



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



Meeting Minutes; April 4, 2023

Total Attendance: 153 attendees; 45 excused absences

### Chief Scientist Officer and Executive Board Members

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Sandhu, Sukhminder K.	Chief Scientist Officer	Present
CDR	Shumate, Alice	Chair	Present
CDR	Demissie, Zewditu	Vice Chair; Rules & Membership Chair	Present
LCDR	Scott, Colleen	Executive Secretary	Present
LCDR	Gallaway, Shayne	Executive Liaison	Present
CAPT	Dee, Deborah	Ex-Officio Chairperson	Present

### Voting Members (SC = Subcommittee)

Rank	Name	Role	
CDR	Bjork, Adam	Policy SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Halldin, Cara	Awards SC Chair	Present
CDR	Pesce, John	Deployment Preparedness SC Co-Chair	Excused
CDR	Rossiter, Lana	Rules & Membership SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Morris, Kate	Psychologist Integration SC Chair	Excused
LCDR	Chen, Debra	Behavioral Health & Wellness SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Edwards, Elizabeth	Website SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Knipes, Alaine	Category Day SC Co-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	Muniz-Ortiz, Jorge	Deployment Preparedness SC Chair	Excused
LCDR	Mpofu, Jonetta	Mentoring SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Restrepo, Adriana	Career Development SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Steele, Matthew	Policy SC Chair	Excused
LCDR	Thompson-Paul, Angela	Visibility SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Wang, Teresa	Science SC Chair	Excused
LCDR	Zucco, Julia	Recruitment and Retention SC Co-Chair	Present
LT	Ejike-King, Lacreisha	Visibility SC Co-Chair	Present

## Non-Voting Liaisons

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

**Participation by Non-Voting Scientist Officers:** RADM Theresa Lawrence, CAPT Marco Bennett, CAPT Aditya Bhagwat, CAPT Julie Chodacki, CAPT Joseph Despina, CAPT Laura Draski, CAPT Judy Facey, CAPT Arlin Hatch, CAPT Sally Hu, CAPT Ryan Novak, CAPT Erin Sauber-Schatz, CAPT Kenneth Sekulic, CAPT Andrea Sharma, CAPT Michael Smith, CAPT Jacqueline Tate, CAPT Jennifer Thomas, CAPT Matthew Wise, CDR Danielle Barradas, CDR Tegan Boehmer, CDR Robert Burns, CDR Dianna Carroll, CDR Dan-My Chu, CDR Minglei Cui, CDR Joanna Gaines, CDR Seth Green, CDR Brian Harcourt, CDR Andrew Hickey, CDR NaTasha Hollis, CDR David Huang, CDR Neal Kimble, CDR Mark Miller, CDR Lara Misegades, CDR Matthew Newland, CDR Carrie Nielsen, CDR Erika Odom, CDR Eduardo O'Neill La Luz, CDR Erin Parker, CDR Cria Perrine, CDR Chris Poulson, CDR Gabriela Ramirez-Leon, CDR Meghan Reilly, CDR Alfredo Sancho, CDR Sharon Saydah, CDR Tyler Sharp, CDR Emily Streeter, CDR Sharyl Trail, CDR Michelle Tsai, CDR James Tyson, CDR Nadra Tyus, CDR Jason Wilken, CDR Ellen Yard, CDR Eric Zhou, LCDR Francis Annor, LCDR Tyann Blessington, LCDR Christine Brady, LCDR Jason Caballero, LCDR Jessica Dunn, LCDR Brendan Eberenz, LCDR Amy Freeland, LCDR Brandi Freeman-Ponder, LCDR Megan Gaschk, LCDR Alesha Harris, LCDR Iram Hassan, LCDR Marisa Hast, LCDR Patrick High, LCDR Brooke Hoots, LCDR Jorielle Houston, LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson, LCDR Michelle Hughes, LCDR Asha Ivey-Stephenson, LCDR Folasade Kombi, LCDR Kimberly (Shay) Litton-Belcher, LCDR Neali Lucas, LT Kevin McDermott, LCDR Julie O'Donnell, LCDR Oliver Ou, LCDR Megan Peck, LCDR Nazia Rahman, LCDR Hilda Razzaghi, LCDR Leslie Rivera-Rosado, LCDR Adelaida Rosario, LCDR Stephanie Rutledge, LCDR Kari Schlessinger, LCDR Amy Schuh, LCDR Dantrell Simmons, LCDR Pilgrim Spikes, LCDR Scott Steffen, LCDR Matthew Stuckey, LCDR Jessica Tomov, LCDR Emily Ussey, LT Sophia Ajoku, LT Olubukola Banmeke, LT Courtnee Bell, LT Evan Brown, LT Kelly Chapman, LT Peter DeJonge, LT Brett Dodd, LT Dianca Finch, LT Robert Gahl, LT Sean Griffing, LT Charles (CJ) Helm, LT Amanda Hott, LT Brent Huber, LT Jesica Jacobs, LT Emmanuel Jeffrey, LT Michelle Johnson, LT Florence Kanu, LT Hana Kim, LT Michael Krage, LT Ana Lauer, LT Ying Lin, LT Neil Milan, LT Eric Mooring, LT Daniel Nguyen, LT Yasmin Ogale, LT Ruth Oni, LT Stephanie Pitts, LT Anthony Powell, LT Leigh Ellyn Preston, LT Catharine (Cate) Pritchard, LT Sergio Rodriguez, LT Beth Rubenstein, LT Phillip Salvatore, LT Marsha Samson, LT Kindra Stokes, LT Carrie Whitworth, LT Lindsay Womack, LT Andres Wong Sam, LT Gabriella Wuyke, LT Kerui Xu, LT Jia Yin Leo, LT Shannon York

