentor O-5 Officers at CDC
 - O-4 through O-6 Officers at FDA/CDER to mentor Officers at FDA/CDER
For any questions, email LCDR Shayne Gallaway.
 - If you have been called to active duty in the past year, a Peer Support Network (PSN) mentor can ease the transition during assimilation into PHS and guide you through the onboarding process. Please email LCDR Matt Steele and LCDR Folasade Kembu to request a PSN mentor.
 - If you are an O-3 officer (≥ 2 years since CAD), you can serve as a PSN mentor to a new Scientist CAD. Please email LCDR Matt Steele and LCDR Folasade Kembu to volunteer as a PSN mentor.
 - If you are unsure about which type of mentoring program is right for you as a prospective mentee or mentor, please visit the Mentoring SciPAC [webpage](#) for more information.
 - **Mentor Matching Team**
 - Currently 132 active mentor-mentee agreements on file, and there are 9 unmatched mentee applicants (7 from CDC, 1 from FDA, 1 from DoD).

- 53% of Scientist Officers are engaged as either a mentor or mentee.
- Presented an overview of the mentor matching and renewal processes to all SC members (on other teams) and led discussion on how to coordinate internally to offset the burden of communications with mentors and mentees.
- Provided target populations for recruitment based on current needs.
- **Mentor Capacity-Building Team (MCBT)**
 - The SciPAC mentoring orientation was held on January 19, 2022, 1–2pm EST, led by CDR Neal Kimble and LCDR Christine Brady with 68 participants. Once the recording is available, the team will add the presentation to Max.gov and send the link and PowerPoint out through the listserv.
 - MCBT will host a second Mentoring Panel Discussion during the July SciPAC Monthly Meeting. The Team is identifying Senior Scientist Officers to serve as panelists.
 - MCBT is coordinating with the Category Day team to determine how we can best support the planned Category Day activities.
- **Policy SC: CDR Adam Bjork; Co-chair: LCDR Matthew Steele**
- On December 22, CCHQ provided information on submission of annual height, weight, and BMI measurements by either PHU or the Verified Weight Form (PHS-7044-1):
 - As of January 1, 2022, only the PHU or PHS-7044-1 will be considered official weight reporting since they are completed by an approved healthcare professional (the officer’s medical provider, registered dietitian, or exercise physiologist who is trained and/or qualified to complete “taping”).
 - Officers will continue to include weight data with the APFT, but it will no longer determine compliance with Retention Weight Standards (RWS). Additionally, weight waivers, pregnancy waivers, and APFT waivers do not preclude officers from submitting weight annually.
- Excess leave (email dated January 24, 2022). CCHQ itemized the steps they took to handle excess leave:
 - Leave approved by the supervisor and not confirmed by the officer was deducted from the officer’s leave balance
 - Leave requested by the officer but not approved by the supervisor and pending in the system was automatically canceled
 - FY2021 excess leave has been combined with the FY 2020 excess leave balance.
 - Excess leave can only be used in increments of 1.0 days. If an officer’s excess leave balance is in an increment of 0.5 days, then 0.5 days of leave will be taken from the officer’s annual leave and added to excess leave to make it 1.0 days, and therefore useable. **Officers must use their excess leave by September 30, 2023.**
- **National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022**
 - Signed by the President and became law on December 27, 2021.
 - **Please note the following items below may require further rulemaking by one or more agencies and policy issuance by PHS HQ before they are implemented.**
 - Solidified authorization for PHS officers to attend the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) (Sec. 718, page 250). Authorized provision of instruction at USUHS to certain Federal employees.

- Pilot program on direct hire authority for spouses of members of the uniformed services at locations outside the United States (Sec. 625, pages 232–234).
 - The Secretary of Defense may carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of using the authority under subsection (b) to hire spouses of members of the uniformed services at locations outside the United States.
 - If you feel you may be affected by this pilot program, the Policy SC recommends you consult with your liaison or CCHQ.
- Conducting a study to look into electronic voting for service members in remote locations, including services for registering to vote, requesting an electronic ballot, completing the ballot, and returning the ballot (Sec. 1077, page 378).
- Future DoD construction projects requirement for Nursing/Lactation spaces (by building type)
- The “Veterans in Parks” Program still does not include uniformed services - clarified "Armed Forces and their dependents" designation (Sec. 641, page 236).
- Improvements to Postpartum Care Study/Action at military medical treatment facilities (Please note that certain provisions of this section apply only to the armed forces) (Sec. 707, page 242).
- Revisions to TRICARE provider networks (Sec. 703, pages 239–240).
 - The revisions noted indicate a system of multiple networks of providers under TRICARE Select and TRICARE Prime in the same geographic area(s).
 - These changes may impact certain officers in remote locations, especially those enrolled in TRICARE select. The Policy SC recommends impacted officers contact TRICARE directly.
- As per notifications sent to Agency Liaisons:
 - Effective January 1, 2022, the time limitation for household goods (HHG) in connection with an officer’s retirement has been changed in the Joint Travel Regulations paragraph 052013. The time length for movement of HHG has increased from 1 year to 3 years from active-duty termination date. After the 3-year period, requests for extensions may be approved on an annual basis not to exceed a maximum of 6 years. This change does not affect non-temporary storage.
- Any officer who tests positive for COVID-19, MUST upload test results to the medical file within the eDOC-U system (no need to email MAB the same information).
 - Documentation MUST include the officer’s name, SERNO, and date of test. PCR test results likely contain some of this information, but at-home tests likely do not and the info should be added before converting the document to a PDF and uploading to the medical file.
 - If an officer is unable to obtain a COVID-19 test, the officer should submit a written statement including why they think they have COVID-19. The statement should include the officer’s name, SERNO, dates, etc. and be uploaded to the medical file.
- **Psychologist Integration SC:** LCDR Kate Morris and LCDR Patrick Sears
 - Most recent meeting: January 24, 2022
 - Next meeting: February 14, 2022; 2:00pm ET

- Now that all psychologists are Scientist officers, PsychPAG, a psychology-based professional group housed under HSPAC, has been discontinued.
- With PsychPAG no longer in existence, we have been working with CAPT Sandhu and CDR Dee on the best course of action moving forward to continue the duties traditionally managed by PsychPAG (e.g., board certification resources and mentoring, resources for behavioral health deployments, and concerns related specifically to psychologists).
- As early as next week, SciPAC and PI SC leaders will be reaching out to relevant SC chairs to discuss ways the SC can help support the psychologists' transition and pending action items.
 - Each relevant SC will be asked to accept into their membership a representative of the PI SC who will serve as a point of contact between the SC and the PI SC as SciPAC works to ensure issues unique to psychologists are addressed and raised to CCHQ when needed.
- CAPT Sandhu, CDR Dee, and the PI SC would like to thank our Scientist officers for the warm welcome they have extended to our transitioned psychologists and for their continued support as we continue the transition process.
- **Recruitment and Retention SC:** LCDR George Mitzner; Co-Chair: LCDR Julia Zucco
- **Resources:**
 - OBC Welcome Document has been updated for the current operational year.
 - Top Tips 2022 is with EB for review.
- **Interested Applicant:** New Scientist Recruitment proposal in review with EB/CPO.
- **OBC Engagement:**
 - The OBC 133 virtual Open House was held on January 25, 2022. Thank you to LT Johnson for representing SciPAC. Please welcome our newest Scientists:
 - LT Jia Leo (Yin) assigned to FDA
 - LT David Mackenzie-Liu assigned to IHS
 - If you are interested in representing SciPAC at future OBC Open Houses, please reach out to CDR Cesar Perez and LT Elizabeth Johnson.
- **New CAD Seminars:** **Open to all officers**
 - Promotions: January 7, 2022; 21 officers in attendance. Thank you to CAPT Althea Grant-Lenzy, CDR Jason Wilken, and LT Kristen Marks for your contributions to this talk.
 - Awards: January 27, 2022; 21 officers in attendance. Thank you to CDR Zewditu Demissie and LT Brian Reiner for your contributions to this talk.
 - **Next Meeting:** Benefits and Perks – **Monday, February 14, 2022; 12:00pm ET**
 - Calling all officers interested in giving presentations on Deployments, Officership, Self-care, Life Changes, Retirement, and Financial Planning.
 - To receive an invitation for the next seminar or if you would like to present, contact LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond and LT Jessica Meeker.
- **CDC New Officer Monthly Meeting:**
 - Last meeting – January 21, 2022 – 13 officers in attendance. Topics discussed: verifying promotion folders, promotion cutoffs, USPHS Symposium, Category Day, official PHS photos, speakers, deployments, and Space A travel.

- **Next meeting:** Friday February 18, 2022 at 12PM. ***Due to increased demand and to gauge interest, this meeting will be open to junior Scientist officers from all agencies. This is an open discussion, informal meeting that is best suited to officers within 3 years CAD and/or at O-3 grade.***
- For details, invitation, or to be added to the distribution list, contact LT Marissa Hast, LT Sean Griffing, LT Freeman-Ponder, and LCDR Jamie Mells.
- **EIS/LLS:**
 - Preparing resource document for incoming EIS Officers/LLS Fellows.
 - Pending meeting with EIS leadership to help coordinate this year's onboarding activities
 - Chat session with LLS Fellows pending
- **Separation Survey:** Separations resource proposal is being finalized before EB review.
 - Planning to separate? Help us learn more about barriers to retention and please contact LCDR Jorielle Houston and CDR Wade Keckler.
- **Rules and Membership SC:** CDR Alice Shumate; Co-chair: CDR Dan-My Chu
 - Most recent meeting: January 28, 2022
 - The current SC priorities are to:
 - Continue facilitating EB review of SC SOPs that were not finished last year
 - Aid ex-Officio Chair (CDR Jason Wilken) in completing last year's End-of-Year report, and
 - Begin the annual review of the SciPAC SOP.
 - The SC also discussed starting new activities including the development of a voting membership roster/contact list, aiding an initiative to improve the voting member selection process, and doing the groundwork for development of a SciPAC membership directory.
 - The SC will also begin the process of updating our R&M SOP to align with new activities.
- **Science SC:** CDR Kamil Barbour; Co-chairs: LCDR Israel Cross, LCDR Teresa Wang
 - **State of the Scientists (SoS) Survey**
 - 2022 Survey is being revised to address feedback from the EB.
 - The EB has approved the use of SurveyMonkey for the SoS. We are hoping to begin fielding this survey over the next few weeks.
 - Once the Survey Monkey license has been acquired, we anticipate that other SCs can use it for SciPAC purposes.
 - **SciPAC Monthly Call Presentations**
 - The EB has approved 2 Science SC presentations that will occur during the SciPAC monthly call.
 - In May, CDR Sharon Saydah and LCDR Leora Feldstein will present the following topic: "Applied epidemiologic studies to understand SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccine effectiveness." This talk will be coordinated by the Research and Practice Team.
 - In August, the SoS Team will present the findings of the 2022 SoS Survey.

- **Research and Practice Team**
 - Plans to have their first seminar on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, on the topic of “Racial justice in mental health care for Latine*/Hispanic populations in the U.S. and abroad” by CDR Luz Rivera. More details to follow. (*Latine is an intentional gender-inclusive term explained in this forthcoming presentation.)
- **Bibliography**
 - Filled a vacant co-lead position on the Bibliography Team. LT Nick Deputy has graciously agreed to take on this role.
 - **REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS:** Seeking 1–2 additional officers to assist with the bibliography search and compilation process. Please contact LCDR Brett Forshey and LT Nick Deputy for more information.
- **Visibility SC:** LCDR Colleen Scott; Co-Chairs: LCDR Angela Thompson-Paul, LCDR Adriana Restrepo
 - **Newsletter Team:**
 - Previous editions are available on the [SciPAC website newsletter page](#).
 - The Team is reviewing articles received and will begin assembling the winter edition next week.
 - Please contact newsletter team lead LCDR Kelly Shaw for any questions regarding article submissions.
 - **Socials Team:**
 - A healthy meal cooking event was held on January 13, 2022. Food Scientist LT Lillian Smith served as chef and guided participants through a preparation of Tandoori chickpea and spinach bowl with creamy mint chutney. The 7 participants were able to follow along or just watch. The event was a great way to kick off a healthy 2022!
 - We would like to invite all Scientist officers to a virtual Mardi Gras celebration on Sunday, February 27, 2022 (2:00–3:30pm ET). There will be a family-friendly mask contest along with some Mardi Gras and New Orleans trivia. Drop in for part of the time or stay for the entire time as your schedule permits! Please contact CDR Zewditu Demissie and LCDR NaTasha Hollis to RSVP.
 - **Publications Team:**
 - In the coming weeks, the publications team will begin collecting citations for 2021 Scientist officer publications. Officers are encouraged to submit their 2021 publications and presentations to ensure their work is included. Officers will be asked to submit their citations in the format that is required for the new PHS CV. Watch for our email! Please contact LT Tia Rogers with questions.
 - **Twitter Team:**
 - In January 2022, the Twitter Team received approval from the HHS Office of the Secretary to renew the Twitter Team’s Third-Party Web Agreement and Privacy Impact Assessment (TPWA/PIA) for use of the Twitter Platform as a means of increasing Scientist officer and USPHS Commissioned Corps visibility. The renewed agreement will be posted publicly with all [HHS TPWA/PIAs](#).
 - This month [@PHS_Scientist](#) tweeted/retweeted a total of 184 times, and generated 21,389 new impressions, 864 new engagements, 580 new likes and

13,500 profile visits! January 2022 was our highest impact month to date and brings us to a surprising 198,228 all-time new Tweet impressions!

- Please contact Twitter team leads [LCDR Elaine Knipes](#) and [LT Ian Kracalik](#) with Tweet Ideas and as always, find us and follow us on Twitter at [@PHS_Scientist](#).
- **Facebook Team:**
 - In January 2022, there were 522 views, 24 posts, and 100 expressions on the SciPAC Facebook page. There are currently 182 SciPAC Facebook members. If you aren't already a member you can [request membership here](#).
 - Please contact Facebook team lead [LCDR Patrick Sears](#) with ideas for posts.
- **LinkedIn/Instagram (IG) Team:**
 - We met on January 26, 2022, to review edits for the IG & LinkedIn SOP. We plan to meet again in the next few weeks to review the next section of the SOP edits.
 - Contact [LCDR Abby McCabe](#) (LinkedIn Lead) or [LT Brian McAleney](#) and [LT Tiffiny McCain](#) (Instagram co-leads) with questions.
- **SciPAC Symposium Poster Team:** The Team is working on an abstract to highlight the past and present amazing contributions of our Psychologists using data collected from the survey we disseminated. Thank you to all our Psychologists who responded to the survey!
- **Conferences Team:** No updates.
- **Fist Bump Team:**
 - The Team received 1 Fist Bump nomination and submitted Fist Bumps for publication on the Scientist Newsletter (2), Facebook (1), and Twitter (1).
 - So far this OY, Fist Bumps have generated 697 views and 57 likes on Facebook and Twitter.
 - The SciPAC Fist Bump Form is available on the website on the [Visibility SC page](#). Please use this form to submit Fist Bump nominations, send completed forms to both [LT Olivia McGovern](#) and [LT Kerui Xu](#).
- **(Ad Hoc) History Team**
 - The purpose of the History Team was to research and compile the history of the SciPAC category and share that information on the SciPAC website and other platforms.
 - The team operated during 2017–2020 but disbanded in 2021 due to limitations and lack of approval to update the SciPAC webpage as a result of pending platform change.
 - In January 2022, the Website SC once again became capable of updating the SciPAC webpages. An ad Hoc History Team, comprised of prior History Team members, has resumed work on this activity with a goal of completing it this OY. They will revise and update information as needed, then work with the Website SC to post information. POC: LCDR [Shayne Gallaway](#).
- **Website SC:** Chair: [LCDR Ruth Link-Gelles](#); Co-chairs: [LCDR Elizabeth Edwards](#), [LCDR Matthew Stuckey](#)
 - Last SC meeting: January 20, 2022
 - Next SC meeting (tentative): March 17, 2022; 11am ET

- Current Activities
 - As of January 26, 2022, the SC received 20 update requests; 16 requests are complete and 4 are pending.
- Currently some members of the Website SC are experiencing issues with login credentials; we appreciate other SCs’ patience as we work with OSG to resolve these issues and move pending requests forward.
- Please visit our [SciPAC website](#) for additional information on SC activities and monthly meeting minutes.

Liaison Reports

- **Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. (AMSUS):** CAPT Mark Scheckelhoff

- Most recent meeting: January 27, 2022
- Next meeting: TBD
- AMSUS 2022 is virtual **only**
 - Dates: February 22–25, 2022
 - Pre-recorded, on-demand educational sessions for learning anytime
 - 200+ sessions on-demand until March 31, 2022
 - Approx. 50 additional CME/CE opportunities with access to content
 - Multi-media poster presentations
 - Opportunities to participate in scheduled Q&A sessions with subject matter experts
- Registration Rates

Member	\$300
Non-member	\$450

- PHS Day Virtual Only (still finalizing details)
 - Friday, February 25, 10:00am–2:00pm ET
 - Morning—Leadership remarks
 - Early afternoon—3 guest PHS speakers
- Virtual [registration](#)—
 - AMSUS 2022 [information and updated agenda](#) now available
 - AMSUS Presentations
 - Please send completed presentations to LCDR Matthew Gunter ASAP
- **CC Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB):** LCDR Marissa Zwald
 - Last CCWIAB meeting: January 5, 2021
 - Next CCWIAB meeting: February 2, 2021
 - Two resource guides were recently cleared by CCHQ and will be posted on CCWIAB’s max.gov site; email LCDR Zwald if you would like to access sooner
 - Resource Guide for Officers Diagnosed with Breast Cancer
 - This document was developed in partnership with CCWIAB’s Health and Wellness Committee and the PHS Women’s Leadership Support Group (WLSG), Special Interest Group: Cancer Survivors. It is designed to serve as an unofficial guide to assist PHS officers diagnosed with breast cancer in

navigating and understanding the various policies and resources relevant to a breast cancer diagnosis.

- Resource Guide for Pregnancy Loss and Stillbirth
 - This document was developed by CCWIAB's Pregnancy Committee. It is designed to serve as an unofficial guide that provides information to PHS officers who need resources related to pregnancy loss and stillbirth.
- If you have any questions about CCWIAB or the committees' initiatives, please contact [LCDR Zwald](#) or visit [CCWIAB's website](#).
- **Commissioned Officers Association (COA):** [LCDR Julia Zucco](#)
 - Most recent meeting: November 3, 2021; Board Meeting
 - On Sunday, January 9, 2022, the Outreach Committee hosted a COA Meet and Greet with 17 Ready Reserve Officers. It was a great opportunity to meet with these officers to learn how they heard about PHS Ready Reserves and why they joined. We also discussed challenges they face and how COA could be of assistance. If you would like to join in efforts to assist these officers, please contact [LCDR Julia Zucco](#).
 - National COA Awards recognize strong contributions supporting PHS, either by individuals or collectively through Local COA Branches. Officers may use these awards to highlight additional accomplishments and impact on their CV, OS, or ROS. The deadline to submit nominations is Monday, March 1, 2022 at 5 PM Eastern. Please take the time to go to the National COA Awards website at <https://coausphs.org/page/Awards> to learn more about these awards and nominate an outstanding individual or Local COA Branch.
 - [Registration](#) is now open for the 2022 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium in Glendale/Phoenix, AZ, May 23-27, 2022. This is the first time the Symposium will be held in person in 3 years, so a great opportunity to reconnect with other officers as well as meet new ones!
- **IT Chartered Advisory Committee (ICAC):** [LT Kelly Shaw](#)
 - There was a brief outage of PAC websites and editing capabilities in mid-January; service was restored quickly, and the website should be back to full functionality.
 - In addition to website support for PACs, ICAC is interested in becoming involved in PHS data efforts more broadly; brainstorming is ongoing for how ICAC can help those efforts.
- **Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG):** [LT Xia Michelle Lin](#)
 - Next meeting: Friday, February 12, 2022, 1:00pm ET
 - [Click Here to Access the Zoom Link](#). Zoom Meeting ID 161 772 9993. For Audio: (646) 828-7666, Passcode: 426443
 - JOAG Readiness and Deployment Committee published January's Practicing Wellness – "Healthy Wellbeing in 2022" through the JOAG listserv on January 18, 2022.
 - The JOAG Membership Committee is seeking officers to serve as Meet and Greet (M&G) Regional Leads. Point of contact emails: Amanda.Schaupp@fda.hhs.gov ; Josephine.D.Zepeda@ice.dhs.gov; kschlessinger@bop.gov.
 - The JOAG Public Health and Uniformed Service Committee's Why I'm Getting Vaccinated Campaign (#WhyIVax) was created to help share stories of why PHS

- officers received the COVID-19 vaccination. The stories from 17 junior officers were distributed through the JOAG listserv on January 31, 2022. **Among them were five Scientist Officers: LT Rebecca Woodruff, LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond, LCDR Michelle Hughes, LT Dianca Finch, and LT Ying Lin.**
- In honor of National Organ Donor Day and Valentine’s Day, JOAG Public Health and Uniformed Services Committee is organizing a fun 5K run at a location of your choice.
 - Date and Time: February 14, 2022 (All participants must complete the event within a 24-hour period from 0000 Monday to 2359 Monday)
 - Event Lead: LCDR Shercoda Smaw; event Co-Lead: LT Lorna Benoit
 - JOAG Communications & Publications Committee call for article submissions and officer spotlight nominations for the *Junior Officer Chronicles* Spring 2022 Edition
 - Due by 1700 ET on February 28, 2022.
 - The Peer-to-Peer Network Program is looking to recruit junior officers with less than 2 years in PHS as well as experienced junior officers with greater than 2 years in PHS. Please visit the [Peer-to-Peer Network Program website](#) for more information.
 - To subscribe, unsubscribe, or change your email address for the JOAG listserv, click [here](#).
- **Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE):** LT Lacreisha Ejike-King
 - Most recent meeting: December 9, 2021
 - Next meeting: February 10, 2022, at 2:00 pm ET; Click [here for Zoom](#)
 - Meeting ID 160 882 4782; Passcode 4q#Qqk
 - PACE has been granted permission to resume in-person activities with some caveats listed below. The full memo has been posted on [max.gov](#).
 - Officers are not required to perform any action they feel may put themselves or the audience at risk.
 - Officers are expected to comply with local, state, tribal, and federal regulations when giving presentations (such as local mask mandates, vaccination mandates, etc). Officers may continue to conduct virtual presentations if this is the preference of the officer or the host.
 - PACE Executive Leadership is awaiting guidance surrounding presentations to non-profit and/or religious organizations.
 - Leadership Opportunities:
 - There are openings for PACE Executive Committee and Regional Coordinator members. There are 6 vacancies in the Executive Committee and total vacancies in Regions 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9. Please see the PACE listserv announcement from January 24 for application information. If you are not on the PACE listserv and did not receive the announcement, please contact the PACE Chief of Staff, LCDR Shiny Mathew. Applications are due to LCDR Shiny Mathew by February 25, 2022; 11:59pm ET.
 - The Philadelphia PACE Team is in need of a new Local Area Coordinator/Team Lead. If you are interested, please contact CDR Griff Miller.

- PACE Region 9 has openings for Local Leads in San Diego, CA; FT Defiance, AZ; Pinon, AZ; and Las Vegas, NV. Please contact [CDR Kari Harris](#) and [LCDR Thalia Vega](#) for additional information to express your interest.
- Team participation Opportunities:
 - The PACE NOVA (Northern Virginia) team is looking for highly motivated and dedicated officers to join the team. If you are interested, please contact [LCDR Chris Hooban](#) and [LCDR Tramara Dam](#).
 - The Recognitions Subcommittee anticipates announcing the call for [PACE PHS awards](#) in February-March. Officers who are interested in submitting a PHS award (Achievement Medal, Unit Citation, etc.), for their PACE efforts are welcome to contact the Recognitions Subcommittee to start preparing their nominations. Please contact [CDR Brittany Keener](#), [LCDR Kristin Allmaras](#), and [LT Kathryn McNamara](#) with any questions.
 - The new [OSG-approved PACE lessons](#) are now live.
- **Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Advisory Group (SOAGDAG):** [LCDR Luis Iturriaga](#)
 - Most recent meeting: November 22, 2021
 - Next meeting: (February meeting canceled) – March 8, 2022, 1:00-2:00pm ET
 - SciPAC requested recommendations and guidance on the demographic module of the 2022 State of the Scientist survey. SciPAC identified validated questions and response categories on sexual orientation and gender identity from the U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey. SOAGDAG made recommendations on methodological concerns with the approach taken by the Census Bureau and provided guidance on a more inclusive language model.
 - SciPAC requested recommendations for improving inclusion of LGBTQ+ officers into Voting Member roles for OSG-chartered groups, including PACs. This ask is with the SOAGDAG Executive Board pending recommendations and feedback.
- **Special Presentation**
 - LCDR Heather Light; Program Manager, Corps Care
 - Corps Care: What is it?

NOTE: Next meeting—Tuesday, **March 1, 2022**; 12:00–1:00pm ET



Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service Scientist Professional Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes; March 1, 2022

Via Zoom meeting: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Or via phone: (669) 254 5252 or (646) 828 7666; [Global numbers](#)
Meeting ID: 160 273 2410; Passcode: 401921

Total Attendance: 220 attendees; 29 excused absences

Chief Scientist Officer and Executive Board Members

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Sandhu, Sukhminder	Chief Scientist Officer	Present
CDR	Dee, Deborah	Chair	Excused
CDR	Shumate, Alice	Vice Chair; Rules & Membership Chair	Present
LCDR	Bowen, Ginny	Executive Secretary	Present
CDR	Rossiter, Lana	Executive Liaison	Present
CDR	Wilken, Jason	Ex-Officio Chairperson	Present

Voting Members (SC = Subcommittee)

Rank	Name	Role	
CDR	Barbour, Kamil	Science SC Chair	Excused
CDR	Bjork, Adam	Policy SC Chair	Present
CDR	Demissie, Zewditu	Awards SC Chair	Present
CDR	Halldin, Cara	Career Development SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Pesce, John	Deployment Preparedness SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Chen, Debra	Category Day SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Edwards, Elizabeth	Website SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Gallaway, Shayne	Mentoring SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Levine, Rebecca	Category Day SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Link-Gelles, Ruth	Website SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Mitzner, George	Recruitment and Retention SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Morris, Kate	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Muniz-Ortiz, Jorge	Deployment Preparedness SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Scott, Colleen	Visibility SC Chair	Excused
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Thompson-Paul, Angela	Visibility SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Zhang, Xinzhi	Career Development SC Chair	Present

Non-Voting Liaisons

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Scheckelhoff, Mark	AMSUS Liaison	Present
LCDR	Iturriaga, Luis	SOAGDAG Liaison	Present
LCDR	Zucco, Julia	COA Liaison	Present
LCDR	Zwald, Marissa	CCWIAB Liaison	Present
LT	Ejike-King, Lacreisha	PACE Liaison	Present
LT	Lin, Michelle	JOAG Liaison	Present
LT	Shaw, Kelly	ICAC Liaison	Present

Participation by Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Nelson Adekoya; CAPT Drue Barrett; CAPT Joseph Despins; CAPT Anne Dobmeyer; CAPT Laura Draski; CAPT Danice Eaton; CAPT John Eckert; CAPT Jeffrey Goodie; CAPT Arlin Hatch; CAPT Sally Hu; CAPT Ruth Jiles; CAPT Mehran Massoudi; CAPT Timothy Nelle; CAPT Sara Newman; CAPT Hae-Kyung (Amy) Park; CAPT Loren Rodgers; CAPT Kenneth Sekulic; CAPT Andrea Sharma; CAPT Michael Smith; CAPT Jennifer Thomas; CAPT Robin Toblin; CAPT Fuyuen Yip; CDR Candido Alicea; CDR Qiao Bobo; CDR Tegan Boehmer; CDR Renee Calanan; CDR Dianna Carroll; CDR Dan-My Chu; CDR Chekesha Clingman; CDR Daniela Cohn-Aizic; CDR Eduardo Cua; CDR Minglei Cui; CDR Judy Facey; CDR Juana Figueroa; CDR Theodore Garnett; CDR Aimee Geissler; CDR Laura Gieraltowski; CDR Sherry Gracey; CDR; Brian Harcourt; CDR Keisher Highsmith; CDR David Huang; CDR Elizabeth Irvin; CDR Wade Keckler; CDR Neal Kimble; CDR Alison Laufer Halpin; CDR Matthew Lozier; CDR Andrea McCollum; CDR Mark Miller; CDR Lara Misegades; CDR Joy Mobley; CDR Carrie Nielsen; CDR Erika Odom; CDR Eduardo O'Neill La Luz; CDR Erin Parker; CDR Sharyn Parks Brown; CDR Cesar Perez; CDR Chris Poulson; CDR Tracy Powell; CDR Anne Purfield; CDR Meghan Reilly; CDR Luz Rivera; CDR Alfredo Sancho; CDR Jeff Showalter; CDR John Stansberry; CDR Emily Streeter; CDR Peter Thomas; CDR Michelle Tsai; CDR Sara Vagi; CDR Tyson Volkmann; CDR Jeremy Wally; CDR Angela Williams; CDR Matthew Wise; CDR Geoffrey Wu; CDR Fei Xu; CDR Ellen Yard; CDR Lauren Zapata; CDR Eric Zhou; LCDR Francis Annor; LCDR Tajah Blackburn; LCDR Tyann Blessington; LCDR Nicholas Buhr; LCDR Sharoda Dasgupta; LCDR Jessica Dunn; LCDR Brendan Eberenz; LCDR Brett Forshey; LCDR Eboni Galloway; LCDR Rory Geyer; LCDR Bradley Goodwin; LCDR Alesha Harris; LCDR Kathleen Hartnett; LCDR Iram Hassan; LCDR Kelsy Hoffman; LCDR NaTasha Hollis; LCDR Brooke Hoots; LCDR Jorielle Houston; LCDR Keisha Houston Jenkins; LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson; LCDR Asha Ivey-Stephenson; LCDR Eric Jamoom; LCDR Victoria Jeisy-Scott; LCDR Folasade Kembu; LCDR Juan Lacayo; LCDR Kimberly (Shay) Litton-Belcher; LCDR Xiaowu Lu; LCDR Neali Lucas; LCDR Shiny Mathew; LCDR Jamie Mells; LCDR Emily Mosites; LCDR Jonetta Mpofu; LCDR Ashleigh Murriel; LCDR Julie O'Donnell; LCDR Oliver Ou; LCDR Jaymin Patel; LCDR Mary Puckett; LCDR Nazia Rahman; LCDR Hilda Razzaghi; LCDR Adriana Restrepo; LCDR Leslie Rivera-Rosado; LCDR Erica Rose; LCDR Stephanie Rutledge; LCDR Kari Schlessinger; LCDR Pilgrim Spikes; LCDR Matthew Steele; LCDR Sarah Swift; LCDR Nancy Tian; LCDR Jessica Tomov; LCDR Esra Toussaint; LCDR Emily Ussery; LCDR Teresa Wang; LCDR Nana Wilson; LCDR Shondelle Wilson-Frederick; LT Sophia Ajoku; LT Prince Awuah; LT Olubukola Banmeke; LT Andrew Brown; LT Anna Chard; LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond; LT Ariella Dale; LT Peter DeJonge; LT Nicholas Deputy; LT Molly Deutsch-Feldman; LT Brett Dodd; LT Njere English; LT Dianca Finch; LT Brandi Freeman; LT Robert Gahl; LT Sean Griffing; LT Marisa Hast; LT Charles (CJ) Helm; LT Carolyn Herzig; LT Amanda Hott; LT Elizabeth Johnson; LT Jueichuan (Connie) Kang; LT Florence Kanu; LT Christine Kim; LT Taneshia Knight; LT Ian Kracalik; LT Michael Krage; LT Anastasia Lambrou; LT Ana Lauer; LT Ying Lin; LT Sean Marcsisin; LT Kristin Marks; LT Gina Masessa; LT Oren Mayer; LT Tiffany McCain; LT Kevin McDermott; LT Olivia McGovern; LT Jessica Meeker; LT Neil Milan; LT Michael Newford; LT Yasmin Ogale; LT Megan Peck; LT Stephanie Pitts; LT Anthony Powell; LT Jin Qin; LT Jazmin Reed; LT Tia Rogers; LT Adelaida Rosario; LT Beth Rubenstein; LT Phillip Salvatore; LT Marsha Samson; LT Amy Schuh; LT Hannah Segaloff; LT David Thorn; LT Tanesha Tutt; LT Carrie Whitworth; LT Nicholas Wiese; LT Lindsay Womack; LT Lauren Woodard; LT Kerui Xu; LT Jia Yin Leo; LT Shannon York

Excused Absences of Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Joshua Mott; CAPT William Satterfield; CDR Anne Marie France; CDR Joanna Gaines; CDR Seth Green; CDR Jean Ko; CDR Terrence Lo; CDR Leigh Ann Miller; CDR Matthew Newland; CDR Erin Nichols; CDR Sanny Northbrook; CDR Cria Perrine; LCDR Christine Brady; LCDR William Davis; LCDR Mary Lela Demby; LCDR Leora Feldstein; LCDR Patrick High; LCDR Michelle Hughes; LCDR Lisa Jarvis-Durham; LCDR Elaine Knipes; LCDR Scott Steffen; LCDR Rhondie Tait; LT Jayleen Gunn; LT Pushpa (Suresh) Jayasekara; LT Michelle Johnson; LT David Mackenzie-Liu; LT Muktha Natrajan

Key Abbreviations:

CAD = Call to Active Duty

CCHQ = Commissioned Corps Headquarters

COB = close of business

CPO = Chief Professional Officer

EB = Executive Board

EIS/LLS = Epidemic Intelligence Service / Laboratory Leadership Service

OASH = Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

OBC = Officer Basic Course

OSG = Office of the Surgeon General

OY = Operational Year

POC = Point of Contact

SC = Subcommittee

SOP = Standard Operating Procedures

Call to Order and Welcome: CDR Alice Shumate

CPO Report: CAPT Sukhminder Sandhu

- CAPT Sandhu noted that we have 413 Officers, including 2 new Scientists that will be introduced by the Recruitment SC.
- She reminded Officers to review the AMSUS recap emailed to Officers, including a new tool in the Readiness and Deployment Self-Service application to collect data on race and ethnicity.
- CAPT Sandhu congratulated the newest round of Retiring Scientist Officer Awardees: CAPTs Drue Barrett, Rachel Avchen, Jeffrey Goodie, William Murphy, Margo Riggs and Ross Spears. Our category and service has benefited greatly from their years of honorable service, continuous leadership in carrying out the mission of the PHS, and their significant achievements across their careers.
- She also announced CAPT Eckert's decision to retire, which is a great loss to our service as his exemplary leadership has been unparalleled. As a category, we thanked him for his leadership and mentorship, and wished him the best as he embarks on new adventures.

Chair Report: CDR Deborah Dee

- Wished CAPT Eckert all the best in his retirement and expressed gratitude and appreciation—personally and on behalf of the entire Scientist category—for his many contributions, his dedication, and his care during his tenure as Chief Scientist Officer
- As high deployment tempos continue, and we—as officers—continue to juggle multiple competing priorities, I encourage you to ask for help if you need it, whether requesting a colleague take on some work or PAC duties while you're deployed or having a deployment buddy make sure you're taking time daily for self-care and/or exercise. Just as you would help any other officer (deployed or not), let other officers do the same for you. **CDR Dee thanks CDR Shumate for assisting with leading the SciPAC call and covering for her while she is deployed.**
- The SciPAC Mental Health Initiative Workgroup continues to discuss ways in which we can promote the well-being of our Scientist officers.

- There are currently 3 FAQs on Behavioral Health on CCMIS. We have drafted suggested revisions and will discuss further with the CCHQ Medical Affairs Branch
 - ****If you have any topics you'd like to see included in these FAQs, please send them to LCDR Patrick Sears (PSears@bop.gov)****
- We plan to collaborate with the PACE director to inquire about any mental health lesson plans in development for use in the community and to see how we can contribute.
- To help demystify issues related to mental health, we have begun developing mental health flyers/info sheets and are reviewing them and developing a clearance and dissemination plan.
- We are working to identify how we can support officers and the SciPAC Deployment Readiness SC as officers think about and begin to develop their Deployment Preparedness Plans.
- We have begun discussing the possibility of offering mental health seminars on various mental and behavioral health topics (e.g., anxiety vs. stress, depression vs. sadness, what to expect during your first therapy session).
- For more information about the SciPAC Mental Health Initiative or to join the workgroup, please contact CDR Dee (DDee@cdc.gov; 404-354-7326)

Vice Chair Report: CDR Alice Shumate

- Nothing significant to report.

Executive Secretary Report: LCDR Ginny Bowen

- If you dialed in to the meeting via phone (only), if your full name does not appear in Zoom, or if you have an excused absence to report, please report your attendance via email to LCDR Ginny Bowen with the email subject line “SciPAC Meeting Attendance.” Those logged in to Zoom with a full name will be captured automatically in the Zoom attendance log—no emails needed.

Executive Liaison Report: CDR Lana Rossiter

- If a SC would like something reviewed by the EB or needs other support, please email me.
- The EB has completed review of documents from several SCs.
- Review of SC SOPs is anticipated to resume soon. SC Chairs, please be on the lookout for requests related to SOP updates.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Awards SC:** CDR Zewditu Demissie; Co-chairs: LCDR Nancy Tian, LCDR Mary Puckett
 - Reviews for the 2022 Scientist Responder of the Year award have concluded, and the pending awardee has been selected. Thank you to all the reviewers who reviewed the nominations and to the team leads, LCDR Jessica Dunn and LT Nicholas Wiese.
 - The calls for nominations for the 2022 Senior Scientist, Junior Scientist, and Mentor of the Year awards were distributed to the PAC on February 9, 2022. The deadline for these nominations was March 7, 2022.

- Congratulations to all officers who received our Retiring Scientist Awards this OY. CAPT Drue Barrett was awarded the Retiring Scientist Appreciation Certificate. CAPTs Rachel Avchen, Jeffrey Goodie, William Murphy, Margo Riggs, and Ross Spears received the Retiring Scientist Outstanding Service Award. It is not too late to be recognized for this operational year. If you are retiring this operational year and are interested in being considered for these awards, please send your current CV to CDR Andrea McCollum and LCDR Matthew Steele.
- **Career Development SC:** LCDR Xinzhi Zhang; Co-Chairs: CDR Cara Halldin and CDR Minglei Cui
 - **Continuing Education (CE) Contact Hour Initiative Team:** The CE Contact Hour Initiative Team is working with the Website SC to post the CE list on the SciPAC website. The CE list will be posted on the website later this year, and the link will be provided in the meeting minutes. The list will be updated on the website twice a year. There are no updates to the CE list for March. New CE opportunities can be sent to CDR Eric Zhou, LCDR Christine Brady, and LT Brett Dodd.
 - **Scientist Officer Handbook Team:** The Team is currently revising Training, Awards, Mobility, and COA sections in the Handbook and recently submitted revisions of the Promotion, COERs, Basic Readiness, and Mentoring sections to the EB for approval. Individual chapters can be accessed from the [Scientist Officer Handbook](#) webpage under [Resources and Links](#).
 - **REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEER:** The Handbook Team is looking for another officer to serve. For more information, please email CDR Tamara Henderson.
 - **Jobs List Team:** The team continues to produce a weekly digest of Scientist-oriented job vacancies across a variety of agencies and billet levels. Requests for inclusion of job openings in future weekly Jobs List should be emailed directly to LT Sean Marcsisin.
 - **Promotion Documents Review Team:** Nothing new to report.
 - **Promotion Guidance Team:** A new Benchmarks Assessment & Guidance Working Group (WG) has been created. The WG provided an updated version of the benchmarks assessment to the EB in January and comments are expected back in mid-March.
 - **Promotion Panel Initiative Team:** The Team did not formally meet during February. However, the Team was busy updating the 2020–2021 Promotion Panel Survey format and questions. As we finalize the survey, we ask, in advance, for the support of Scientist officers promoted during the last cycle. We will be contacting officers in late March or April to complete our survey. The results from this survey will be very important to Scientist Officers. More details coming soon. The next Team meeting will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2022. Previous 2017 and 2018 analyses can be found on the [SciPAC Career Development webpage](#). For more information please email CDR Nadra Tyus, LCDR Neil Bonzagni, and LT Taneshia Knight.
 - **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Team:** Nothing new to report.
 - **Training Team:** Nothing new to report.
 - **Administration & Communication Team:** Nothing new to report.