**Excused Absences of Non-Voting Scientist Officers:** CAPT Renee Calanan, CDR Kamil Barbour, CDR Alison Halpin, CDR Emily Jentes, CDR Jean Ko, CDR Leigh Ann Miller, CDR Erin Nichols, CDR Sanny Northbrook, CDR Jeff Showalter, CDR Nancy Tian, LCDR Ginny Bowen, LCDR Nicholas Buhr, LCDR Angela Coulliette-Salmond, LCDR Israel Cross, LCDR Samantha DiMisa, LCDR Sharoda Dasgupta, LCDR William Davis, LCDR Leora Feldstein, LCDR Charlotte Francia, LCDR Eboni Galloway, LCDR Carolyn Herzig, LCDR Eric Jamoom, LCDR Lisa Jarvis-Durham, LCDR Gina Masessa, LCDR Mary Puckett, LCDR Tia Rogers, LCDR Rhondie Tait, LCDR Tanesha Tutt, LCDR Marissa Zwald, LT Anna Chard, LT Sade Collins, LT Jueichuan (Connie) Kang, LT Christine Kim, LT Kristin Marks, LT Olivia McGovern, LT Lauren Woodard

**Key Abbreviations:**

AD = Active Duty

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

LOA = Letter of Appreciation

OBC = Officer Basic Course

OSG = Office of the Surgeon General

OY = Operational Year

PHU = Public Health Update

POC = Point of Contact

PY = Promotion Year

RR = Ready Reserve

SC = Subcommittee

SOP = Standard Operating Procedures

VM = Voting Member(s)

**Call to Order and Welcome:** CDR Alice Shumate**CPO Report:** CAPT Sukhminder K. Sandhu

- CAPT Sandhu highlighted several messages that have come out from CCHQ, including a CCHQ Connect on Practice Hours, the DPP, as well as call for awards. The Office of Surgeon General will be awarding the Humanitarian Service & Global Health Award, the Intra-Federal Health Services Award, the Senior Officer of the Year Award, and the Junior Officer of the Year Award.
- CAPT Sandhu thanked all of our officers who promptly submitted their DPPs by the due date last month. A significant number of scientists had not yet submitted their DPP when a reminder had been sent a few weeks ago. By the time of the April Readiness check, there were only a handful who were missing the DPP. Although we would want 100% of Officers to have been completed the DPP, these numbers were much better in comparison to what we were seeing in the projections in mid-March.
- CAPT Sandhu reminded officers about the 56th annual USPHS scientific and training symposium is upcoming next month in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She looks forward to connecting with our officers there that are able to attend in person. Until then, her message was for officers to continue to take care of themselves, both personally and professionally.