- **Category Day SC:** LCDR Rebecca Levine; Co-chairs: LCDR Debra Chen, LCDR Alaine Knipes, and LCDR Alesha Harris
 - Meetings
 - Most recent leadership meeting: February 3, 2022
 - Most recent team leads meeting: February 24, 2022
 - Most recent COF meeting: February 9, 2022
 - Next leadership meeting: March 3, 2022, 1:00 pm ET
 - Next team leads meeting: March 24, 2022, 1:00 pm ET
 - Next COF meeting: March 9, 2022, 1:00 pm ET
 - Planning for Category Day 2022 continues.
 - At this time, the plan remains to have an in-person Symposium at the end of May, but the trajectory of the pandemic will dictate if this needs to become a hybrid or virtual-only event.
 - SC leadership conducted a pulse-survey of all Category Day speakers to assess their current willingness to attend in person given multiple challenges (continuing pandemic, risk mitigation guidelines, agency funding) and shared the results with COF.
 - SC leadership confirmed the final Category Day agenda with COF.
 - The Abstracts Team will begin sending reminders in March to speakers about preparing their presentations and associated deadlines.
 - The Connections Team is revising scenarios for the networking/mentoring activity.
 - The Awards/State of the Category Team has begun working with CAPT Sandhu on themes for the ‘State of the Category’ address.
 - The Evaluation Team is focusing on improving access to platform use in order to provide a robust online evaluation survey immediately after Category Day 2022.
 - General registration for the Symposium is now open. Please consider attending and complete your registration today. Early bird registration deadline ended on March 2 and regular-priced registration continues.
 - [Register](#)
 - [Conference Brochure](#)
 - The conference hotel is full, but please see the registration website for a listing of additional nearby hotels.
 - The registration webpage may be blocked by certain agency firewalls, so please try from a personal device if it doesn’t work from your agency device.
 - SC roster updates are underway; a member of the Psychologist Integration SC will soon be added as a new member.
 - The Category Day SOP is being revised after one round of feedback from the SciPAC EB. It will incorporate updates from the virtual program and the subsequent “hot wash.”
- **Deployment Preparedness SC:** CDR John Pesce; Co-chairs: LCDR Jason Caballero, LCDR Jorge Muñiz Ortiz, LT Adelaida Rosario
 - Most recent meeting: February 22, 2022

- **Readiness Reporting:** As of February 28, 2022, we have 413 Regular Corps officers and 1 Ready Reserve officer. 94.2% are either basic ready or exempt. 23 are not qualified. If you are having trouble maintaining readiness, please reach out to us for assistance.
- **Medical Waivers:** Officers must [request waiver\(s\) ASAP for any medical/health issues](#) that may prevent deployment. Requests should be initiated as soon as you become aware of the condition and NOT after you have been identified for deployment. Please visit the Medical Waiver Program for more information and submission instructions.
- The latest update from RDB was provided on February 10 and focused mostly on Readiness and Weight Standards. Please check the [RDB home page](#) often for updates on readiness information.
- LCDRs Iman Martin and Adriana Restrepo will be delivering a Deployment Preparedness Seminar on Cultural Awareness on March 16, 2022; 12-1:30pm ET. An announcement with a calendar invitation and meeting links will be distributed shortly.
- The SC continues to work on reconciliation of the CPO Fitness Challenge with the REP! Fitness Initiative and release of 2 deployment narratives.
- LT Ana Lauer and LT Elizabeth Johnson are assembling the Deployment Preparedness FAQ sheet.

- **Mentoring SC:** [LCDR Shayne Gallaway](#); Co-Chairs: [CDR Tyson Volkmann](#); [LCDR Patrick High](#)
 - Most recent meeting: February 28, 2022
 - Next meeting: March 28, 2022
 - **Mentor Recruitment Team:**
 - If you do not have a Scientist mentor, or are not serving as a Scientist mentor, [apply to be part of the SciPAC Mentoring Program](#). For any questions, email [LCDR Shayne Gallaway](#).
 - We anticipate further engagement with the Psychologist Integration SC for recruitment of clinical psychologists to be mentors/mentees.
 - Psychologists can specify “board certification” as a matching preference on the mentoring application within the ‘Other criteria’ field.
 - **Mentor Matching Team**
 - Currently 140 active mentor-mentee agreements on file, and there are 9 unmatched mentee applicants (7 from CDC, 1 from FDA, 1 from ICE).
 - 8 new mentor-mentee match agreements
 - 49% of Scientist Officers are engaged as either a mentor or mentee.
 - **Mentor Capacity-Building Team**
 - The link for the SciPAC mentoring orientation webinar was sent out to the SciPAC listserv on February 12, 2022. The recording and presentation are now available on Max.gov ([Guidelines for Mentors](#)).
 - The team will host a second Mentoring Panel Discussion during the July 5 SciPAC Monthly Meeting to discuss questions related to career progression, promotion, awards, and deployments. CDR Chekesha Clingman and LT Dantrell Simmons will serve as co-facilitators; there will be three panelists for the

discussion. Two of three panelists have been confirmed, and we are awaiting confirmation from a third.

- The Category Day Team is seeking additional volunteers to act out mentoring scenarios for Category Day. The team is planning to record the scenarios in the event of a shift from in-person to hybrid/virtual formatting. If interested, please provide your availability by COB, Wednesday, March 2, 2022 using the following link: <http://whenisgood.net/2ge29nw>.
- LCDR Deborah Chen has been identified as a liaison between the Mentoring SC and Psychologist Integration SC.

- **Policy SC:** CDR Adam Bjork; Co-chair: LCDR Matthew Steele
- Multiple policy announcements at AMSUS, summarized CCHQ email sent on February 25, 2022
 - Updates to Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (COSTEP) policies, which set criteria and procedures for participation in the Junior and Senior COSTEP and adds details to procedures for the application, appointment, and regulation of applicants. Links to updated policies:
 - [“Junior COSTEP”—Commissioned Corps Instruction \(CCI\) 371.02](#)
 - [“Senior COSTEP”—CCI 371.03](#)
 - [“COSTEP”—Personnel Operations Memorandum \(POM\) 821.84](#)
 - [“Transgender PHS Officers”—CCI 222.01](#)
 - States that transgender identity is not a relevant factor in determining an individual’s appointment to or continued eligibility for service in the Corps.
 - Provides guidance to officers during their transition and lists their options during and after the transitioning process.
 - Formalizes the Commissioned Corps’ commitment to non-discrimination and fostering an inclusive force to reflect our diversified Nation.
 - [“Religious Accommodations”—CCI 311.06](#)
 - Reinforces the high value the Commissioned Corps places on the rights of officer to observe the tenets of their individual religions.
 - Establishes policy, procedures, and assigns responsibilities regarding religious accommodations for PHS officers and applicants.
 - [“Readiness Compliance”—POM 821.75](#)
 - Revised to include timelines and consequences in cases where requests by officers for readiness waivers on the bases of religious accommodations are denied.
- CCHQ email sent February 14, 2022, on Intramural and Extramural Long-Term Training (LTT)
 - LTT is defined as all units or courses in a planned educational program leading to an academic degree, whether taken full-time, part-time, continuously, or intermittently.
 - LTT includes internships or residencies that exceed 30 consecutive days or a total of 90 calendar days in a fiscal year, or part-time training that exceed 70 hours in attendance in a 30-day period or a total of 210 hours in attendance in a fiscal year.
 - The deadline for submission of the LTT packet, including [training forms](#), for the 2022/2023 academic year is **March 15, 2022**.

- CCHQ email sent February 15, 2022, regarding clarification on Civil Service Creditable Time
 - Provided an explanation of the current policy, eligibility, the list of qualified agencies with corresponding timeframes, additional requirements, and the process to submit documentation.
 - Reference: [“Creditable Service for Retirement”—CCI 384.01](#)
- **Psychologist Integration SC:** LCDR Kate Morris and LCDR Patrick Sears
 - Most recent meeting: February 28, 2022
 - Next meeting: March 21, 2022; 2pm ET
 - All SciPAC SCs have welcome a representative from the Psychologist Integration SC in order to ensure the historical knowledge, support activities, and current initiatives of PsychPAG are thoroughly and effectively carried over into SciPAC.
- **Recruitment and Retention SC:** LCDR George Mitzner; Co-Chair: LCDR Julia Zucco
 - Most recent SC meeting: February 28, 2022
 - **Resources:** ‘Top Tips 2022’ is being revised before final distribution.
 - **Interested Applicant:** The IAT has a proposal under review with the EB to become a more proactive recruitment team that would facilitate any Scientist interested in carrying out a recruitment activity with coordination, support, and updated presentation materials.
 - **OBC Engagement:**
 - SciPAC approved Open House Slide – Thank you EB!
 - The OBC 134 virtual Open House was held February 22, 2022. Thank you to LT Johnson for representing SciPAC. Please welcome our newest Scientists:
 - LT Emmanuel Jeffrey and LT Leigh Ellyn Preston
 - The OBC 135 virtual Open House is scheduled for March 22, 2022.
 - If you are interested in representing SciPAC at future OBC Open Houses, please reach out to CDR Cesar Perez and LT Elizabeth Johnson.
 - **New CAD Seminars:** ****Open to all interested officers****
 - The ‘Benefits and Perks’ talk was held February 14, 2022, with 29 officers in attendance. Thank you to CAPT Andrea Sharma, LT Ana Lauer, LT Tanesha Tutt, and Mr. Ray Collier for their contributions.
 - Team co-lead met with the PPAC EIS Interest Group in regard to a joint effort for an “EIS Job Search” seminar in collaboration with EIS Team POCs.
 - If you would like to receive an invitation for the next seminar or if you would like to brief on Deployments, Officership, Self-care, Life Changes, Retirement and Financial Planning; contact LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond and LT Jessica Meeker.
 - **CDC New Officer Monthly Meeting:**
 - ****Open to Scientists from *all agencies* within 3 years CAD and/or at O-3 grade****
 - Last meeting – February 18, 2022; 14 officers in attendance (including 2 FDA). Topics discussed: awards, portraits, billets, LOAs and COAs, things to get started on very early in service, documentation, mentorship, and PHS

Symposium.

- **Next meeting:** Friday March 18, 2022, at 12pm ET. CAPT Ross Spears of CDC will discuss his success as an officer, a diverse career, and unique experience in emergency operations. Questions for CAPT Spears are requested in advance. ****Don't miss this opportunity to hear from him about his fascinating career experience as he retires from PHS!****
- For details, invitation, or to be added to the distribution list, contact LT Marissa Hast, LT Sean Griffing, LT Brandi Freeman-Ponder, and LCDR Jamie Mells.
- **EIS/LLS:**
 - LCDRs Jonetta Mpofu and Matt Stuckey and LT Nicholas Wiese met with EIS/LLS leadership and have been permitted to reach out to incoming fellows to share PHS information.
 - A resource document for EIS Officers/LLS Fellows is in process.
 - LT Wiese hosted an informational session with 10 commissioning LLS Fellows.
- **Separation Survey:** The Team's proposal under EB review enables Scientist Officers to receive information and support regarding the decision to separate from or remain serving in the USPHS CC. The intent is to engage early to assist the Officer in their decision-making process.
 - Planning to separate? Help us learn more about barriers to retention; please contact LCDR Jorielle Houston and CDR Wade Keckler.
- **Rules and Membership SC:** CDR Alice Shumate; Co-chair: CDR Dan-My Chu
 - Next meeting: Friday, March 25, 2022; 3pm ET
 - During March we plan to initiate review of the SciPAC SOP.
 - This will be followed by review/updates to the Rules & Membership SOP to reflect any changes in our process as needed.
 - As we update the Subcommittee SOP submission matrix and re-start subcommittee SOP reviews, we will share the new timeline with relevant SCs.
 - Thanks to all of our new volunteers! We have now assigned leads and are starting a number of new initiatives that we will share in the coming months.
 - We could use 1-2 additional volunteers if any officers are interested in joining us. Please contact us!
- **Science SC:** CDR Kamil Barbour; Co-chairs: LCDR Israel Cross, LCDR Teresa Wang
 - **State of the Scientists (SoS) Survey Team**
 - The 2022 SoS Survey was released on Tuesday, March 1, and will remain open for 4 weeks. Please contact LCDR Hilda Razzaghi and LCDR Shondelle Wilson-Frederick with related questions.
 - A 12-month SciPAC SurveyMonkey license was acquired prior to fielding the 2022 SoS Survey; the license is intended to support multiple data collection efforts across SciPAC. SCs interested in collecting data using this Survey Monkey license are encouraged to reach out to LCDR Teresa Wang for details.
 - **Research and Practice Team**
 - Webinar planned for Tuesday, March 8, 2022; 12–1pm ET:

- “Racial justice in mental health care for Latine*/Hispanic populations in the U.S. and abroad” by CDR Luz Rivera. (*Latine is an intentional gender-inclusive term explained in this forthcoming presentation.)
- Calendar invitation and dial-in details (Zoom platform) were circulated through SciPAC listserv on February 15
- Please contact CDR Ruiqing Pamboukian and LT Ying Lin with any questions
- **Bibliography Team**
 - Previous annual reports (2010–2020) are available on the [SciPAC Bibliography Page](#).
 - Collaborating with SciPAC Visibility SC’s Publications Team to begin collecting 2021 publications and presentations beginning in March
 - Please contact LCDR Brett Forshey and LT Nicholas Deputy with any questions
- **Visibility SC:** LCDR Colleen Scott; Co-Chairs: LCDR Angela Thompson-Paul, LCDR Adriana Restrepo
 - **Newsletter Team:**
 - The newsletter team will be laying out and circulating the Winter newsletter for comments in the next few weeks!
 - Please contact newsletter team lead LCDR Kelly Shaw for any questions regarding article submissions.
 - **Socials Team:**
 - The Socials Team hosted a virtual Mardi Gras Celebration on February 27, 2022. Four officers attended this event. Participants donned festive masks while playing a stimulating Mardi Gras and New Orleans trivia game.
 - **Publications Team:** No updates.
 - **Twitter Team:**
 - This month the SciPAC Twitter Team tweeted/retweeted a total of 129 times, and generated 8,728 new impressions, 414 new engagements, 276 new likes and 7,948 profile visits! This brings us to an incredible 206,984 all-time Tweet impressions!
 - Please contact Twitter team leads LCDR Alaine Knipes and LT Ian Kracalik with Tweet Ideas and find and follow us on Twitter at [@PHS_Scientist](#).
 - **Facebook Team:**
 - In February 2022, there were 245 views, 12 posts, and 62 expressions on the SciPAC Facebook page. There are currently 183 Facebook members. If you aren’t already a member you can request membership [here](#).
 - **LinkedIn/Instagram Team:** No updates.
 - **SciPAC Symposium Poster Team:**
 - The Symposium Poster Team has put together an abstract to highlight the past and present amazing contributions of our psychologists using data collected from the survey we sent out; all coauthors have reviewed and provided feedback. The Team will proceed to work on the poster.
 - **Conferences Team:** No updates.
 - **Fist Bump Team:**

- In February, the Fist Bump Team: Received 1 new Fist Bump nomination, submitted 1 Fist Bump for publication on Facebook, and published 1 Fist Bump to Twitter.
- This OY, Fist Bump related posts have generated 929 views and 101 likes on Facebook and Twitter (up 33% and 84% compared to last month).
- The SciPAC Fist Bump Form is available on the website on the [Visibility SC page](#). Please use this form to submit Fist Bump nominations, send completed forms to both [LT Olivia McGovern](#) and [LT Kerui Xu](#).
- **Ad Hoc History Team:**
 - Team has updated events of interest in the timeline document and archived additional artifacts to be linked on the website.
 - Next steps are to coordinate and work with the Website SC to add to the SciPAC website.
- **Website SC:** Chair: [LCDR Ruth Link-Gelles](#); Co-chairs: [LCDR Elizabeth Edwards](#), [LCDR Matthew Stuckey](#)
 - Last SC meeting: January 20, 2022
 - Next SC meeting (tentative): March 17, 2022; 11am ET
 - Current Activities
 - As of February 25, 2022, the SC received 22 update requests; 19 requests are complete and 3 are pending.
 - Website and Visibility SCs are working together to update the SciPAC history content and build out a webpage display.
 - Please visit our [SciPAC website](#) for additional information on SC activities and monthly meeting minutes.

Liaison Reports

- **Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. (AMSUS):** [CAPT Mark Scheckelhoff](#)
 - Most recent meeting: January 27, 2022
 - Next meeting: TBD
 - AMSUS 2022 was held virtually on February 22–25, 2022
 - 200+ sessions remain on-demand until March 31, 2022
 - Approx. 50 additional CME/CE opportunities with access to content
 - PHS Day occurred Friday, February 25, 2022; 10am–2pm ET
 - Morning—Leadership remarks
 - ADM Rachel Levine
 - RADM Denise Hinton
 - Early afternoon—3 guest PHS speakers
 - RADM Etella Jones, OCET, FDA
 - RADM Nancy Knight, DGHP, CDC
 - CAPT Michael Schmoyer, EOP
 - Closing Remarks
 - Honorable Andrea Palm, Dept Sec DHHS

- **CC Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB):** LCDR Marissa Zwald
 - Last CCWIAB meeting: February 2, 2022
 - Next CCWIAB meeting: March 2, 2022
 - CCWIAB Executive Chair, RADM Kelly Taylor, is retiring in March and the board is working to identify a new flag officer to serve as Chair.
 - CCWIAB's Pregnancy Committee has been renamed to the Reproductive Health Committee, with new priorities focused on family planning, pregnancy, postpartum, and women's health issues. A new infertility workgroup has formed and working to develop a one-pager on navigating infertility challenges and policies within PHS.
 - If you have any questions about CCWIAB or the committees' initiatives below, please contact LCDR Zwald, or visit CCWIAB's website.

- **Commissioned Officers Association (COA):** LCDR Julia Zucco
 - Most recent meeting: January 9, 2022; Outreach meeting with Ready Reserve officers
 - COA Executive Director, CAPT Jacqueline Rychnovsky, USN (Ret.) attended a meeting hosted by the Defense Health Agency and led by Major General Appenzeller, Director, Healthcare Operations. At the onset of the meeting, he announced that the DoD has approved the distribution of at-home test kits to be dispensed through military treatment facilities (MTFs) and military outpatient clinics. Up to 8 kits per ID card holder can be dispensed monthly. While this is good news for those who reside near a MTF, it is not favorable for those who don't. For those individuals, a prescription will still be needed to be reimbursed for at-home test kits. MG Appenzeller reinforced that there is no change in TRICARE benefits, and local procedures to distribute the free kits may vary from location to location. Free kits can also be requested at www.covidtest.gov, and you can also check with your local health department, libraries, and other community sites to see if free kits are available in your area. For more information on TRICARE at home testing visit https://www.tricare.mil/covid19testing.
 - The Legislative Affairs Committee selected the top legislative priorities for COA to focus on in the coming year to ensure inclusion of PHS officers, the top three were: Family Medical Leave Act, Military Lending Act (e.g., including PHS in fee waivers for American Express credit card) and a permanent amendment for excess leave carryover.
 - On March 13, 2022, the Outreach Committee will host a COA Meet and Greet with officers called to active duty since July 1, 2021 who are COA members. We will have door prizes, games, and break out rooms for officers to meet other COA members. If you would like to join in these efforts to meet these officers, please contact LCDR Julia Zucco.
 - Registration is now open for the 2022 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium in Glendale/Phoenix, AZ, May 23-27, 2022. This is the first time the Symposium will be held in person in 3 years, so a great opportunity to reconnect with other officers as well as meet new ones! Also, the call for poster abstracts is now open. Please submit abstracts by March 9, 2022.

- **IT Chartered Advisory Committee (ICAC):** LT Kelly Shaw

- ICAC leadership will be meeting this month with leadership from the OASH and OSG about how ICAC can better support PHS information technology needs.
- **Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG):** LT Xia Michelle Lin
 - Most recent meeting: February 12, 2022
 - Next meeting: April 8, 2022; 1:00pm ET
 - [Click Here to Access the Zoom Link](#). Zoom Meeting ID 160 673 3699. For Audio: (669) 254-5252, Passcode: 465814
 - JOAG voting member call for nominations was sent through the JOAG listserv on February 22, 2022 and it is due on March 23, 2022. The application documents will be uploaded to the JOAG website soon.
 - JOAG Readiness and Deployment Committee published February’s Practicing Wellness – “Sad or Seasonal Affective Disorder (S.A.D.)?” through the JOAG listserv on February 14, 2022.
 - JOAG Readiness and Deployment Committee published March’s Practicing Wellness – “Understanding High Stress and Building our Emotional Resilience” through the JOAG listserv on February 28, 2022.
 - JOAG Public Health and Uniformed Services Committee is organizing a fun 5K run or walk on March 26, 2022, and a 10K Walk/ 5K Run on April 6, 2022, at a location of your choice - more details can be found in the JOAG announcement through the JOAG listserv on February 28, 2022.
 - The Uniform SC of Outreach Committee is seeking 3 volunteers. POCs: LCDRs [Steve Galvez](#) & [Sarah Whittington](#).
 - The JOAG Membership Committee is seeking officers to serve as Meet and Greet Regional Leads. Point of contact emails: Amanda.Schaupp@fda.hhs.gov; Josephine.D.Zepeda@ice.dhs.gov; kschlessinger@bop.gov.
 - To subscribe, unsubscribe, or change your email address for the JOAG listserv, click [here](#).
 - **Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE):** LT Lacreisha Ejike-King
 - Most recent meeting: February 10, 2022
 - Next meeting: April 14, 2022; 2:00 pm ET; [Click here for Zoom](#). Meeting ID 160 882 4782; Passcode 4q#Qqk
 - PACE Executive Leadership is awaiting guidance surrounding presentations to non-profit and/or religious organizations.
 - After-Action reports are due 10-business days after the event. Recently updated After Action Report Version 11 is now in [Max.Gov](#)
 - Officership opportunities:
 - The PACE Communications Subcommittee is recruiting volunteers to serve on the Editorial Board of the new PACE newsletter. Term lengths for these positions will align with the PACE operational year. Available Positions and Brief Position Descriptions:
 - Managing Editor (1): Manages the newsletter Gmail account, review all submissions for conformity with the submission guidelines, and oversee the review process

- Technical Editors (2): Reviews technical aspects of the submissions, ensuring that content is relevant and clear
- Copy Editors (2): Reviews grammatical aspects of the submissions
- Layout Editor (1): Compiles reviewed content into final layout
- Staff Writer (1): Conceptualizes and writes articles for publication

Please send the following documents to [CDR Zewditu Demissie](#) and [LT Melina Rodriguez Upton](#) for consideration by COB March 4, 2022 ET.

- Most recent copy of your CV (Please include any PACE experience)
- A one-page letter indicating which position(s) you are applying for and describing any relevant previous editorial/newsletter experience
- A screenshot of your readiness screen showing you are basic ready
- The Philadelphia PACE Team is in need of a new Local Area Coordinator/Team Lead. If you are interested, please contact [CDR Griff Miller](#).
- The PACE NOVA (Northern Virginia) team is looking for highly motivated and dedicated officers to join the team. If you are interested, please contact [LCDR Chris Hooban](#) and [LCDR Tramara Dam](#).
- Awards:
 - The Recognitions Subcommittee anticipates announcing the call for [PACE PHS awards](#) in February-March. Officers who are interested in submitting a PHS award (Achievement Medal, Unit Citation, etc.), for their PACE efforts are welcome to contact the Recognitions Subcommittee in the meantime to start preparing their nominations. Please contact [CDR Brittany Keener](#), [LCDR Kristin Allmaras](#), and [LT Kathryn McNamara](#) with any questions.
- The new [OSG-approved PACE lessons](#) are now live.
- **Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Advisory Group (SOAGDAG):** [LCDR Luis Iturriaga](#)
 - Nothing significant to report
- **Special Presentation**
 - SciPAC Awards SC—[CDR Zewditu Demissie](#) (Chair); LCDR Nancy Tian (Co-Chair); LCDR Mary Puckett (Co-Chair)
 - “An Overview of PHS Honor and SciPAC Awards”
 - Presentation shared in conjunction with these minutes

NOTE: Next meeting—Tuesday, **April 5, 2022**; 12:00–1:00pm ET



Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service Scientist Professional Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes; April 5, 2022

Total Attendance: 226 attendees; 54 excused absences

Chief Scientist Officer and Executive Board Members

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Sandhu, Sukhminder	Chief Scientist Officer	Present
CDR	Dee, Deborah	Chair	Present
CDR	Shumate, Alice	Vice Chair; Rules & Membership Chair	Present
LCDR	Bowen, Ginny	Executive Secretary	Present
CDR	Rossiter, Lana	Executive Liaison	Present
CDR	Wilken, Jason	Ex-Officio Chairperson	Present

Voting Members (SC = Subcommittee)

Rank	Name	Role	
CDR	Barbour, Kamil	Science SC Chair	Excused
CDR	Bjork, Adam	Policy SC Chair	Present
CDR	Demissie, Zewditu	Awards SC Chair	Present
CDR	Halldin, Cara	Career Development SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Pesce, John	Deployment Preparedness SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Chen, Debra	Category Day SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Edwards, Elizabeth	Website SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Gallaway, Shayne	Mentoring SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Levine, Rebecca	Category Day SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Link-Gelles, Ruth	Website SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Mitzner, George	Recruitment and Retention SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Morris, Kate	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Absent
LCDR	Muniz-Ortiz, Jorge	Deployment Preparedness SC Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Scott, Colleen	Visibility SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Thompson-Paul, Angela	Visibility SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Zhang, Xinzhi	Career Development SC Chair	Present

Non-Voting Liaisons

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Scheckelhoff, Mark	AMSUS Liaison	Excused
LCDR	Iturriaga, Luis	SOAGDAG Liaison	Absent
LCDR	Zucco, Julia	COA Liaison	Present
LCDR	Zwald, Marissa	CCWIAB Liaison	Present
LT	Ejike-King, Lacreisha	PACE Liaison	Present
LT	Lin, Michelle	JOAG Liaison	Present
LT	Shaw, Kelly	ICAC Liaison	Present

Participation by Non-Voting Scientist Officers: RADM Theresa Lawrence; CAPT Nelson Adekoya; CAPT Drue Barrett; CAPT Marco Bennett; CAPT Jennifer Bodart; CAPT Jill Breitbach; CAPT Joseph Despina; CAPT Jeffrey Goodie; CAPT Arlin Hatch; CAPT Sally Hu; CAPT Ruth Jiles; CAPT James Kenney; CAPT Leslie MacDonald; CAPT Timothy Nelle; CAPT Sara Newman; CAPT Ryan Novak; CAPT Anne Purfield; CAPT William Satterfield; CAPT Kenneth Sekulic; CAPT Michael Smith; CAPT Jacqueline Tate; CAPT Robin Toblin; CDR Candido Alicea; CDR David Barry; CDR Qiao Bobo; CDR Robert Burns; CDR Renee Calanan; CDR Dianna Carroll; CDR Chekesha Clingman; CDR Daniela Cohn-Aizic; CDR Minglei Cui; CDR Judy Facey; CDR Juana Figueroa; CDR Joanna Gaines; CDR Theodore Garnett; CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor; CDR Sherry Gracey; CDR Seth Green; CDR Brian Harcourt; CDR Keisher Highsmith; CDR David Huang; CDR Elizabeth Irvin; CDR Wade Keckler; CDR Neal Kimble; CDR Jean Ko; CDR Alison Laufer Halpin; CDR Terrence Lo; CDR Charlene Maddox; CDR Andrea McCollum; CDR Leigh Ann Miller; CDR Mark Miller; CDR Lara Misegades; CDR Joy Mobley; CDR Erika Odom; CDR Eduardo O'Neill La Luz; CDR Ruiqing Pamboukian; CDR Erin Parker; CDR Cesar Perez; CDR Cria Perrine; CDR Meghan Reilly; CDR Luz Rivera; CDR Alfredo Sancho; CDR Sharon Saydah; CDR Jacqueline Sram; CDR John Stansberry; CDR Emily Streeter; CDR Peter Thomas; CDR Sharyl Trail; CDR Michelle Tsai; CDR James Tyson; CDR Nadra Tyus; CDR Tyson Volkmann; CDR Tenaya Watson; CDR Matthew Wise; CDR Geoffrey Wu; CDR Fei Xu; CDR Ellen Yard; CDR Yi Zhang; CDR Eric Zhou; LCDR Francis Annor; LCDR Danielle Barradas; LCDR Tyann Blessington; LCDR Jason Caballero; LCDR Israel Cross; LCDR Sharoda Dasgupta; LCDR Jessica Dunn; LCDR Brendan Eberenz; LCDR Leora Feldstein; LCDR Brett Forshey; LCDR Amy Freeland; LCDR Eboni Galloway; LCDR Rory Geyer; LCDR Alesha Harris; LCDR Iram Hassan; LCDR Andrew Hickey; LCDR Kelsy Hoffman; LCDR NaTasha Hollis; LCDR Brooke Hoots; LCDR Jorielle Houston; LCDR Keisha Jenkins; LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson; LCDR Michelle Hughes; LCDR Asha Ivey-Stephenson; LCDR Eric Jamoom; LCDR Lisa Jarvis-Durham; LCDR Victoria Jeisy-Scott; LCDR Folasade Kembi; LCDR Elaine Knipes; LCDR Juan Lacayo; LCDR Jonathan Leshin; LCDR Kimberly (Shay) Litton-Belcher; LCDR Xiaowu Lu; LCDR Neali Lucas; LCDR Iman Martin; LCDR Shiny Mathew; LCDR Jamie Mells; LCDR Emily Mosites; LCDR Jonetta Mpofo; LCDR Ashleigh Murriel; LCDR Julie O'Donnell; LCDR Oliver Ou; LCDR Jaymin Patel; LCDR Mary Puckett; LCDR Nazia Rahman; LCDR Adriana Restrepo; LCDR Leslie Rivera-Rosado; LCDR Erica Rose; LCDR Stephanie Rutledge; LCDR Kari Schlessinger; LCDR Pilgrim Spikes; LCDR Matthew Steele; LCDR Scott Steffen; LCDR Matthew Stuckey; LCDR Rhondie Tait; LCDR Nancy Tian; LCDR Jessica Tomov; LCDR Emily Ussery; LCDR Teresa Wang; LCDR Shondelle Wilson-Frederick; LCDR Marcienne Wright; LT Sophia Ajoku; LT Prince Awuah; LT Olubukola Banmeke; LT Andrew Brown; LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond; LT Ariella Dale; LT Peter DeJonge; LT Nicholas Deputy; LT Brett Dodd; LT Marisa Donnelly; LT Dianca Finch; LT Brandi Freeman; LT Robert Gahl; LT Bryan Galvez; LT Sean Griffing; LT Jayleen Gunn; LT Marisa Hast; LT Carolyn Herzig; LT Amanda Hott; LT Kun-Yueh (Jayson) Hsieh; LT Jessica Jacobs; LT Pushpa (Suresh) Jayasekara; LT Elizabeth Johnson; LT Jueichuan (Connie) Kang; LT Christine Kim; LT Ian Kracalik; LT Nang Thu Thu Kyaw; LT Anastasia Lambrou; LT Ana Lauer; LT Ying Lin; LT David Mackenzie-Liu; LT Kristin Marks; LT Gina Masessa; LT Oren Mayer; LT Jessica Meeker; LT Neil Milan; LT Muktha Natrajan; LT Yasmin Ogale; LT Ruth Oni; LT Megan Peck; LT Stephanie Pitts; LT Anthony Powell; LT Catharine (Cate) Pritchard; LT Jin Qin; LT Jazmin Reed; LT Tia Rogers; LT Adelaida Rosario; LT Beth Rubenstein; LT Phillip Salvatore; LT Amy Schuh; LT Dantrell Simmons; LT Lillian Smith; LT Kelsey Sumner; LT Shaniece Theodore; LT Carrie Whitworth; LT Lindsay Womack; LT Lauren Woodard; LT Rebecca Woodruff; LT Kerui Xu; LT Jia Yin Leo; LT Shannon York

Excused Absences of Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Jennifer Adjemian; CAPT Heidi Blanck; CAPT Julie Chodacki; CAPT Meghan Corso; CAPT Laura Draski; CAPT Danice Eaton; CAPT Dominic Frasca; CAPT Aimee Geissler; CAPT Althea Grant; CAPT Joel Montgomery; CAPT Joshua Mott; CAPT Matthew Murphy; CAPT Ingrid Pauli; CAPT Loren Rodgers; CAPT Erin Sauber-Schatz; CAPT Andrea Sharma; CAPT Jennifer Thomas; CDR Tegan Boehmer; CDR Dan-My Chu; CDR Anne Marie France; CDR Laura Gieraltowski; CDR Matthew Lozier; CDR Matthew Newland; CDR Erin Nichols; CDR Sanny Northbrook; CDR Tracy Powell; CDR Gabriela Ramirez-Leon; CDR Sara Vagi; CDR Maroya Walters; LCDR Christine Brady; LCDR Nicholas Buhr; LCDR William Davis; LCDR Mary Lela Demby; LCDR Bradley Goodwin; LCDR Kathleen Hartnett; LCDR Eric Kebker; LCDR Rashid Njai; LCDR Hilda Razzaghi; LCDR Kaseania Riley-Bass; LCDR Rachel Slayton; LCDR Sarah Swift; LT Anna Chard; LT Charles (CJ) Helm; LT Michelle Johnson; LT Florence Kanu; LT Taneshia Knight; LT Olivia McGovern; LT Michael Newford; LT Marsha Samson; LT Tanesha Tutt; LT Nicholas Wiese

Key Abbreviations:

CAD = Call to Active Duty

CCHQ = Commissioned Corps Headquarters

COB = close of business

CPO = Chief Professional Officer

EB = Executive Board

EIS/LLS = Epidemic Intelligence Service / Laboratory Leadership Service

OBC = Officer Basic Course

OSG = Office of the Surgeon General

POC = Point of Contact

SC = Subcommittee

SOP = Standard Operating Procedures

Call to Order and Welcome: CDR Deb Dee

CPO Report: CAPT Sukhminder Sandhu

- CAPT Sandhu's report is captured in the attached policy slide-deck.

Chair Report: CDR Deborah Dee

Important Information about the 2022 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium

May 23–27, 2022, at the Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel and Spa

- Thank you to Category Day SC for their hard work planning an exciting program for us!
- In addition to their minutes focused on Category Day, here is info about the Symposium:
 - [Preconference sessions](#) are offered on a variety of topics such as BLS, Naloxone Training, Culturally Relevant Partnerships, a Retirement Seminar, Leadership, LGBTQ+ Cultural Competence, Deployment Readiness, and more
 - An updated [agenda](#) is available on the website
 - Tickets are available for [the Anchor and Caduceus Dinner](#) Monday night
 - Speakers include Dr. Leana Wen, who will deliver the keynote; along with our Surgeon General, VADM Murthy; DSG, RADM Hinton; new CCHQ Director – Scientist officer and psychologist, CAPT Schobitz; RADM Childs
- Don't miss SciPAC Category Day on **Wednesday, May 25!**
 - Check out the [SciPAC Category Day agenda](#) on the Symposium website

Release of New Policies and SciPAC

- CCHQ released new policies on March 4 and March 18, 2022 (check your email)
- New CCD 122.01 on Promotions outlines 5 new overarching category groups
- Scientists:
 - Psychologists to Allied Health
 - Others to Applied Public Health
 - Effective date: September 1, 2023
- What does this mean for us as a category? Still waiting for more info from CCHQ
 - We are still the Scientist Category
 - We will continue operating as SciPAC and as a category, gathering information, and sharing it, supporting each other through these changes
 - When we know more, we will share. To help us get you the info you need and want, please continue to send questions about the new policies to CDR Dee and CAPT

Sandhu

- We are compiling the questions, answering those we can, and de-identifying them before sharing with CCHQ
- **This is a lot of change and a lot to absorb.**
 - I know this is a lot of new information to process and we still have many unknowns, which can be stressful
 - Be kind to yourself: meditate; go for a walk/hike/Peloton ride; read; savor doing nothing; sip some chai; spend time offline and with loved ones; cook; clean – whatever works for you
 - Talk with colleagues and help each other; reassure each other we are in this together
 - Contact me anytime with questions/concerns: DDee@cdc.gov; 770-337-3197 (cell)

Vice Chair Report: CDR Alice Shumate

- Nothing significant to report.

Executive Secretary Report: LCDR Ginny Bowen

- If you dialed in to the meeting via phone (only), if your full name does not appear in Zoom, or if you have an excused absence to report, please report your attendance via email to LCDR Ginny Bowen with the email subject line “SciPAC Meeting Attendance.” Those logged in to Zoom with a full name will be captured automatically in the Zoom attendance log—no emails needed.
- Congratulations to CAPT Aimee Geissler and CAPT Anne Purfield for pinning-on new ranks on April 1, 2022.