**Chair Report:** CDR Alice Shumate

- As part of a continued commitment to helping all Scientist officers find a place in our PAC and succeed in their careers, one of our new initiatives this year was to create a SciPAC Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Officer. CDR NaTasha Hollis is

serving in that role and has recently completed meetings with leadership from all of our Subcommittees. A huge thanks to CDR Hollis and our Subcommittee leaders for their time and insights. CDR Hollis is now working on a plan for next steps. In the meantime, if any officers have thoughts or experiences they'd like to share with CDR Hollis, I encourage you to reach out to her directly at [iym7@cdc.gov](mailto:iym7@cdc.gov).

- The call for SciPAC Voting Members is now open; I encourage everyone with ideas and a passion for helping chart our future to apply. The call for JOAG Voting Member nominations now has an extended deadline until 4/14. Many SciPAC leaders got their start in JOAG, myself included. I encourage anyone interested to apply and am happy to talk with officers considering either opportunity.
- Congratulations to the three new SciPAC Voting Members who were voted in last August, when the Voting Member number for the PAC was increased by three: LCDRs Jonetta Mpofo and Julia Zucco, and LT Lacreisha Ejike-King. Thanks to these officers for all of their work so far in their Voting Member roles, and congratulations to them now that the paperwork has caught up and made them official. In August when new Voting Member bios were shared, LCDRs Mpofo and Zucco were included as our first and second alternate. LT Ejike-King's bio is shared here, since we did not yet get a chance to highlight her.
  - LT Lacreisha Ejike-King (FDA, Beltsville, MD) currently serves as a Health Scientist in FDA's Center for Tobacco Products (CTP) where she evaluates the impact of domestic and international tobacco policies to inform FDA/CTP regulatory decision making. She earned her PhD in Health education and Health Behavior from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. LT Ejike-King has been active in SciPAC since being called to active duty in 2018, serving as Co-Lead for the State of the Category/Awards Category Day Team, Team Lead for the Socials Team, and PACE Liaison. She has also been very active in PACE, most recently as the Team Lead for the Surgeon General's Education Team (SGET) for the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area.
- We are just over a month out from USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium! Thanks to the Category Day Subcommittee for all of their work. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Because it falls relatively early in May this year, we will not hold a May SciPAC meeting.

**Vice Chair Report:** [CDR Zewditu Demissie](#)

- Voting Member selection call for nominations went out on March 31, 2023. Nominations are due on April 21, 2023, at 11:59 PM Pacific time.
- There are six open Voting Member slots for the 2023-2026 term.
- Reminder: If you missed the February presentation about voting membership, please do review the slides. They were emailed out to the PAC after the monthly meeting. This presentation provides information about the value of voting membership, the selection process, and tips on how to be competitive.
- If you have any questions about voting membership, please contact [CDR Demissie](#).

**Executive Secretary Report:** [LCDR Colleen Scott](#)

- If any Officer is changing duty station/agency, please email [LCDR Scott](#) with the details of your agency change and your new email address so that it can be updated in the PAC roster and the listserv.
- **Attendance:** If you connect to the meeting via Zoom and 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 only via phone, if your full name does not register in Zoom, or if you have an excused absence to report, please report your attendance via email [LCDR Scott](#) with the email subject line “SciPAC Meeting Attendance.”

#### **Executive Liaison Report:** [LCDR Shayne Gallaway](#)

- Currently reviewing certain processes to determine how to increase efficiency and timeliness of review and approval (e.g., SC EOY LOAs). More details to come.
- Following up with some SCs to clarify current processes to help inform required review of items coming to EB for review.