Executive Liaison Report: CDR Lana Rossiter

- If a SC would like something reviewed by the EB or needs support, please email me.
- The EB has completed review of documents from several SCs. Review was paused to allow time to review the new policies and prepare to share with SciPAC.
- If you submitted a document for EB review and have not heard back on the status, please follow up.
- Review of SC SOPs is anticipated to resume soon. SC Chairs, please be on the lookout for requests related to SOP updates.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Awards SC:** CDR Zewditu Demissie; Co-chairs: LCDR Nancy Tian, LCDR Mary Puckett
 - The 2022 Senior Scientist, Junior Scientist, and Mentor of the Year award nominations are currently under review. Thank you to all officers who nominated themselves or others.
- **Career Development SC:** LCDR Xinzhi Zhang; Co-Chairs: CDR Cara Halldin and CDR Minglei Cui
 - **Continuing Education (CE) Contact Hour Initiative Team:** The Team is working with the Website SC to post the CE list on the SciPAC website later this year. Once

- posted, the link will be provided in the meeting minutes. New CE opportunities can be sent to CDR Eric Zhou, LCDR Christine Brady, and LT Brett Dodd.
- **Scientist Officer Handbook Team:** The Team is currently revising Handbook sections (Training, Awards, Mobility, COA) and has recently submitted revisions to EB for approval (Promotion, COERs, Basic Readiness, Mentoring). Individual chapters can be accessed from the [Scientist Officer Handbook](#) webpage under [Resources and Links](#). For more information, please email CDR Tamara Henderson or LCDR Jessica Dunn.
 - **Jobs List Team:** The Team continues to produce a weekly digest of Scientist-oriented job vacancies across a variety of agencies and billet levels. Requests for inclusion of job openings in future weekly Jobs Lists should be emailed directly to LT Sean Marcisin.
 - **Promotion Documents Review Team:** Nothing new to report.
 - **Promotion Guidance Team:** Nothing new to report.
 - **Promotion Panel Initiative Team:**
 - The Promotion Panel Team is finalizing this year's SciPAC Promotion Survey. Scientist Officers promoted in 2021 are asked to **please complete the survey once you receive your personal email invitation in the coming weeks**.
 - This survey should take no longer than 15-20 minutes to complete and it will help us examine factors that may contribute to successful promotion of Scientist officers. All survey responses will be kept confidential and only aggregated information will be shared.
 - Results will be shared with the Category later in the year. Previous 2017 and 2018 analyses can be found on the [SciPAC Career Development webpage](#). For more information please email CDR Nadra Tyus, LCDR Neil Bonzagni, and LT Taneshia Knight.
 - **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Team:** Nothing new to report.
 - **Training Team:** Nothing new to report.
 - **Administration & Communication Team:** Nothing new to report.
- **Category Day SC:** LCDR Rebecca Levine; Co-chairs: LCDR Debra Chen, LCDR Alaine Knipes, and LCDR Alesha Harris
 - Meetings
 - Most recent leadership meeting: March 31, 2022
 - Most recent team leads meeting: March 24, 2022
 - Most recent COF meeting: March 30, 2022
 - Next leadership meeting: April 14, 2022, 1:00 PM
 - Next team leads meeting: April 28, 2022, 1:00 PM
 - Next COF meeting: April 13, 2022, 1:00 PM
 - Planning for Category Day 2022 continues.
 - Update: it has been confirmed that the 2022 USPHS Symposium (May 23–26), including Category Day on May 25, will be an in-person ONLY event (there will be no virtual or hybrid options).
 - Early-bird registration for the Symposium has been extended through April 22 to help officers still waiting to receive funding decisions from their agencies.

This will be the final early-bird registration extension.

- [Register](#)
- [Conference Brochure](#)
- The conference hotel is full, but please see the registration website for a listing of additional nearby hotels.
- The registration webpage may be blocked by certain agency firewalls, so please try from a personal device if it doesn't work from your agency device.
- SC leadership conducted a Category-wide survey of Scientist Officers' plans to attend the USPHS symposium and shared the results with COF.
 - The survey was conducted by email and available to all Scientist Officers for 2 weeks (March 11–25). There was a 23% response rate.
 - Over 80% of Officers expressed at least one type of concern about attending the event in person, and 21% of Officers indicated that they planned to attend.
- SC leadership is working to adjust the final Category Day agenda to accommodate changes to the schedule resulting from some speakers and moderators being unable to attend the in-person event.
- **Abstracts Team:** The Team will be sending information to speakers about preparing their Category Day presentations and associated deadlines.
- **Connections Team:** The Team finalized their scenarios and is in the process of pre-recording them on Zoom; the scenarios will be used for the networking/mentoring activity.
- **Awards/State of the Category Team:** The Team is working with CAPT Sandhu and the State of the Scientists Survey Team on themes for the State of the Category address.
- **Evaluation Team:** The Team is finalizing their SurveyMonkey survey, which will be distributed immediately after Category Day to provide a robust evaluation of Category Day 2022.
- **Social Team:** The Team has prepared an ice-breaker “getting to know you” activity for the social event.
- **Secretary Team:** The Team has begun preparing the agenda and “meet the speakers” documents for Category Day.
- The SC identified a Scientist Officer POC ([LT Xia Michelle Lin](#)) for the Symposium's Surgeon General's 5K (SG5K) Run.
 - The run will be held in-person at the Symposium, but satellite/virtual runs may also be held.
 - Any officer can volunteer to serve as Host/Lead of an SG5K event in their local area, with tentative dates May 23–June 5
- **Deployment Preparedness SC:** [CDR John Pesce](#); Co-chairs: [LCDR Jason Caballero](#), [LCDR Jorge Muñoz Ortiz](#), [LT Adelaida Rosario](#)
 - Most recent meeting: March 21, 2022
 - **Readiness Reporting:** As of April 1, 2022, we have 414 Regular Corps officers and 1 Ready Reserve officer. 97% are either basic ready or exempt. 12 are not qualified. If you are having trouble maintaining readiness, please reach out to us for assistance.
 - The SC is partnering with the Policy SC to address questions from officers regarding the latest policies on deployment and readiness:

- CCI [241.01](#), “Readiness and Duty Requirements”
- CCI [241.02](#), “Deployment of PHS Officers”
- POM 821.75 “Readiness Compliance”
- LCDRs Martin and Restrepo presented on Cultural Awareness and Cultural Humility on March 16. Thanks to those who attended the event. The SC is currently planning a presentation on behavioral and mental health prior to, during, and following a deployment. More details will be forthcoming.
- Every officer will be required to have a Deployment Preparation Plan on file with RDB. A deadline has not been established.
- A “Just in Time” refresher training on cultural competency will be provided once an officer is identified for deployment. Please see email from CCHQ sent out March 1 of this year.
- Please check the [RDB home page](#) often for updates on readiness information.
- Instructions for filling out your deployment role(s) can be found at the end of these minutes.
- **Mentoring SC:** LCDR Shayne Gallaway; Co-Chairs: CDR Tyson Volkmann; LCDR Patrick High
 - Most recent meeting: March 28, 2022
 - Next meeting: April 25, 2022; 11am ET
 - **SC Chair/Co-chairs**
 - Individual outreach has been initiated to transition/formalize all psychologist officers’ mentor agreements as SciPAC mentoring agreements. At present, documentation has been received from 14 (74%) of 19 officers. We will follow up with non-respondent officers at least twice.
 - We are considering how recent policy releases and new unclear information pertaining to Categories and promotion may impact what we do as a SC.
 - **Mentor Recruitment Team:**
 - If you do not have a Scientist mentor, or are not serving as a Scientist mentor, [apply to be part of the SciPAC Mentoring Program](#). For any questions, email LCDR Shayne Gallaway.
 - **Mentor Matching Team**
 - Currently 142 active mentor-mentee agreements on file, and there are 9 unmatched mentee applicants (7 from CDC, 1 from FDA, 2 from DoD).
 - 2 new mentor-mentee match agreements
 - 50% of Scientist Officers are engaged as either a mentor or mentee.
 - **Mentor Capacity-Building Team**
 - CDR Rivera will represent the MCBT during Category Day by acting out the senior officer/supervisor scenario, and LCDRs Gallaway and Chen will serve as group moderators.
 - CAPT Arlin Hatch, CAPT Sara Newman, and CDR Alison Halpin have agreed to serve as panelists for the Mentoring Panel Discussion held during the July 5 SciPAC monthly meeting. CDR Jeremy Wally will serve as a back-up panelist. LT Simmons and CDR Clingman will moderate the panel discussion. We are requesting that this session be recorded.

- **Policy SC:** CDR Adam Bjork; Co-chair: LCDR Matthew Steele
 - There have been a number of major policy updates from CCHQ, including three new directives which have major implications for all officers. Please see the attached slide deck for a summary of these changes. The Policy SC is actively working with the EB and CPO to understand the full impact of these policies and may have additional communications as we gather additional information.
 - CCD [122.02](#), “Force Distribution and Management,”
 - CCD [122.01](#), “Promotions”
 - CCD [124.01](#), “Retirement”
 - In addition, three other policies have recently been issued/revised relating to deployment and readiness. The Deployment and Readiness SC, in conjunction with the Policy SC will send a summary of these changes via the listserv. All officers are urged to familiarize themselves with the revised readiness requirements. Failure to maintain readiness can lead to serious consequences including failure of promotion, loss of special pays, and/or disciplinary action.
 - CCI [241.01](#), “Readiness and Duty Requirements”
 - CCI [241.02](#), “Deployment of PHS Officers”
 - POM 821.75 “Readiness Compliance”
 - Finally, several other policies have been recently issued. The Policy SC will issue a communication summarizing the changes to these policies via the listserv.
 - CCD [125.04](#) “Fellowships, Scholarships, and Grants”
 - CCI [821.80](#) “Special Annual Leave Accrual”
 - CCI [383.01](#) “Death of an Active-Duty Officer”
 - CCD [121.06](#) “Protected Communications”
 - CCI 371.02 “Junior COSTEP”
 - CCI 371.03 “Senior COSTEP”
 - POM 821.84 “COSTEP”
 - CCI 222.01 “Transgender PHS Officers”
 - CCI 311.06 “Religious Accommodations”
 - CCI 384.01 “Creditable Service for Retirement”
 - Dental coverage will transition from Delta Dental to United Concordia on July 2, 2022. No action is required by individual Public Health Service officers for enrollment in the new dental plan. Please review the new plan documents and procedures as they are quite different from the previous dental plan.
 - Regarding return to assigned work sites, officers of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps are included in their agency’s Return to Worksite plan and should follow the return-to-worksite guidance mandated by their duty station (employing agency). If you have any questions about returning to your worksite or telework, please contact your agency liaison.
 - If preparing for deployment, officers are strongly encouraged to complete the new Cultural Competency Deployment Refresher Program on cultural competency best practices for Public Health Service officers. A CCLMS link and request to take the refresher will be included in pre-deployment correspondence from the Readiness and Deployment Branch for all Public Health Service officers deployed starting on your next deployment. Completion of the Deployment Refresher is highly recommended

but is not a requirement for basic readiness. The Deployment Refresher is distinct from the Cultural Awareness Course, which is required annually for all Public Health Service officers.

- **Psychologist Integration SC:** LCDR Kate Morris and LCDR Patrick Sears
 - Most recent meeting: March 21, 2022
 - Next meeting: April 19, 2022; 2pm ET
 - PI SC representatives have been welcomed into each existing SciPAC SC. We continue to work to ensure that issues unique to psychologists are addressed.

- **Recruitment and Retention SC:** LCDR George Mitzner; Co-Chair: LCDR Julia Zucco
 - **Resources:** Top Tips 2022 completed and pending SciPAC website upload.
 - **Interested Applicant Team:** The Team has a proposal under review with the EB to become a more proactive recruitment team that would facilitate any Scientist interested in carrying out a recruitment activity with coordination, support, and updated presentation materials.
 - **OBC Engagement:**
 - The OBC 135 virtual Open House was held March 22, 2022. Thank you to LT Shara Francin for representing SciPAC. Please welcome our newest Scientists:
 - LT Catharine (Cate) Pritchard – NIH
 - LT Shaniece Theodore – CDC
 - LT Ruth Oni – FDA
 - If you are interested in representing SciPAC at future OBC Open Houses, please reach out to CDR Cesar Perez and LT Elizabeth Johnson.

- **New CAD Seminars:** ****Open to all officers****
 - The “Cross-PAC EIS/LLS Job Search” seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, **April 20, 2022** (12–1pm ET). The panel will include Officers from: SciPAC, PPAC, NursePAC and VetPAC. A seminar preparation meeting will be on April 11, 2022, with the panelists.
 - To receive an invitation for the next seminar or if you would like to brief on Deployments, Officership, Self-care, Life Changes, Retirement and Financial Planning; contact LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond and LT Jessica Meeker.

- **CDC New Officer Monthly Meeting:**
 - ****Open to Scientists from all agencies within 3 years CAD or at O-3 grade****
 - **Last meeting:** March 18, 2022, where CAPT Ross Spears discussed working on emergency response teams, challenged faced during deployment (balancing deployments and day job, time away from family, etc.), resilience, officership, career progression, pride of wearing the uniform, and writing awards.
 - **Next meeting:** Friday April 15, 2022, at 12PM EST.
 - For details, invitation, or to be added to the distribution list, contact LT Marissa Hast, LT Sean Griffing, LT Freeman-Ponder, and LCDR Jamie Mells.

- **EIS/LLS:**
 - Collaboration with New CAD Seminars for the “Cross-PAC EIS/LLS Job Search” talk scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2022, from 12 to 1 PM EST.

- **Separation Survey:** The Team’s proposal under EB review enables Scientist Officers to

receive information and support regarding the decision to remain serving or separate from the USPHS CC. The intent is to engage early to assist the Officer in their decision-making process.

- Any Scientist separating or retiring from service may complete the [Separation Survey](#).
- Note: Some agencies have trouble with Google forms on government systems, so feel free to complete it on a personal/alternate device.
- The last question will ask for an email or phone number for a Recruitment and Retention Team member to contact you regarding an extended 30-minute phone interview, if you are so inclined.
- Please contact [LCDR Jorielle Houston](#) and [CDR Wade Keckler](#) for questions.

- **Rules and Membership SC:** [CDR Alice Shumate](#); Co-chair: [CDR Dan-My Chu](#)
 - Next meeting: Friday, April 29, 2022; 3pm ET/12noon PT
 - The call for SciPAC Voting Member nominations will go out this week! Please consider nominating yourself for Voting Membership. If you are a mentor for an officer who should consider Voting Membership, please encourage them and plan to review and provide comments on their nomination package.
 - We plan to update the Rules & Membership SOP during April to reflect changes in the Voting Member selection process.
 - Review of the SciPAC SOP is currently in progress.
 - The SciPAC Annual Report is nearly finished; thanks to all who have responded to requests for additional information.
 - Rules & Membership is happy to be joining forces with the Science SC as we begin work on a Scientist directory. More information to come soon.

- **Science SC:** [CDR Kamil Barbour](#); Co-chairs: [LCDR Israel Cross](#), [LCDR Teresa Wang](#)
 - **State of Scientists (SoS) Team**
 - 2022 SoS fielding ended on March 29. Thank you to the 271 officers who responded to this survey! The team will be presenting a summary of key findings during the August monthly SciPAC meeting.
 - As a reminder, a 12-month SurveyMonkey license was acquired on February 28, and SOS Team is coordinating with other teams to support data collection efforts
 - Please contact [LCDR Hilda Razzaghi](#) and [LCDR Shondelle Wilson-Frederick](#) with related questions
 - **Research and Practice Team**
 - April webinar (date TBD) is pending finalization and poised to feature work surrounding “The US drug overdose epidemic and CDC’s drug overdose and cannabis work” among several officers.
 - Please contact [CDR Ruiqing Pamboukian](#) and [LT Ying Lin](#) with any questions
 - **Bibliography Team**
 - Officers are requested to provide information about their publications and presentations using [this survey](#) by April 8, 2022. In collaboration with the Visibility SC’s Publications Team, they are requesting:
 - All scientific products that you authored, co-authored, published, or presented between January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021. These may include journal

articles, pre-prints, white papers, books and book chapters, reports, abstracts, and conference presentations – feel free to cut and paste portions from your CV, PubMed, or other sources.

- First-author publications from January 1–March 18, 2022, that have been published in peer-reviewed journals. We will be requesting 2022 first-author publications on a quarterly basis to better highlight Scientist Officer contributions in a timely manner
- Data collected will be used for compilation of the 2021 Scientist Bibliography, among other initiatives to highlight fellow officers’ works
- Please contact LCDR Brett Forshey and LT Nicholas Deputy with any questions
- **SG-PEERS Team**
 - Team is collating a database of Scientist officers and their areas of scientific expertise. In the short-term, this resource will help SciPAC leadership more readily identify potential leads for spearheading scientifically driven requests, speakers for webinars, and membership for potential communities of practice. In the long-term, the database will have the potential to serve as a key cross-cutting resource for SciPAC activities and our fellow officers.
 - Please provide LCDR Leora Feldstein and LT Lindsay Womack with the following information **by May 1, 2022**:
 - For which of the following current Surgeon General's Priorities do you have experience or expertise? (Please indicate “expert” if you are someone with comprehensive or authoritative knowledge in a particular subject matter):
 - Opioids and Addiction
 - Tobacco and E-Cigarettes
 - Community Health and Economic Prosperity (e.g., preventable chronic disease, behavioral health issues)
 - Oral Health
 - Emerging Public Health Threats (e.g., COVID-19, Ebola, Zika, Acute Flaccid Myelitis)
 - If yes, please specify which public health threat
 - If yes for COVID-19, please provide the specific sub-specialty (e.g., epidemiology, immunology, policy, etc.)
 - Please list other areas of public health subject matter expertise attributed to you
 - Please also include your rank, agency, job title, email, and phone number(s)
 - Any questions can be directed to LCDR Leora Feldstein or LT Lindsay Womack
- **Visibility SC:** LCDR Colleen Scott; Co-Chairs: LCDR Angela Thompson-Paul, LCDR Adriana Restrepo
 - **Newsletter Team:**
 - The Newsletter Team is finishing review of the Winter edition. Please be on the lookout for it soon.
 - Please contact newsletter team lead LCDR Kelly Shaw for any questions regarding article submissions.
 - **Socials Team:**

- No updates
- **Publications Team:**
 - The publications team would like to thank everyone who responded to the call for publications. Please be on the lookout for more frequent opportunities to report first-author publications for 2022. These more frequent calls will be made quarterly in addition to our annual call for scientific products to allow us to provide a near-real time snapshot of the ongoing work, leading to published scientific findings, across our category.
- **Twitter Team:**
 - This month the SciPAC Twitter Team tweeted/retweeted a total of 116 times, and generated 7,011 new impressions, 633 new engagements, 116 new likes and 5,890 profile visits! This brings us to an incredible 214,010 all-time Tweet impressions!
 - We reached another exciting milestone in March 2022 – we surpassed 100,000 all-time profile visits!
- **Facebook Team:**
 - In March 2022, there were 272 views, 12 posts, and 26 expressions on the SciPAC Facebook page.
 - There are currently 186 Facebook members. If you aren't already a member you can request membership here.
- **LinkedIn/Instagram Team:** The Team will meet in April to discuss edits to SOP.
- **SciPAC Symposium Poster Team:** The Team is working on the poster to highlight the amazing contributions of our psychologists to the USPHS mission, as well as spotlight selected psychologists with exceptional accomplishments. In parallel, the team is putting together an article on this topic for the SciPAC Newsletter.
- **Conferences Team:**
 - Upcoming conferences include:
 - Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) in Louisville, KY June 19-23 – this is in person
- **Fist Bump Team:**
 - In March, the Fist Bump Team received 1 new Fist Bump nomination.
- **(Ad Hoc) History Team**
 - Team met with Website SC POC to discuss options for adding the timeline and relevant artifacts to the SciPAC website
 - Decision was made on how to move this project forward and how to include these materials on the website
- **Website SC:** Chair: LCDR Ruth Link-Gelles; Co-chairs: LCDR Elizabeth Edwards, LCDR Matthew Stuckey
 - Last SC meeting: March 17, 2022
 - Next SC meeting (tentative): May 19, 2022; 11am ET
 - Current Activities
 - As of April 5, 2022, the SC received 28 update requests; 26 requests are complete and 2 are pending.
 - Website and Visibility SCs continue to collaborate on a major update to the SciPAC

- history webpage; all new content is now developed and formatted and will be submitted for internal review this month
- Please visit our [SciPAC website](#) for additional information on SC activities and monthly meeting minutes.

Liaison Reports

- **Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. (AMSUS):** CAPT Mark Scheckelhoff
 - Nothing significant to report.
- **CC Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB):** LCDR Marissa Zwald
 - Last CCWIAB meeting: March 2, 2022
 - Next CCWIAB meeting: April 13, 2022
 - CCWIAB Executive Chair, RADM Kelly Taylor, retired in March and RADM Richardae Araojo has been selected to serve as Chair.
 - CCWIAB's Anti-Harassment Committee has compiled feedback from women officers on the newest online harassment training required by headquarters, and working to share this feedback with Corps Care and CCHQ.
 - CCWIAB and the Women's Leadership Support Group (WLSG) are working together to develop a combined listserv to serve as a resource and forum to connect on issues impacting women PHS officers. Once this listserv becomes available, information to join will be shared with SciPAC.
 - If you have any questions about CCWIAB or the committees' initiatives below, please contact LCDR Zwald, or visit [CCWIAB's website](#).
- **Commissioned Officers Association (COA):** LCDR Julia Zucco
 - Most recent meeting: March 13, 2022; Outreach Meeting with new officers
 - On March 13, 2022, the Outreach Committee hosted a COA Meet and Greet with Officers who attended OBC on or after July 1, 2021. We had giveaways, prizes for trivia and scavenger hunts, and break-out rooms for officers to meet other COA members. If you would like to join in such efforts to meet these officers, please contact LCDR Julia Zucco.
 - A call for hosting a satellite Surgeon General's 5k Run (live and virtual) went out recently. Tentative 5k run dates are May 23–June 5, 2022. If you would like to host a satellite race, email LT Samora Casimir and cc LT Austin Van Horn and LCDR Matthew Ellis with your name, COA branch, and an alternate contact for the event.
 - [Registration](#) is open for the 2022 USPHS Symposium in Phoenix, AZ, May 23–27, 2022. This is the first time this will be held in-person in 3 years, so a great opportunity to reconnect with your fellow officers as well as meet new ones!
- **IT Chartered Advisory Committee (ICAC):** LT Kelly Shaw
 - Nothing significant to report.
- **Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG):** LT Xia Michelle Lin
 - Most recent meeting: February 12, 2022
 - The April general membership meeting has been rescheduled to May during the

- USPHS Symposium. More details will be announced from the JOAG listserv.
- JOAG Voting member [call for nominations](#) has been extended to April 6, 2022.
 - In celebration of Earth month, JOAG Readiness & Deployment Committee invites you to take part in a 5K run/10K walk and PLOGGING series - more details are in the March 28 JOAG listserv announcement.
 - JOAG Professional Development Book Club is having a live discussion. Please listen to the TED Talks (information is available in the March 28 JOAG listserv announcement) before the discussion.
 - Date: April 27, 2022; Time: 1400–1500 ET
 - Zoom Meeting: <https://fda.zoomgov.com/j/1609556496>
 - Meeting ID: 160 955 6496; Dial: US: +1 669 254 5252 or 833 568 8864
 - Contacts: [LT Keisha Bryan](#) or [LT Christie Garcia](#)
 - JOAG calls for local (AZ) volunteers during the USPHS Symposium: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0945AEAD28A5FF2-20221>
 - JOAG community service event volunteers needed during the USPHS Symposium in AZ: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0945AEAD28A5FF2-2022>
 - **Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE):** [LT Lacreisha Ejike-King](#)
 - Most recent meeting: February 10, 2022
 - Next meeting: April 14, 2022; 2:00 pm ET
<https://fda.zoomgov.com/j/1608824782?pwd=V1FzWFd4aW4zNGFXM1hpWE9EQ3ZNZz09> Meeting ID 160 882 4782; Passcode 4q#Qqk
 - Officership opportunities:
 - The PACE Communications Subcommittee is recruiting volunteers to serve on the Editorial Board of the new PACE newsletter. Term lengths for these positions will align with the PACE operational year. Available Positions and Brief Position Descriptions:
 - Managing Editor (1): Manages the newsletter Gmail account, review all submissions for conformity with the submission guidelines, and oversee the review process
 - Technical Editors (2): Reviews technical aspects of the submissions, ensuring that content is relevant and clear
 - Copy Editors (2): Reviews grammatical aspects of the submissions
 - Layout Editor (1): Compiles reviewed content into final layout
 - Staff Writer (1): Conceptualizes and writes articles for publication
- Please send the following documents to [CDR Zewditu Demissie](#) and [LT Melina Rodriguez Upton](#) for consideration by COB April 15, 2022 ET.
- Most recent copy of your CV (Please include any PACE experience)
 - A one-page letter indicating which position(s) you are applying for and describing any relevant previous editorial/newsletter experience
 - A screenshot of your readiness screen showing you are basic ready
- Awards:
 - The call for 2022 PACE awards is now open. There are two kinds of PACE awards:

- PACE PHS Awards are PHS awards with the accompanying ribbon and/or medal (Achievement Medals, Unit Commendations, etc.) and are reviewed by an external awards board at CCHQ. Award nominations can include activities within the previous 13 months. The due date is April 8, 2022, at 11:59 PST. Nominations should be sent to all of the following officers: CDR Brittany Keener, LCDR Kristin Allmaras, and LT Kathryn McNamara. Any questions should also be directed to these officers.
 - PACE Annual Awards are reviewed and scored by the PACE Annual Awards Working Group and will be awarded at the 2022 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium in May 2022. There are three PACE Annual Awards: Individual, Group, and Regional. Awards cover the past 2 Calendar Years (1/1/20-12/31/21). These awards are similar to a PAC or JOAG award and will be uploaded to the officer(s)' e-OPF as an official PACE award. Please see the PACE listserv announcement for the three PACE Annual Awards and required cover sheet. The due date is April 15, 2022, at 2359 PST. Award nominations should be sent to all of the following officers: LCDR Jorielle Houston, LCDR Diane Richardson, and LCDR Stacy Yung
 - The new OSG-approved PACE lessons are now live.
- **Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Advisory Group (SOAGDAG):** LCDR Luis Iturriaga
 - Most recent meeting: March 28, 2022
 - Next meeting: April 25, 2022; 1:00pm ET
 - SciPAC EB received guidance from SOAGDAG on better inclusion of LGBTQ+ officers into Voting Member roles for OSG-chartered groups, including PACs.
 - CCI 222.01 Policy distributed and did not cover non-binary colleagues. SOAGDAG Policy Committee to provide feedback to OSG. The ASH informed that SOAGDAG is always ready and able to review any policy that affects LGBTQ+ officers and that SOAGDAG should be leveraged for feedback before updated or new policies are released.
 - Both the Policy Committee Review of CCI 222.01 and the Policy were added to the SOAGDAG Policy Max.gov site (SOAGDAG Policy - Dept of Health and Human Services - MAX Federal Community).
 - The ASH visited Region 10 and noted her briefing book had SOAGDAG highlighted as an item of interest.
 - The Education and Training SC is working on the Speaker Series and lining up additional speakers and seeking interest from those who have already been identified.
 - SOAGDAG is working with CCWIAB on an anti-harassment presentation for use at future OBCs.
 - The first book club will be held on April 29, 2022 (2pm ET). Book: You Exist Too Much by Zaina Ararat. Register at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HR97HMC>.
 - Additional volunteers are needed to lead the following: Seasonal soiree in December, Game night, 2023 Symposium Social Planning, and 2023 AMSUS Planning Committee Liaison.
 - LT Hardy will be presenting at the USPHS Symposium on a LGBTQ+ initiative.

NOTE: Next meeting—Tuesday, **May 3, 2022**; 12:00–1:00pm ET

Appendix: Instructions on Selecting a Deployment Role (from the Deployment Preparedness SC)

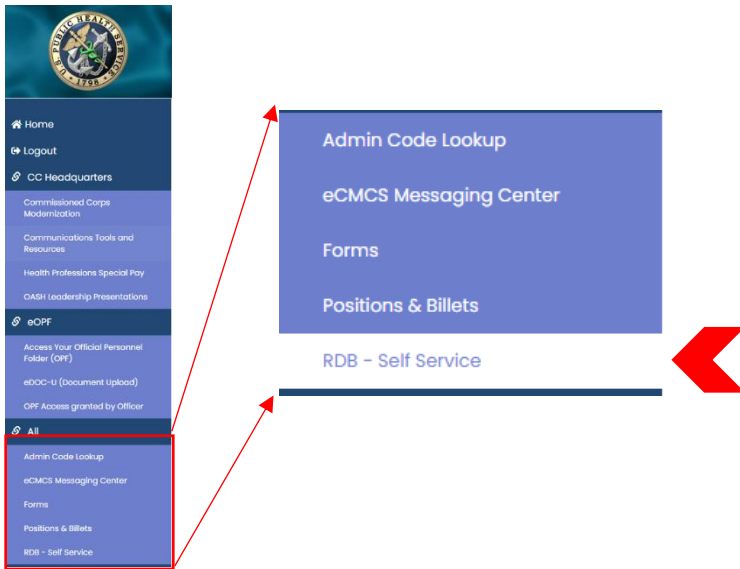
Selecting A Deployment Role

Officers are assigned a primary deployment role based on their qualifying degree as laid out in [CCI 241.01](#). Officers can add in a subspeciality as well as secondary roles as needed. Deployment role information is housed in the Self-Service System managed by the Readiness and Deployment Branch (RDB). The following instructions will demonstrate the process:

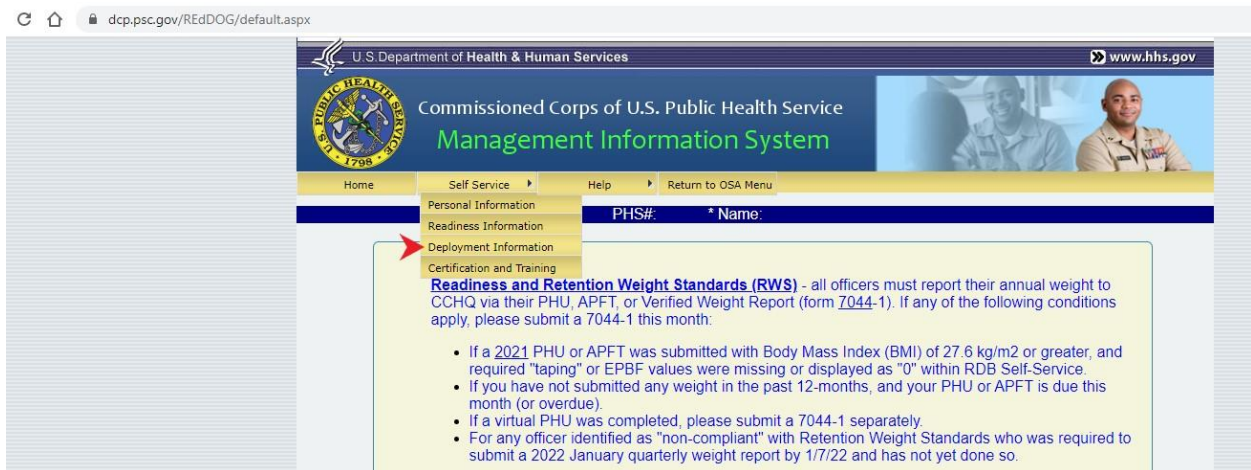
1. Go to Commissioned Corps Management Information System (CCMIS) website (<http://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/>). Click on the **“Login”** tab and then on the **“Officer Secure Area Sign In.”**

The screenshot shows the CCMIS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following tabs: Login, Assignments, COER, Financial Services, Forms, Medical Affairs, Personnel & Career Mgmt, Policy, Promotions, Readiness, and Training. A red arrow points to the 'Login' tab, which has a dropdown menu open. The dropdown menu contains the following options: eCORPS, Officer Secure Area Sign In (highlighted with a red line), AMS Integration, Commissioned Corps Learning Management System (CCLMS), Responder e-Learn, and Contact CC Helpdesk. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar with the placeholder text 'I'm looking for...'. The main content area features a news article titled 'it CDC.gov for Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health Updates'. On the left side, there are several widgets: 'Visit coronavirus.gov', 'DOCTRINE' (United States Public Health Commissioned Corps Doctrine), 'Veterans Crisis Line' (Military Crisis Line), and 'UPDATES' (Important Information Regarding DEERS and ID Cards During COVID-19). On the right side, there is a 'TWEETS' widget featuring a tweet from ADM Rachel Levine (@HHS_ASH) about adolescent alcohol use, and an 'OASH' (Office of Population Affairs) widget about substance use in adolescents.

2. Sign into to the Officer Secure Area. Click on the “RDB – Self Service” link.



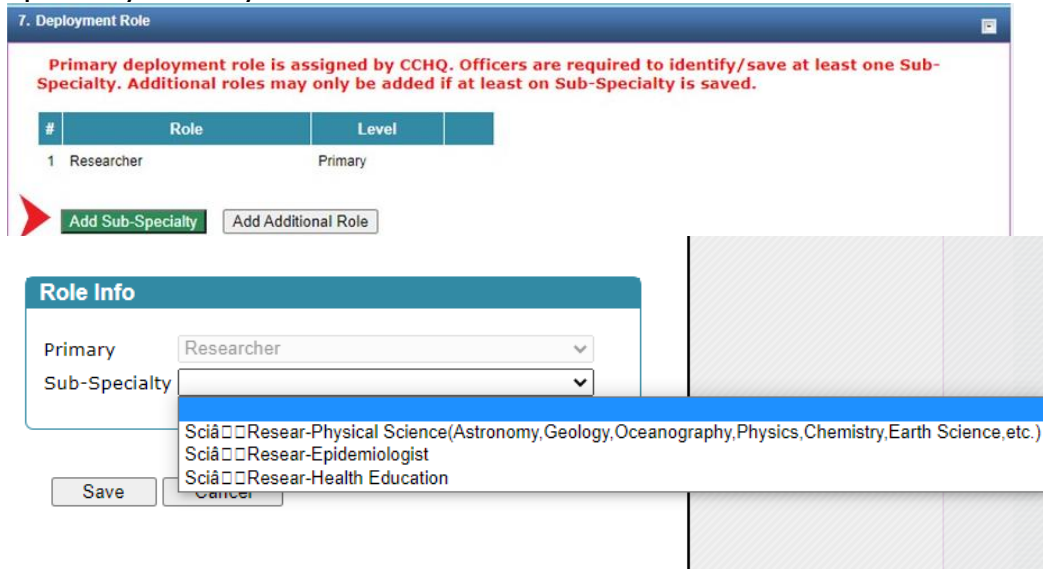
3. Click on the “Self Service” tab and then on “Readiness Information.”



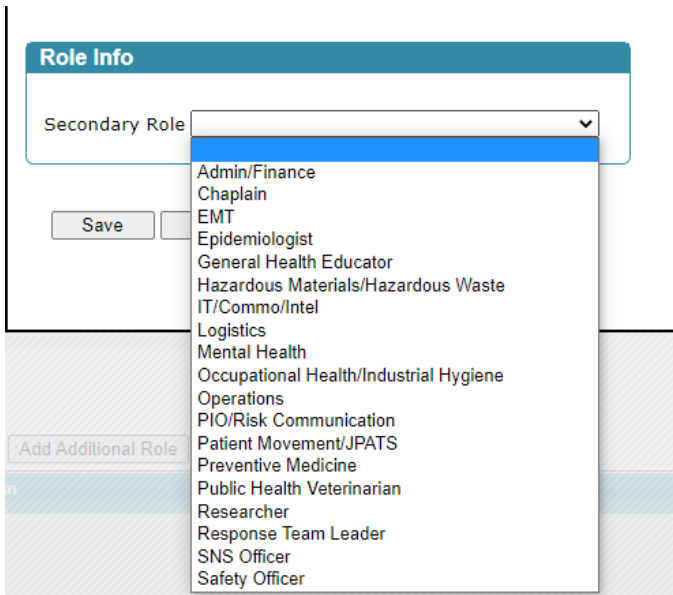
4. Click the “**Deployment Role**” to expand the menu. Verify that your assigned role matches your qualifying degree. If it does not, contact RDB at PHSReadiness@hhs.gov.



5. If needed, click on “**Add Sub-Specialty**” and select the appropriate sub-specialty. **Save** your selection.



6. If you would like to add secondary role(s), select “Add Additontal Role” and pick the desired role(s) from the menu. Remember to **save** your selection. Repeat as needed.



The image shows a screenshot of a web form titled "Role Info". The form has a teal header. Below the header, there is a "Secondary Role" dropdown menu. A "Save" button is located to the left of the dropdown. Below the dropdown, there is a list of roles. A button labeled "Add Additional Role" is visible at the bottom left of the form area.

Role
Admin/Finance
Chaplain
EMT
Epidemiologist
General Health Educator
Hazardous Materials/Hazardous Waste
IT/Commo/Intel
Logistics
Mental Health
Occupational Health/Industrial Hygiene
Operations
PIO/Risk Communication
Patient Movement/JPATS
Preventive Medicine
Public Health Veterinarian
Researcher
Response Team Leader
SNS Officer
Safety Officer

7. You're done!



Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service Scientist Professional Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes; June 7, 2022

Total Attendance: 209 attendees; 51 excused absences

Chief Scientist Officer and Executive Board Members

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Sandhu, Sukhminder K.	Chief Scientist Officer	Present
CDR	Dee, Deborah	Chair	Present
CDR	Shumate, Alice	Vice Chair; Rules & Membership Chair	Present
LCDR	Bowen, Ginny	Executive Secretary	Present
CDR	Rossiter, Lana	Executive Liaison	Present
CDR	Wilken, Jason	Ex-Officio Chairperson	Excused

Voting Members (SC = Subcommittee)

Rank	Name	Role	
CDR	Barbour, Kamil	Science SC Chair	Present
CDR	Bjork, Adam	Policy SC Chair	Present
CDR	Demissie, Zewditu	Awards SC Chair	Present
CDR	Halldin, Cara	Career Development SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Pesce, John	Deployment Preparedness SC Chair	Excused
LCDR	Chen, Debra	Category Day SC Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Edwards, Elizabeth	Website SC Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Gallaway, Shayne	Mentoring SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Levine, Rebecca	Category Day SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Link-Gelles, Ruth	Website SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Mitzner, George	Recruitment and Retention SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Morris, Kate	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Muniz-Ortiz, Jorge	Deployment Preparedness SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Scott, Colleen	Visibility SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Thompson-Paul, Angela	Visibility SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Zhang, Xinzhi	Career Development SC Chair	Present

Non-Voting Liaisons

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Scheckelhoff, Mark	AMSUS Liaison	Present
LCDR	Iturriaga, Luis	SOAGDAG Liaison	Present
LCDR	Zucco, Julia	COA Liaison	Present
LCDR	Zwald, Marissa	CCWIAB Liaison	Excused
LT	Ejike-King, Lacreisha	PACE Liaison	Present
LT	Lin, Michelle	JOAG Liaison	Present
LT	Shaw, Kelly	ICAC Liaison	Excused