#### **Subcommittee Reports**

- **Awards SC:** [CDR Cara Halldin](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Mary Puckett](#), and [LT Ana Lauer](#)
  - Thank you to all the officers who submitted award nomination packets for the PHS service-wide awards, the Humanitarian Service and Global Health Award and the Intra-Federal Health Services Award. The nomination packets are currently under review. Many thanks to those officers who have volunteered to review these awards.
  - We’ll be announcing the winners of our yearly SciPAC awards soon.
- **Behavioral Health & Wellness SC:** [LCDR Debra Chen](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Gina Masessa](#), and [LCDR Sharoda Dasgupta](#)
  - **Advocacy Team:** The team is collecting data on the behavioral health issues that are most concerning to Scientists. Please share them with [CDR Sharyl Trail](#).
  - **Existing Resources Team:** Please stand by for April’s issue of the Mental Health Monthly newsletter.
  - **Liaison Team:** The team is accepting requests for consultation needs. They are also working on recommendations for the Mentoring Reference Guide, the Mentor Agreement, and peer support understanding of the mentoring program.
  - **New Resources Team:** The team will be presenting on Qigong with LCDR Reiner on April 26<sup>th</sup> at noon. Information about this presentation will be provided shortly.
  - **SOP Team:** The team’s first SOP has been sent to the EB for review.
  - **Website Team:** The Behavioral Health & Wellness Subcommittee website is now live and can be found here: [Scientist Professional Advisory Committee \(psc.gov\)](https://www.psc.gov/scientist-professional-advisory-committee)
- **Career Development SC:** [LCDR Adriana Restrepo](#); Co-Chair(s): [CDR Nancy Tian](#)
  - **Promotion Document Review Team:** The Team is currently working on finalizing the Letters of Appreciation for the 82 officers that served as reviewer for the promotion cycle 2023. For more information, email [CDR Michelle Rodriguez](#).
  - **Training Team:** The Team is planning a Training Seminar this summer (May/June). For more information, email [CDR Tamara Henderson](#).

- **Handbook Team:** The Team is currently editing 6 sections of the SciPAC Handbook: Basic Readiness, Awards, Promotion, COERS, Mentoring, Uniforms. For more information, email [CDR Tamara Henderson](#).
- **CE Contact Hour Initiative Team:** The team plans to explore the development of discipline-specific CE resources and is seeking concrete information on the CE needs of other disciplines within the Scientist category (other than psychologists) to determine volunteer needs. For more information, email [LT Brett Dodd](#).
- **Standard Operating Procedures Team:** The team added a section to the Subcommittee's SOP describing the roles and responsibilities of the Allied Health and Applied Public Health Categories Team, our Subcommittee's newest Team. The most recent version of the SOP was then sent to the Career Development Subcommittee Chair and Co-Chair for final review before submitting to the SciPAC Executive Board for review. For more information, email [LCDR Amy Schuh](#) and [CAPT Renee Calanan](#).
- **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, as well as SC Chair & Co-chairs.
- **Category Day SC:** [LCDR Rebecca Levine](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Alaine Knipes](#), [LCDR Alesha Harris](#), and [LCDR Folasade Kembi](#)
  - Meetings:
    - Next leadership meeting: April 20, 2023, 12:00 PM
    - Next team leads meeting: April 27, 2023, 12:00 PM
    - Next COF meeting: April 12, 2023, 1:00 PM
  - The [2023 USPHS Symposium](#) will be held May 8-11 in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Category Day will be on Wednesday, May 10, 2023. We hope to see you there!
    - [Registration](#) for the Symposium, as well as hotel reservations, are now open.
      - To avoid paying extra for late registration, please register and pay by **April 30** (early bird registration closed on March 22).
      - The hotel block filled up quickly. You can try calling Doubletree, they may still have rooms or look for hotels within walking distance.
      - A SciPAC booth will be hosted by the SciPAC Category Day Subcommittee in the Exhibit Hall on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>; the booth was officially registered on March 21.
      - The SciPAC Social, hosted by the Social Team, will take place on May 10<sup>th</sup> from 7-9PM following Category Day. The [Local Bison](#) will be the venue, which is about 3/4 mile away from the Doubletree hotel. There is no official dress code for the event – come as you like!
      - A SciPAC mentoring session will be hosted by the Mentoring SC, with logistical support from the Category Day SC Outreach and Connections teams, on Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in the morning (this is the day prior to Category Day).
  - The Category Day agenda continues to undergo minor edits.
    - All speakers and moderators are requested to check the updated task list in the [“speaker resource center”](#) as soon as possible (new disclosure form is required



- and speakers need to re-verify profile information).
- All speakers are requested to access the “[speaker resource center](#)” and upload their presentations as soon as they are finalized and not later than April 30.
- The Abstracts team is internally identifying moderators for the three abstracts sessions; SC leadership will then share instructions for moderating with them.
- Keynote Speaker updates: Thanks to LCDR Alesha Harris and LT Andrew Brown, a SciPAC coin will be taken to Tulsa for CAPT Sandhu to give to the Keynote Speaker following her address; hotel information and confirmation will be shared with the speaker in April ahead of her travel.
- The Awards/State of the Category team has been working with the State of the Scientists team on the Science SC, the Awards SC, and CAPT Sandhu to prepare the content for their portion of the Category Day program.
- The Connections team received SciPAC executive board clearance for their two scenarios and speed networking event; recording of the scenarios will begin in early April.
- The Evaluations team is finalizing the 2023 evaluation survey questions; a draft will be sent to the SciPAC executive board for approval in mid-April, with the aim to have the survey live on Category Day.
- The Outreach team prepared multiple flyers with reminders for various Category Day deadlines and activities; this will continue through the month of April.
  - To enhance timeliness of postings on social media, a member of the team will request admin access for the social media accounts.
  - The team is also working with the Mentoring SC to determine the most appropriate way of getting LOAs to the participating mentors.
- The Secretary team is preparing the agenda and “meet the speakers” documents for Category Day, these will be distributed via the listserv ahead of the Symposium.
- **Deployment Preparedness SC:** LCDR Jorge Muñoz Ortiz; Co-Chair(s): CDR John Pesce, LCDR Jason Caballero, LCDR Adelaida Rosario
  - **Readiness Reporting:** As of April 1st, we had 1 new Call to Active Duty, and no retirements, separations, or deaths of AD Scientists. The total count is 405 AD Scientist officers and 7 Ready Reserve Officers for a total of 412. Out of 395 AD Officers that are not exempt, 377 are basic ready (95.4%), 18 are not qualified (2 LT, 2 LCDR, and 9 CDR, and 5 CAPT; 4.60%), and 10 are exempt. Out of the 7 Ready Reserve Officers, 6 are basic ready and 1 is exempt. Including the AD Officers and Ready Reserve Officers that are not exempt, 383 out of a total of 401 are basic ready (95.5%). This is a decrease in basic readiness from the last report. Officers that are not qualified are missing the DPP, PHU, and Fitness and Retention Weight Standard documentation. If you are having trouble with being basic ready, please reach out to the Deployment Preparedness SC and we will do what we can to help you with your issues.
  - BLS Opportunities in the National Capital Region (NCR):
    - Andrews AFB. Contact Jonathan Paxton via email at [Johnathan.a.paxton.civ@health.mil](mailto:Johnathan.a.paxton.civ@health.mil). Check the course calendar [here](#). Courses are on Tuesdays at 0900 or 1300 at Malcom Grow hospital.

- Second option is at BOP in DC on April 6 at 0730. The next class after this one will be July 13. More information [here](#).
- The Tricare Online system is no longer active in the National Capitol Region. The new system is MHS Genesis. If there are any questions about this, please let us know. Please refer to the email from HQ dated March 30<sup>th</sup> for information regarding deadline extensions for the PHU during this transition time.
- The Deployment Preparation Plan was due March 31. Hopefully, no Scientist Officers are missing this requirement as it is now part of the readiness check.
- HQ has changed the eligibility requirements to obtain the FMRB as FEMA has updated the courses needed to receive the badge. This change only applies to officers currently in the process of obtaining the badge, not those who already have the badge. If there are any questions regarding this change, please email us or the RDB mailbox at [phsreadiness@hhs.gov](mailto:phsreadiness@hhs.gov).
- The DPSC Speaker Series is putting together two more talks for this operational year and one that could hopefully be planned for the next operational year:
  - Deployment Resiliency/Reintegration by CDR Amy Cason on Thursday April 20 from 1200-1300.
  - Nutrition on Deployment. Presenters, date and time TBD.
  - Quarantine Stations by LT Gabriella Wuyke and maybe others. Time and date TBD.
- We would like to remind Officers of the CPO Fitness Challenge and the REP! Which are both PHS-wide fitness programs. Reminder that SciPAC will have its own exercise challenge, a Plank Challenge which will begin late summer of 2023.
- The Deployment Narratives Team is collecting narrative submissions on a rolling basis. Two narratives are currently under review and will be published in an upcoming PAC newsletter once approved.
- As always, we encourage officers to visit the RDB home page often for updates on readiness information (<https://dcp.psc.gov/RedDOG/default.aspx>) or contact any of the chairs or co-chairs of the subcommittee with questions.
- **Mentoring SC:** LCDR Jonetta Mpofu; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Patrick High, and LCDR Michelle Hughes
  - Next meeting: April 24, 2023
  - **Committee Chair/Co-chairs**
    - More than 10 senior officers have signed up to serve as mentors for the in-person USPHS symposium mentoring event on May 9, 2023, from 0730-0930. Location TBA. All scientist officers are invited to join us. Pre-registration is not required. Contact [LCDR Jonetta Mpofu](#) for more information.
  - **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 [CDR Alison Halpin](#) or [LCDR Matthew Steele](#).
  - **Mentor Matching Team:** Currently 150 active mentor-mentee agreements on file and there are 4 unmatched mentee applicants (2 from CDC, 1 from DHS, 1 from BOP). We received 2 new mentor-mentee match agreements in February, with 56% of Scientist Officers engaged as either a mentor or mentee.
  - **Peer Support Network (PSN)**