Participation by Non-Voting Scientist Officers: RADM Theresa Lawrence; CAPT Karon Abe; CAPT Nelson Adekoya; CAPT Marco Bennett; CAPT Matthew Breiding; CAPT Julie Chodacki; CAPT Laura Draski; CAPT Dominic Frasca; CAPT Jeffrey Goodie; CAPT Sally Hu; CAPT Ruth Jiles; CAPT James Kenney; CAPT Mehran Massoudi; CAPT Joel Montgomery; CAPT Matthew Murphy; CAPT Timothy Nelle; CAPT Sara Newman; CAPT Ryan Novak; CAPT Loren Rodgers; CAPT Erin Sauber-Schatz; CAPT Kenneth Sekulic; CAPT Andrea Sharma; CAPT Michael Smith; CAPT Jacqueline Tate; CAPT Jennifer Thomas; CAPT Douglas Thoroughman; CAPT Robin Toblin; CAPT Fuyuen Yip; CDR Qiao Bobo; CDR Tegan Boehmer; CDR Robert Burns; CDR Renee Calanan; CDR Dianna Carroll; CDR Dan-My Chu; CDR Chekesha Clingman; CDR Eduardo Cua; CDR Minglei Cui; CDR Judy Facey; CDR Joanna Gaines; CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor; CDR David Huang; CDR Elizabeth Irvin; CDR Emily Jentes; CDR Neal Kimble; CDR Jean Ko; CDR Matthew Lozier; CDR Mark Miller; CDR Lara Misegades; CDR Joy Mobley; CDR Carrie Nielsen; CDR Erika Odom; CDR Ruiqing Pamboukian; CDR Cesar Perez; CDR Cria Perrine; CDR Chris Poulson; CDR Gabriela Ramirez-Leon; CDR Meghan Reilly; CDR Luz Rivera; CDR Alfredo Sancho; CDR Sharon Saydah; CDR Emily Streeter; CDR Peter Thomas; CDR Sharyl Trail; CDR Michelle Tsai; CDR James Tyson; CDR Nadra Tyus; CDR Sara Vagi; CDR Tyson Volkmann; CDR Maroya Walters; CDR Angela Williams; CDR Matthew Wise; CDR Geoffrey Wu; CDR Fei Xu; CDR Lauren Zapata; CDR Yi Zhang; CDR Eric Zhou; LCDR Francis Annor; LCDR Tajah Blackburn; LCDR Tyann Blessington; LCDR Nicholas Buhr; LCDR Jason Caballero; LCDR Israel Cross; LCDR Jessica Dunn; LCDR Brendan Eberenz; LCDR Leora Feldstein; LCDR Amy Freeland; LCDR Eboni Galloway; LCDR Bradley Goodwin; LCDR Yoran Grant-Greene; LCDR Alesha Harris; LCDR Kathleen Hartnett; LCDR Iram Hassan; LCDR Andrew Hickey; LCDR Patrick High; LCDR NaTasha Hollis; LCDR Jorielle Houston; LCDR Keisha Houston Jenkins; LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson; LCDR Asha Ivey-Stephenson; LCDR Eric Jamoom; LCDR Lisa Jarvis-Durham; LCDR Folasade Kembi; LCDR Alaine Knipes; LCDR Jonathan Leshin; LCDR Kimberly (Shay) Litton-Belcher; LCDR Xiaowu Lu; LCDR Neali Lucas; LCDR Iman Martin; LCDR Jamie Mells; LCDR Emily Mosites; LCDR Jonetta Mpofo; LCDR Ashleigh Murriel; LCDR Julie O'Donnell; LCDR Marilyn Park; LCDR Adriana Restrepo; LCDR Leslie Rivera-Rosado; LCDR Stephanie Rutledge; LCDR Rachel Slayton; LCDR Pilgrim Spikes; LCDR Matthew Steele; LCDR Scott Steffen; LCDR Matthew Stuckey; LCDR Sarah Swift; LCDR Nancy Tian; LCDR Jessica Tomov; LCDR Teresa Wang; LCDR Nana Wilson; LCDR Marcienne Wright; LT Sophia Ajoku; LT Prince Awuah; LT Olubukola Banmeke; LT Evan Brown; LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond; LT Peter DeJonge; LT Nicholas Deputy; LT Brett Dodd; LT Njere English; LT Dianca Finch; LT Brandi Freeman-Ponder; LT Bryan Galvez; LT Sean Griffing; LT Jayleen Gunn; LT Marisa Hast; LT Carolyn Herzig; LT Jesica Jacobs; LT Pushpa (Suresh) Jayasekara; LT Emmanuel Jeffrey; LT Elizabeth Johnson; LT Michelle Johnson; LT Jueichuan (Connie) Kang; LT Florence Kanu; LT Christine Kim; LT Taneshia Knight; LT Ian Kracalik; LT Michael Krage; LT Ana Lauer; LT David Mackenzie-Liu; LT Sean Marcsisin; LT Kristin Marks; LT Gina Masessa; LT Oren Mayer; LT Kevin McDermott; LT Olivia McGovern; LT Neil Milan; LT Yasmin Ogale; LT Ruth Oni; LT Megan Peck; LT Stephanie Pitts; LT Anthony Powell; LT Catharine (Cate) Pritchard; LT Jazmin Reed; LT Tia Rogers; LT Adelaida Rosario; LT Beth Rubenstein; LT Phillip Salvatore; LT Marsha Samson; LT Amy Schuh; LT Lillian Smith; LT Shaniece Theodore; LT David Thorn; LT Tanesha Tutt; LT Carrie Whitworth; LT Lindsay Womack; LT Lauren Woodard; LT Kerui Xu; LT Shannon York

Excused Absences of Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Drue Barrett; CAPT Aditya Bhagwat; CAPT Heidi Daniels; CAPT Aimee Geissler; CAPT John Hayes; CAPT Leslie MacDonald; CAPT Mark Methner; CAPT Martin Sanders; CAPT William Satterfield; CDR David Barry; CDR Daniela Cohn-Aizic; CDR Anne Marie France; CDR Tracie Gardner; CDR Sherry Gracey; CDR Brian Harcourt; CDR Alison Laufer Halpin; CDR Terrence Lo; CDR Andrea McCollum; CDR Leigh Ann Miller; CDR Todd Myers; CDR Sanny Northbrook; CDR Sharyn Parks Brown; CDR Jessica Schultz Fischer; CDR Jeff Showalter; CDR Jacqueline Sram; LCDR Christine Brady; LCDR William Davis; LCDR Mary Lela Demby; LCDR Samantha DiMisa; LCDR Brooke Hoots; LCDR Victoria Jeisy-Scott; LCDR Shiny Mathew; LCDR Rashid Njai; LCDR Mary Puckett; LCDR Hilda Razzaghi; LCDR Rhondie Tait; LCDR Emily Ussey; LT Andrew Brown; LT Anna Chard; LT Robert Gahl; LT Amanda Hott; LT Ying Lin; LT Brian Reiner; LT Kelsey Sumner

Key Abbreviations:

CAD = Call to Active Duty

CCHQ = Commissioned Corps Headquarters

COB = close of business

CPO = Chief Professional Officer

DSG = Deputy Surgeon General

EB = Executive Board

EIS/LLS = Epidemic Intelligence Service / Laboratory Leadership Service

OBC = Officer Basic Course

OSG = Office of the Surgeon General

POC = Point of Contact

SC = Subcommittee

SOP = Standard Operating Procedures

Call to Order and Welcome: CDR Deborah Dee

CPO Report: CAPT Sukhminder K. Sandhu

- Promotion results were released yesterday (June 6) by CCHQ—much earlier than in previous years. CAPT Sandhu commended the early release and showed appreciation for the hard work that was involved in getting results out so quickly. She also congratulated all those that were promoted this year. Although she noted that it's encouraging to see slight increases in the proportion of Scientist officers promoted to the O-5 and O-6 ranks, she noted that it's not high enough to recognize all the qualified and deserving officers. PAC Chairs will be reviewing promotion results and promotion board comments over the coming weeks in order to become better prepared to offer feedback.
- CAPT Sandhu will be taking time to digest the synopsis of comments provided by CCHQ; this is the first time comments have been summarized across the service and by Category. She will also be analyzing any additional data that become available to the CPOs; there is currently limited information available, but she will share more if/when she learns more.
- On another positive note—although the permanent promotion lists will not be available until the President has signed off on them, CCHQ shared that the promotion rate is 100% for permanent promotion across all categories and ranks.
- CAPT Sandhu thanked those who could attend the PHS Symposium last month—especially the presenters and coordinators who ensured we could hold this year's Symposium in person.
- CAPT Sandhu congratulated this year's JOAG Award recipients: **LCDR Xinzhi Zhang** is the recipient of the JOAG Junior Officer of the Year Award and **LCDR Rebecca Levine** is the recipient of the JOAG VADM C. Everett Koop Junior Officer Award.

Chair Report: CDR Deborah Dee

- Thank you to the SciPAC Category Day Subcommittee!
 - Category Day was outstanding—from the speaker line-up to the evening social, we could all see the hard work that went into the event, and we were very happy to have the opportunity—the first in several years—to be with one another. We appreciate your dedication and all the effort and thought you put into making the

day such a tremendous success. Kudos for making our “reunion” Category Day so fantastic!

- Speakers: wow – thank you for sharing your work, guidance, experiences with us through your presentations, all of which were so very well done, interesting, and informative.
- Attendees: it was great to reconnect with each other and so nice to see you all!
- Temporary promotion results were released June 6
 - Congratulations to those who were promoted! We are all happy for you and hope you will be able to find some time to celebrate your achievements and this career milestone.
 - Unfortunately, promotion rates were low, and many very deserving officers were not promoted. For those not promoted during this cycle, first of all, you already know that your rank does not define you nor does it represent the full impact and value of your work.
 - Missing promotion can generate a lot of emotions and can feel demoralizing, discouraging, depressing, or at least that’s how I felt last year. I won’t try to talk you out of whatever feelings you have – they are yours. I will share that it took me “a minute” (sarcasm there – it much longer than a minute) to process my feelings. Take the time you need to process yours, whatever they may be.
 - I was speaking with members of our SciPAC Mental Health and Well-Being Initiative about what “processing feelings” might entail and want to share some of what came of those discussions in case it helps even one person:
 - Whatever you’re feeling, be patient with yourself; give yourself some time to focus on those feelings. As one person shared with me, “It’s important to feel those feelings deeply.” Try to prioritize yourself and give yourself time to do that. We’re often quick to make time for others, while not doing the same for ourselves. Reconsider that, perhaps – you deserve some dedicated time.
 - Consider various ways to engage with whatever you’re feeling —maybe some stress-relieving exercise or meditation, listening to music you like, talking with a good friend who really listens.
 - It’s also okay to take some time to focus on something else entirely and not think about work or promotions. Grab a friend and go to a Braves (or Nationals or Reds or Rockies, etc.) game. Find the recipe for that elaborate dessert you wanted to make and give yourself an afternoon to make it. Spend time outside taking a long walk around your neighborhood, a hike in the mountains, or a bike ride somewhere you’ve always wanted to go. Whatever brings you happiness – let yourself do that and enjoy it.
 - All of this is not meant to suggest it is at all easy to accept a missed promotion – not at all. It can feel terrible not to be selected. We know how hard Scientists work and how dedicated Scientists are. If you were not promoted this cycle, I hope you will make time for yourself if you can. After you’ve done that and perhaps practiced some well-deserved self-care, when you’re ready to begin thinking about your next packet or if you want feedback on steps you might be able to take, know that we will be here, ready to talk with, support, and assist you. Perhaps you want to

pursue mentorship or reach out to identify a new mentor; maybe you want to think about a leadership role on a subcommittee during the upcoming SciPAC operational year or in your program. Whatever it is, if you want to talk it through or seek advice and guidance, please reach out to your SciPAC colleagues, whether to pursue formal promotion or career counseling, or something else entirely...we are here to help.

- Potential POCs:
 - [SciPAC Mentoring Subcommittee](#)
 - [SciPAC Career Development Subcommittee](#)
 - SciPAC Mental Health and Well-Being Initiative: [CDR Dee](#) or [LT Gina Masessa](#)
 - [CAPT Sandhu](#) and [CDR Dee](#) and your other Scientist colleagues

Vice Chair Report: [CDR Alice Shumate](#)

- Nothing significant to report.

Executive Secretary Report: [LCDR Ginny Bowen](#)

- If you dialed in to the meeting via phone (only), if your full name does not appear in Zoom, or if you have an excused absence to report, please report your attendance via email to [LCDR Ginny Bowen](#) with the email subject line “SciPAC Meeting Attendance.” Those logged in to Zoom with a full name will be captured automatically in the Zoom attendance log—no emails needed.
- Congratulations to newly promoted Officers! Ranks will be updated in our SciPAC roster and minutes as of the ‘effective date’ (i.e., pin on date) of the promotion.

Executive Liaison Report: [CDR Lana Rossiter](#)

- If a SC would like something reviewed by the EB or needs support, please email.
- The EB has completed review of documents from several SCs. If your SC has anything still pending, please check for an update.
- Review of SC SOPs has resumed, and feedback will be provided soon. SC Chairs please be on the lookout for requests related to SOP updates.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Awards SC:** [CDR Zewditu Demissie](#); Co-chairs: [LCDR Nancy Tian](#), [LCDR Mary Puckett](#)
 - We would like to thank the Category Day SC for helping us recognize our outstanding 2022 SciPAC awardees at the USPHS Symposium in May.
 - **CAPT Loren Rodgers**, **CDR Tegan Boehmer**, and **LCDR Xinzhi Zhang** were present to receive their award certificates. We are in the process of obtaining award plaques for all awardees.
- **Career Development SC:** [LCDR Xinzhi Zhang](#); Co-Chairs: [CDR Cara Halldin](#) and [CDR Minglei Cui](#)
 - **Training Team:** The Team provides professional training seminars and presentations related to the career development of Scientist officers. The team is planning a seminar

- on “New Benchmark Impact on Scientist/Psychologist Officers” for late July. If you have any questions, please contact [CDR Tamara Henderson](#) and [LCDR Jessica Dunn](#).
- **Promotion Panel Initiative Team:** The Team generates data-driven insight into factors that may relate to success or non-success of promotion-eligible Scientist officers. The team met last week to discuss a proposed August seminar to provide timely aid for the promotion process and is following up accordingly. Previous 2017 and 2018 analyses can be found on the [SciPAC Career Development webpage](#). For more information please email [CDR Nadra Tyus](#), [LCDR Neil Bonzagni](#), and [LT Taneshia Knight](#).
 - **Category Day SC:** [LCDR Rebecca Levine](#); Co-chairs: [LCDR Debra Chen](#), [LCDR Alaine Knipes](#), and [LCDR Alesha Harris](#)
 - Meetings
 - Most recent leadership meeting: May 20, 2022
 - Most recent team leads meeting: June 2, 2022
 - Most recent COF meeting: May 11, 2022
 - Next leadership meeting: June 9, 2022, 1:00pm ET
 - Next team leads meeting: June 23, 2022, 1:00pm ET
 - Next COF meeting: June 8, 2022, 1:00pm ET
 - Category Day was held on May 25, 2022, during the 2022 USPHS Symposium in Glendale, AZ.
 - The event was a huge success thanks to the tireless efforts of the SC members, SciPAC leadership, and all presenters and attendees.
 - Over 50 Scientist Officers were in attendance and over 25 Scientist Officers attended the evening’s Social event.
 - Highlights of the event included three diverse abstract sessions, a stimulating pair of keynote speakers, a special session on mental health, an impressive set of panelists, an innovative and engaging networking/mentoring activity, presentation of awards, and a State of the Category address from the CPO.
 - The Category Day evaluation survey was distributed on May 26.
 - We ask that all Scientist Officers complete the survey, regardless of whether they attended Category Day.
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6PBS5PJ> (7-10 minutes to complete)
 - The survey will close on June 17 and results will be analyzed shortly thereafter.
 - Letters of appreciation are being prepared for all presenters and SC members.
 - SC leaders are drafting Category Day sections of the 2021 & 2022 SciPAC Annual Report.
 - The Category Day SOP is being revised after one round of feedback from the SciPAC Executive Board. It will incorporate updates from the virtual program in 2021 and the in-person program in 2022.
 - **Deployment Preparedness SC:** [CDR John Pesce](#); Co-chairs: [LCDR Jason Caballero](#), [LCDR Jorge Muñiz Ortiz](#), [LT Adelaida Rosario](#)
 - Most recent meeting: May 16, 2022
 - **Readiness Reporting:** As of June 3, 2022, we have 409 Regular Corps officers and 1

- Ready Reserve officer. 98% are either basic ready or exempt. 9 officers are not qualified. If you are having trouble maintaining readiness, please reach out to us for assistance.
- CCHQ recently announced they are returning to deployment ‘on call’ months. Officers should sign into their CCMIS Officer Secure Area and note their next on-call month.
 - The Deployment Preparedness SC is developing a new program, the SciPAC Deployment Buddy Program, to provide deployment mentorship to Scientist Officers who possess little or no deployment experience. By developing a relationship with a seasoned Scientist deployer, the Officer will gain insight into preparing themselves, their family, and their household prior to a deployment. We are partnering with the Mentoring SC prior to the launch of the program. Scientist Officers interested in helping to shape and launch this initiative should reach out to LCDR Jason Caballero.
 - The CPO Fitness Team has been coordinating with the REP! POCs to integrate the CPO Fitness Challenge with their program. We plan to provide a presentation to the PAC shortly.
 - The Readiness Speaker Series Team continues to plan the 2nd quarter deployment speaker series; we are working with the Mental Health Working Group to formulate the presentation and establish an event date.
 - Please check the [RDB home page](#) often for updates on readiness information.
- **Mentoring SC:** LCDR Shayne Gallaway; Co-Chairs: CDR Tyson Volkmann; LCDR Patrick High
 - Most recent meeting: April 25, 2022
 - Next meeting: June 27, 2022; 11am ET
 - **Mentor Recruitment Team:**
 - If you do not have a Scientist mentor, or are not serving as a Scientist mentor, [apply to be part of the SciPAC Mentoring Program](#). For any questions, email LCDR Shayne Gallaway.
 - Representatives from the Peer Support Network and Mentor Matching Team met with the Readiness and Deployment SC to discuss lessons learned and best practices related to recruitment and matching of Officer skillsets to inform a proposed Deployment Mentoring program in the planning phase.
 - **Mentor Matching Team**
 - Currently, there are 158 active mentor-mentee agreements on file, and there are 9 unmatched mentee applicants (7 from CDC, 2 from FDA). **There is a need for 2 O-4 mentors in CDER (or another Center in FDA).**
 - 5 new mentor-mentee match agreements were made in May
 - 60% of Scientist Officers are engaged as either a mentor or mentee.
 - **Mentor Capacity-Building Team**
 - Please join the SciPAC Mentoring Subcommittee for a panel discussion titled, “Exploring New Insights into Mentoring Relationships” immediately following the SciPAC meeting updates on July 5. Panelists include: CAPT Arlin Hatch, CAPT Sara Newman, and CDR Alison Halpin. The panel will be moderated by CDR Chekesha Clingman and LT Dantrell Simmons on topics such as promotion, career advancement, and deployment.