- Identified 3 new CADs from the Jan. OBC class and efforts are being made to match them with PSN mentors.
- Updates to the PSN mentor application form are being finalized.
- If you are interested in serving as a mentor or mentee please reach out to PSN leads, LCDRs Vicky Jeisy Scott ([fvx0@cdc.gov](mailto:fvx0@cdc.gov)) or Dantrell Simmons ([dantrell.simmons@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:dantrell.simmons@samhsa.hhs.gov)).
- **Mentor Capacity-Building Team**
  - The mentor-matching agreement form has been updated and sent to subcommittee leadership for review.
  - The team is working to develop a list of conversation starter topics for attendees at the USPHS SciPAC Mentoring Session on May 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - If you are a Psychologist Officer interested in board certification and would like a mentor or to volunteer to serve as a mentor, or already have a mentor or mentee but informally, please contact LCDR Deb Chen ([dchen@bop.gov](mailto:dchen@bop.gov)) for further information and to more formally establish the mentoring relationship.
- **Policy SC:** LCDR Matthew Steele; Co-Chairs: CDR Adam Bjork, and LT Lauren Woodard
  - Policy updates:
  - CCHQ sent a reminder notification about submission of the Deployment Preparation Plan (DPP) on March 28<sup>th</sup> with a due date of March 31<sup>st</sup>. The first readiness check was on April 1.
- Other announcements:
  - CCHQ sent an email March 10<sup>th</sup> regarding updates to the Field Medical Readiness Badge (FMRB):
    - FEMA Training Course Renewal – The four FEMA trainings that are required for FMRB eligibility will now need to have been renewed since FEMA updated course content beginning June 2018. Officers who completed FEMA course prior to the most recent content update will need to retake the training and re-upload their new Certificate of Completion individually into eDOC-U.
    - FMRB website–The FEMA training criteria change outlined above is pending posting to the CMMIS website and should be available soon. Officers are urged to review the FMRB webpage for guidance.
  - President Biden released the [proposed budget for FY24](#) on March 9<sup>th</sup>.
    - The Commissioned Corps is mentioned once, in a line item about extending Tricare to Ready Reservists. The budget also discusses proposals for Public Health Preparedness, HIS expansion, behavioral health, etc.
    - The [HHS Budget in Brief](#) discusses the Corps in more detail, proposing \$20M for a specialty fund to support Ready Reserve (\$14M), Public Health and Emergency Response Strike Team (\$4M), and Readiness and Training (\$2M).
    - The [HHS General Departmental Management](#) budget justification document includes additional *proposals* to align Commissioned Corps policies with other services for management purposes, including: expanded leave and carryover of leave, calling to active duty for training (Ready Reserve), recalling to active duty during pandemic (retired officers), constructive service credit, training as a federal activity (all officers), extending the “military department” exemption of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) to

the USPHS Commissioned Corps, Tricare for Ready Reserve, GI Bill for Ready Reserve, and extending the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program benefit to USPHS Commissioned Corps officers.

- **Psychologist Integration SC:** CDR Kate Morris; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Patrick Sears
  - Next meeting: April 17, 2023
  - We continue to work to address the concerns of Commissioned Corps psychologists given recent changes to include: working with the Career Development SC to discuss identifying and sharing CE opportunities to maintain psychologist licensure; addressing the licensed vs. unlicensed psychologist concern with regard to readiness and promotion category; recruiting for the Mentoring SC's psychologist board certification mentoring program.
  