- **Policy SC:** CDR Adam Bjork; Co-chair: LCDR Matthew Steele
 - CCHQ announced that we will be ending the 24/7 alert status for deployments and transitioning to a new 1-tiered deployment strategy comprised of 5 Deployment Teams for all PHS officers. These 5 Deployment Teams will replace all previous teams as well as the temporary 5-month preference survey approach. All PHS officers will be assigned to 1 of the 5 on-call Deployment Teams and be on-call every fifth month. This new structure takes effect June 1, 2022. All officers should check their Officer Secure Area dashboard to see their new on-call month.
 - CCHQ Released [POM 821.86](#) “Flag Board and Processes.” The POM establishes processes and procedures for flag boards. This POM is mostly applicable to officers at the O-6, O-7, and O-8 grades.
 - CCHQ has held a series of CCHQ-Connect discussions on the many new policy changes that have recently been announced. These sessions were recorded and can be found in the secure area of CCMIS. Summaries of each session have been prepared by the Policy Subcommittee:
 - CCHQ Session 1 “Promotion Category and Rank Conversion”: Beginning in Promotion Year (PY) 2024 there will be 5 categories for promotion purposes only, each led by 1 of the statutory admirals. Scientists will be split between the Allied Health category (psychologists) and the Applied Public Health category (all other Scientists). This change will not eliminate the current professional categories.
 - CCHQ Session 2 “Readiness and Practice Hours”: Clinical practice hours must be maintained by all officers in clinical deployment roles* and all officers applying for or receiving health professional special pay, incentive pay, or retention bonus. Updates to CCI 241.01, “Readiness and Duty Requirements”, define the criteria for primary deployment role and clinical practice hours (based on qualifying degree; minimum of 80 annual clinical practice hours), deployment preparation plan (will be required annually beginning in October), and retention weight standards (PHU is the official annual weight to determine weight compliance).
*Officers who commissioned in the following disciplines are considered to be in clinical deployment roles: medical, dental, nurse, licensed psychologist, pharmacy, veterinary, dietitian, therapist, dental hygienist, optometry, physician assistant, podiatry, medical technology, and licensed clinical social worker.
 - CCHQ Session 3 “Failure to Promote, Restricted vs Non-restricted, & Opt-out”: CCHQ discussed the consequences of failure to be promoted depending on whether an officer is in a restricted or unrestricted category. Currently, all Scientists are in a restricted category. For restricted categories, promotions to the O-4, O-5, and O-6 grades will only be made if vacancies exist, based on force distribution. Under current policy, for restricted categories, failure to be promoted to one of these grades has adverse consequences if the failure was due to a “Not Recommend” recommendation from the board, placing in the bottom decile, and/or being removed from the promotion list “for cause.” CCHQ is considering allowing officers to ‘opt out’ of promotion but no decisions have been announced.
 - CCHQ Session 4 “Force Distribution and Promotion Rates”: CCHQ receives the official distribution structure (i.e., number of officers allowed at each grade) from the HHS Secretary and adjusts the rank distribution curve and promotion rates to ensure compliance. CCHQ discussed this adjustment process in broad terms. CCHQ noted that (1) promotions to higher ranks will be temporarily scaled back

to bring the force distribution curve closer to the approved structure, and (2) successful attempts to increase recruitment at lower ranks would increase total force size and therefore increase future promotion rates at higher ranks.

- CCHQ Session 5 “New Promotion Score Sheet; Rank Order/The Line Number”: CCHQ demonstrated the new promotion scoresheet. The sheet will now include the average precept score per grade and category to allow officers to compare their scores to their peers. Comments will appear only if 3 board members select a particular comment. Comments will be broken out by precept and will also demonstrate the number of board members who select the particular comment. The scores are calculated as per current policy with all recommended officers being rank-ordered and those who score ‘above the line’ selected for promotion. The line is determined as per the force distribution policies.
- CCHQ Session 6 “Retirement”: New retirement policy adds inclusion of retirement for Ready Reserve Corps, allows retirements without a retirement board review, and clarifies when retirements can be restricted. CCHQ indicated that a future CCI will consolidate the three existing retirement policies (“Voluntary Retirement”, “Retirement (30 Years)”, “Involuntary Retirement (20 Years)”) into one policy. New tiered retirement criteria mandate retirement at 20 years for O-1, O-2, O-3, and O-4, retirement at 26 years for O-5, and 30 years for O-6, with possibility of multi-year extensions for O-4, O-5, and O-6.
- **Psychologist Integration SC:** LCDR Kate Morris and LCDR Patrick Sears
 - Most recent meeting: May 16, 2022
 - Next meeting: June meeting is pending reschedule due to June 20 federal holiday
 - The Psychologist Integration SC opened our last monthly meeting to all psychologists in the Corps and had a great turnout. We are in the process of collating the information we received (concerns, questions, etc.) to present to SciPAC leadership. We look forward to continuing to hear from our fellow psychologists and will continue to provide multiple ways to share your concerns.
- **Recruitment and Retention SC:** LCDR George Mitzner; Co-Chair: LCDR Julia Zucco
 - **Resources:** Top Tips 2022 is available on the SciPAC website! This guide—up-to-date as of January 2022—is a brief primer of PHS websites and platforms. It’s great for new officers but can provide a quick refresher for all of us!
 - **Interested Applicant:** The IAT has a proposal under review with the EB to become a more proactive recruitment team that would facilitate any Scientist interested in carrying out a recruitment activity with coordination, support, and updated presentation materials.
 - **OBC Engagement:**
 - June OBC (137/RR10) class does not include any Scientist officers.
 - If you are interested in representing SciPAC at future OBC Open Houses, please reach out to CDR Cesar Perez and LT Elizabeth Johnson.
- **New CAD Seminars:** **Open to all officers**

- The seminar on “Self-care” was held May 31, 2022 and attended by 8 officers. Thank you to LTs Shara Francin and Brian Reiner for an excellent talk on mindfulness and stress reduction techniques.
- Next seminar is June 22, 2022 at 12:00pm ET and features a Deployment Panel.
- To receive an invitation for the next seminar or if you would like to brief on Deployments, Officership, Self-care, Life Changes, Retirement, or Financial Planning, contact LT Angela Coulliette-Salmond and LT Jessica Meeker.
- **CDC New Officer Monthly Meeting:**
 - ****Open to Scientists from all agencies within 3 years CAD and/or at O-3 grade****
 - **Last meeting:** May 20, 2022, attended by 10 officers from CDC and FDA covering current challenges of serving in the Corps.
 - **Next meeting:** Friday, June 17, 2022, 12pm ET
 - For details, invitation, or to be added to the distribution list, contact LT Marissa Hast, LT Sean Griffing, LT Freeman-Ponder, and LCDR Jamie Mells.
- **EIS/LLS:**
 - Generated a new Recruitment Information sheet for EIS/LLS fellows to connect with officers for more information regarding commissioning.
- **Separation Survey:** The Team’s proposal under EB review enables Scientist Officers to receive information and support regarding the decision to separate from or remain serving in the PHS CC. The intent is to engage early to assist the Officer in their decision-making process.
 - Any Scientist separating or retiring from service may complete the Separation Survey via the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/ObMhp6FQ9HooOfRM2?>
 - No Submissions received during May 2022
 - Note: If agency systems do not work, please attempt to access the Survey from a personal device.
 - The last survey question asks for an email or phone number for a Recruitment and Retention SC member to contact you for an optional 30-minute phone interview.
 - Please contact LCDR Jorielle Houston and CDR Wade Keckler for questions.
- **Rules and Membership SC:** CDR Alice Shumate; Co-chair: CDR Dan-My Chu
 - Next meeting: June 24, 2022; 3pm ET/12noon PT
 - The Voting Member Selection Team reviewed the applications of 28 Scientist officers who applied for Voting Membership.
 - The Team met and came to a unanimous agreement in selecting 5 officers for Voting Membership terms for 2022–2025, as well as 2 Scientists to serve as alternates.
 - The Team has provided their recommendations to CAPT Sandhu for her review, to be followed by review and approval by OSG.
 - I would like to thank the members of the Voting Member Selection Team for their time and dedication in what was a very competitive selection process, as well as all the officers who applied for Voting Membership.
 - R&M has completed its review of the SciPAC SOP, including recommended updates to bring it in line with the Model All-PAC Charter. The SciPAC SOP is now going to the EB for review.
 - The Deployment Readiness and Mentoring SOPs have both been returned to their

- respective SC to respond to comments from the EB.
- The 2021 SciPAC Annual Report is nearly finished. If we are still waiting for your response to a request for further information, please provide that information to CDR Zapata as soon as possible.
 - **Science SC:** CDR Kamil Barbour; Co-chairs: LCDR Israel Cross, LCDR Teresa Wang
 - **State of the Scientists (SoS)**
 - The team will present a summary of key findings during the August SciPAC meeting.
 - As a reminder, a 12-month SurveyMonkey license was acquired in February 2022, and the SOS Team is coordinating with other teams to facilitate data collection efforts
 - Please contact LCDR Hilda Razzaghi and Lcdr Shondelle Wilson-Frederick with related questions.
 - **Research and Practice Team**
 - Thank you to our officers who gave two insightful presentations:
 - On May 3, CDR Sharon Saydah and Lcdr Leora Feldstein presented on “Applied Epidemiologic Studies to Understand SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Vaccine Effectiveness: A Snapshot.”
 - On May 9, LCDRs Brooke Hoots, Jamie Mells, and Julie O’Donnell presented on current drug overdose data and provided information about CDC’s work related to drug overdose prevention and surveillance and to cannabis surveillance in their presentation entitled: “Drug overdose surveillance and prevention work during an unprecedented drug overdose epidemic in the US.”
 - Please contact CDR Ruiqing Pamboukian and LT Ying Lin with any questions you may have about the R&P team
 - **Bibliography Team**
 - Compilation of the 2021 Scientist Bibliography is underway
 - In collaboration with Visibility SC’s Publications Team, please be on the lookout for an opportunity through the SciPAC listserv to report first-author publications for the second quarter of 2022. Please refer to the Visibility SC’s section of the meeting minutes for additional information.
 - Please contact LCDR Brett Forshey and LT Nicholas Deputy with any questions
 - **SG-PEERS Team**
 - The SG-PEERS Team is collating a database of Scientist officers and their areas of scientific expertise. This resource will help SciPAC leadership more readily identify potential leads for spearheading scientifically driven requests, speakers for webinars, and membership for potential communities of practice. The database will also have the potential to serve as a key cross-cutting resource for SciPAC activities and our fellow officers.
 - Thank you for your responses to LCDR Leora Feldstein and LT Lindsay Womack with the following information regarding the Surgeon General's Priorities and other subject matter you have experience or expertise. Much like the database, this information will help build our capacity to respond to SG priorities and other related inquiries.

- **Visibility SC:** LCDR Colleen Scott; Co-Chairs: LCDR Angela Thompson-Paul, LCDR Adriana Restrepo
 - **Newsletter Team:**
 - The Winter/Spring Edition of the Scientist Officer newsletter was distributed last week. We hope everyone is enjoying seeing what other Scientists are doing.
 - The call for articles for the Summer edition and details about submitting an article were sent out on June 1.
 - Important things to note about submissions:
 - COVID-related submissions may require additional levels of clearance. Please provide documentation of clearance through appropriate channels.
 - Article specific instructions:
 - Articles should be concise and relevant to the Scientist community at large. Please refer to your OPDIV’s style guide for proper use of abbreviations, capitalization, and punctuation.
 - Photos should have a complete caption describing the scene including ranks and names of officers. If there is a non-Scientist Officer, their category should be identified.
 - Please submit your article and/or photos to SciPACnewsletter@cdc.gov with the email subject line “Author full name- New Submission” and file name "Author Name_Article Title_Author Initials_Date of Submission.” The deadline for submissions is **Friday, July 8, 2022**. Submissions after this date may be considered for the following edition.
 - If you have photos to include in your article, please insert the picture in the article rather than sending in a separate email/attachment.
 - Please contact Newsletter Team Lead LT Kelly Shaw for questions regarding article submissions.
 - **Publications Team:**
 - The team will launch the Quarter 2 Officer Publications Survey that will cover any first-author manuscripts that have been accepted or published between the latter half of March and June 2022. Please look for an announcement that will be sent out via the SciPAC listserv. Please contact LT Tia Rogers if you have any questions.
 - **Twitter Team:**
 - This month the SciPAC Twitter Team tweeted/retweeted a total of 94 times, and generated 5,545 new impressions, 434 new engagements, 353 new likes and 4,328 profile visits! This brings us to an incredible 224,285 all-time Tweet impressions!
 - Please contact Twitter team leads LCDR Alaine Knipes and LT Ian Kracalik with Tweet Ideas and as always, find us and follow us on Twitter at [@PHS_Scientist](https://twitter.com/PHS_Scientist).
 - **Facebook Team:**
 - In May 2022, there were 113 views, 7 posts, and 34 expressions on the SciPAC Facebook page. If you aren’t already a member you can request membership [here](#).
 - **LinkedIn/Instagram Team:**
 - The Team continues to work on new LinkedIn and IG SOP.
 - **Conferences Team:**

- The Team invites Scientist Officers to an **ASM Microbe SciPAC Science Social Hour** at **Cuba Libre** (<https://www.cubalibrerestaurant.com/en/washington/>) on **Friday, June 10, at 5:00pm ET**. This Science Social Hour is open to both Scientist Officers attending ASM Microbe and officers in the Washington, D.C. area who would like to connect with fellow Scientist Officers!
- **Fist Bump Team:**
 - This OY, we published 8 Fist Bumps to the Scientist Newsletter, 7 to Facebook, and 3 to Twitter. Altogether, they have garnered 79 impressions and 827 views.
 - The SciPAC Fist Bump Form is available on the website on the [Visibility SC page](#). Send completed forms to both [LT Olivia McGovern](#) and [LT Kerui Xu](#).
- **Website SC:** Chair: [LCDR Ruth Link-Gelles](#); Co-chairs: [LCDR Elizabeth Edwards](#), [LCDR Matthew Stuckey](#)
 - Last SC meeting: May 19, 2022
 - Next SC meeting (tentative): July 21, 2022; 12pm ET
 - Current Activities
 - As of June 1, 2022, the SC has received 30 website update requests; 28 requests are complete and 2 are pending.
 - Website and Visibility SCs continue to collaborate on a major update to the SciPAC history webpage; all new content is now developed and formatted and will be submitted for internal review this month\
 - The SC is in the final stages of reviewing the SciPAC Website Analytics Report, which will be shared with SciPAC leadership soon.
 - Please visit our [SciPAC website](#) for additional information on SC activities and monthly meeting minutes.

Liaison Reports

- **Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. (AMSUS):** [CAPT Mark Scheckelhoff](#)
 - Nothing significant to report.
- **CC Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB):** [LCDR Marissa Zwald](#)
 - Last CCWIAB meeting: June 1, 2022
 - Next CCWIAB meeting: July 6, 2022
 - A new partnership between CCWIAB and the Women's Leadership Support Group is supporting women officers experiencing infertility: **Assisted Family Planning Support Group (AFPSG) for Corps Officers**
 - The AFPSG is part of the Women's Leadership Support Group and works in collaboration with CCWIAB. AFPSG's mission is to support women PHS officers who are seeking fertility treatment, interested in obtaining fertility resources, or desire support in anyway before, during, or after family planning. Our goal is to empower and learn from each other and provide unconditional support to each officer that participates in the support group meetings. AFPSG meetings are confidential and provide an environment that fosters trust and respect among women officers who are experiencing the challenges of family planning. AFPSG meetings occur on the third Friday of each month over Zoom.

Please contact Carrie.Ceresa@fda.hhs.gov or Anne.Tobenkin@fda.hhs.gov for more information or to receive an invite to the meetings.

- LCDR Marissa Zwald has served as SciPAC's representative (voting member) to CCWIAB since 2019. Her term will be ending in 6 months. CCWIAB is working with SciPAC to solicit nominations, and CCWIAB will review all nominees to identify a highly qualified candidate to fill the anticipated vacancy. The candidate would also serve as a general member of the CCWIAB during a transition period. **After reviewing the time/commitments and information on CCWIAB below, if you are interested in applying for the SciPAC representative for the voting membership term that runs January 2023–December 2025, please email LCDR Marissa Zwald (MZwald@cdc.gov) by COB July 1, 2022, and include your CV summary sheet.**
 - Information on CCWIAB: The mission of the Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB; <https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/ccwiab/>) is to identify and analyze key issues that impact women in the PHS Commissioned Corps and to develop action plans to address these issues. Voting members are appointed by the Surgeon General and represent all categories within the Corps. Voting membership appointment to the CCWIAB is a 3-year commitment and work is equivalent to leadership positions in other advisory groups like JOAG, PACs, MOLC etc.
 - Time/commitments: General CCWIAB meetings occur every other month and last about 1 hour. All voting members are required to attend these meetings. Voting members are expected to hold a leadership role within the board. Several standing committees exist and must be chaired and co-chaired by a voting member. Time-limited initiatives also exist as needs/issues arise and are led by voting members. Additionally, administrative positions also exist (website manager, membership coordinator) and must be filled by voting members. Chairing or co-chairing a committee is equivalent to chairing a PAC SC and may require monthly meetings to accomplish committee goals. Interim term as a general member for the candidate would occur for several months from August 2022 to until January 2023. During this time the candidate would be expected to attend general CCWIAB meetings and take up general membership involvement in a CCWIAB committee/initiative.
- If you have any questions about CCWIAB or the committees' initiatives below, please contact [LCDR Marissa Zwald](#), or visit [CCWIAB's website](#).
- **Commissioned Officers Association (COA):** [LCDR Julia Zucco](#)
 - Most recent meeting: May 22, 2022 (Board of Directors Meeting)
 - The Board of Directors met prior to the COF Scientific Conference on May 22, 2022. Most members were able to attend in-person, and the Symposium was a great success!
 - Next year's Symposium will be in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
 - Several arms of the Surgeon General's 5k Run wrapped up during May 23–June 5.
- **IT Chartered Advisory Committee (ICAC):** [LT Kelly Shaw](#)
 - Nothing significant to report.

- **Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG):** LT Xia Michelle Lin
 - JOAG recognized awardees and outstanding non-voting members at the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium. Congratulations to the following Scientist Officers:
 - VADM C. Everett Koop Junior Officer Award: LCDR Rebecca Levine
 - Junior Officer of the Year Award: LCDR Xinzhi Zhang
 - Outstanding Non-Voting Members: LT Ana Lauer; LT Tia Rogers
 - JOAG is soliciting feedback from all Junior officers on any PHS-related questions, concerns, or input through Junior Officer “JO” Voice: [form](#).
 - JOAG published June’s Practicing Wellness – Fear of the Unknown. See JOAG listserv announcement on June 6 for the article.
 - Upcoming JOAG Meet and Greet Virtual Events:
 - DC-Maryland-Virginia (DMV) Region: Practical Wholistic Resilience Strategies for Psychological Wellness, June 8, 2022; 1:00pm ET; [link](#)
 - Baltimore, MD: Wholistic Wellness Strategies for your Workplace, June 17, 2022; 6:00pm ET; Zoom Meeting ID: 508 699 2299
 - Farmington, NM: Distinguishing Yourself as a Junior Officer, June 19, 2022; 2:00pm MT; Location: Brookside Park 1801 Brookside Dr, Farmington, NM 87401; Zoom Meeting ID: 508 699 2299
 - Farmington, NM: How to Maintain Work and Personal Life Balance, June 24, 2022; 6:30pm MT; Location: Bowlero Lanes 3704 E Main St, Farmington, NM 87402
 - Phoenix, AZ: Deployment Roles: “Jack of All Trades, Master of Some”, June 24, 2022, 12:00pm MT; [link](#)
 - JOAG Public Health and Uniformed Services Committee, Public Health Awareness Subcommittee Wellness Workgroup, 5K run or 10K walk at a location of your choice, June 12 and July 3, 2022. See JOAG listserv announcement on June 6 for details.

- **Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE):** LT Lacreisha Ejike-King
 - Most recent meeting: June 9, 2022
 - Next meeting: August 11, 2022; 2:00 pm ET
<https://fda.zoomgov.com/j/1608824782?pwd=V1FzWFd4aW4zNGFXM1hpWE9EQ3ZNZz09> Meeting ID 160 882 4782; Passcode 4q#Qqk
 - The new PACE operational year began June 1, 2022.
 - PACE recently welcomed its 2022–2023 SC leadership to their new roles. Their terms will begin on June 1 and will be formalized pending OSG approval.
 - Current PACE Leadership roster: LCDR Jonathan Leshin (Co-ED); LT Austin Van Horn (Co-ED); LCDR Shiny Mathew (Executive Director Elect), LCDR Iman Martin (Chief of Staff); CAPT Beverly Dandridge (Senior Advisor)
 - The new POC for the PACE Max.gov site is CDR Olden Walker. Please contact CDR Walker for access, document uploads, or other PACE Max.gov needs/issues
 - The new [OSG-approved PACE lessons](#) are now live.

- **Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Advisory Group (SOAGDAG):** LCDR Luis Iturriaga
 - Most recent meeting: April 26, 2022
 - Next meeting: June 28, 2022
 - Nothing significant to report.

NOTE: Next meeting—Tuesday, **July 5, 2022**; 12:00–1:00pm ET