- **Recruitment and Retention SC:** LCDR George Mitzner; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Julia Zucco, and LCDR Jorielle Houston
  - **Resources Team:** We are pleased to announce openings for Team Lead and co-lead positions. If you are interested in applying, please reach out to the Chairs for details.
  - **Interested Applicant Team:** Any Scientist interested in carrying out a recruitment activity (e.g., delivering a presentation to a professional organization) will receive coordination, support, and materials. The Scientist will then complete an after-action report.
    - If you are interested in conducting a recruitment activity, please reach out to [CDR Angela Williams](#) and [LCDR Kelsy Hoffman](#).
  - **OBC Engagement Team:**
    - The OBC 145/18 Open House will be held 4/26/23 at 6PM ET.
    - If you are interested in representing SciPAC at this or a future OBC Open House, pinning ceremony, and/or graduation, please reach out to [LT Elizabeth Johnson](#) and [LT Oren Mayer](#).
  - **New CAD Seminars Team:** *\*Open to all officers\**
    - **Next Meeting:** "Uniform Refresher" is pending for 4/14/23 at 12PM ET.
    - **Future Meetings:** "Self-Care" is planned for 5/26/23 at 12PM ET.
    - To receive an invitation for the next seminar or if you would like to brief, please contact [LT Jessica Meeker](#), [LCDR Rudolph Francin](#), and [LT Shara Francin](#).
  - **New Scientist Officer Team:** *\*Scientists ≤ 3 years CAD and/or at O-3 grade\**
    - **Last meeting:** 3/17/23 where 16 officers met to discuss a variety of topics.
    - **Next Meeting:** 4/21/23 at 12PM ET
    - **Save the Date:** CAPT Schobitz is the guest speaker on 5/19/23 at 12PM ET
    - For details, invitation, or to be added to the distribution list, contact [LT Sean Griffing](#), [LT Oren Mayer](#), [LT Jessica Jacobs](#), and [LT Sophia Ajoku](#).
  - **EIS/LLS Team:**
    - Providing outreach during the April EIS Conference in Atlanta.
  - **Where I Science Series:**
    - Thanks to all who attended the first iteration of this series, which aims to showcase Scientists working at diverse agencies.
    - Please reach out to [LCDR Jamie Mells](#) and [LT Neil Milan](#) for questions or if you

would like to be featured.

- **Rules and Membership SC:** [CDR Zewditu Demissie](#); Co-Chair(s): [CDR Lana Rossiter](#); and [LCDR Angela Coulliette-Salmond](#)
  - The SC SOP Team is continuing to make progress with SOP updates:
    - The Deployment Preparedness SC SOP has been approved by the EB pending final revisions. Once revised, it will be posted to the SciPAC website.
    - Several other SOPs are pending EB review or re-review.
  - The Rules and Membership SC SOP and the SciPAC SOP revisions are ongoing with final versions pending the final version of the combined PAC Charter.
  - Voting membership solicitation is underway (see Vice Chair report). The Voting Member Selection Team has been determined. Thank you to all officers who have agreed to assist with this important task. The Voting Member Selection Process Improvement Team is developing materials to assess this year's process.
  - We remind the PAC that CDR NaTasha Hollis is serving as the SciPAC DEIA Officer. She is currently developing a DEIA Action Plan and other supporting materials for the PAC. If you would like to discuss any DEIA issues or concerns relevant to the PAC, please do reach out to [CDR Hollis](#).
  
- **Science SC:** [LCDR Teresa Wang](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Israel Cross](#), and [LCDR Hilda Razzaghi](#)
  - **State of the Scientists (SoS)**
    - The SoS fielding window ended on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the team is currently working on cleaning the data and conducting analyses. The team will also contribute data to inform CPO's Category Day remarks in May.
    - The SoS team will be presenting an overview of results during the June monthly meeting.
    - A special thanks to [LCDR Carolyn Herzig](#) and [LCDR Francis Annor](#) for their leadership. Please reach out to them with any questions or comments.
  - **Research and Practice Team**
    - On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, CDR NaTasha Hollis presented "Mental Health Disparities During the COVID-19 Pandemic." A total of 22 officers attended the presentation. LOAs for the speaker and COAs for attendees have been sent out.
    - The next webinar, "A public health approach to violence prevention, exploring CDC data to understand firearm deaths and injuries, and prevention resources and examples" will be held in June. LCDR Marissa Zwald will be the presenter. Details will be distributed through the SciPAC listserv.
    - Please reach out to [CDR Ruiqing Pamboukian](#) and [LT Ying Lin](#) with questions.
  - **Bibliography Team**
    - Survey collecting information from Scientist Officers about their publications, presentations, and other scientific products was fielded during March.
    - Please reach out to [LT Nicholas Deputy](#) and [LT Philip Salvatore](#) with any questions.
  - **Surgeon General's - Priority Engagement for Evaluation and Research Support (SG-PEERS) Team**
    - The SG-PEERS proposal has been resubmitted to OSG for review and is pending

- formal approval.
  - LCDR Leora Feldstein and LT Lindsay Womack have developed a Scientist Officer database populating areas of expertise related to SG priorities and other public health topics. They are exploring ways to share snapshots of preliminary data, such as through the SciPAC Newsletter.
  - Please reach out to [LT Lindsay Womack](#) and [LCDR Leora Feldstein](#) with any questions or ideas for leveraging the database.
- **Visibility SC:** [LCDR Angela Thompson-Paul](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Tia Rogers](#), and [LT Lacreisha Ejike-King](#)
  - **Newsletter Team:**
    - The winter newsletter has completed SciPAC leadership review and will soon be sent to OSG for final signoff. We are aiming to release the issue sometime in April to the listserv and website.
    - Be on the lookout for the call for spring edition submissions in the next few weeks!
    - Please contact newsletter team lead [CDR David Huang](#) or co-leads [LCDR Michelle Lin](#) and [LCDR Oliver Ou](#) for any questions regarding article submissions.
  - **Socials Team:**
    - We hosted a St. Patrick's Day Virtual Social, where we discussed trivia and food related to the holiday and had general catch-up conversation. Eight officers, one baby, and one husband attended! We are planning an in-person, fun outdoor event for the summer. Details to come.
    - If you have an idea for an in-person or virtual social event, please contact: [LCDR Adi Rosario](#) and [LCDR Alesha Harris](#).
  - **Publications Team:**
    - The Bibliography team put out the call for papers for the category and we're standing by as a team to jump in on helping them validate and fill in papers for officers who do not respond.
    - POCs: [LCDR Marisa Hast](#) and [CDR Sharyn Parks Brown](#)
  - **Twitter Team:**
    - Twitter Team is recruiting new members for the 2022-2023 Operational Year! No experience with Twitter is necessary.
    - Please contact Twitter team leads [LT Ian Kracalik](#) and [LCDR Angie Coulliette-Salmond](#) to join, or with Tweet Ideas.
    - As always, find us and follow us on Twitter at [@PHS\\_Scientist](#).
  - **Facebook Team:**
    - In March 2023, there were 460 views, 19 posts, and 48 expressions on the SciPAC Facebook page.
    - There are currently 200 Facebook members. If you aren't already a member you can [request membership here](#). POC: [LCDR Patrick Sears](#)
  - **SciPAC Symposium Poster Team:**
    - The team is working to make 2021 and 2022 posters 508 compliant so that they may be posted to the SciPAC website.

- The poster “The USPHS Scientist Category: Contributions of USPHS Scientist Officers to the Interagency Mpox Response” was accepted for the 2023 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in Tulsa. LCDR Marisa Hast will present the poster on behalf of the team.
- POC: [LCDR Marisa Hast](#), [LT Kerui Xu](#)
- **Quarterly Highlights Team:**
  - The Winter 2022 quarterly highlights 1-pager has been submitted and is under review with SciPAC EB.
  - The team is currently developing ideas for the Spring edition.
  - POC: [LT Carrie Whitworth](#)
- **Fist Bump Team:**
  - During the past month, the team received 2 Fist Bump submissions, and posted 1 Fist Bump on the USPHS Scientist Facebook page.
  - During OY23, the 6 Fist Bumps published on USPHS Scientists Facebook Page have garnered 433 views and 64 reactions.
  - 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 [LT Kerui Xu](#).
- **Ad Hoc History Team:**
  - The History Team provided a 2-page SciPAC History Summary that will be included in a forthcoming book on PHS History. POC: [LCDR Shayne Gallaway](#)
  - There are many opportunities to recognize Scientist officers across multiple venues and platforms. Reach out and let us help make sure you and/or your team get recognition for the incredible work that you do every day.
- **Website SC:** [LCDR Ruth Link-Gelles](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Elizabeth Edwards](#), [LCDR Matthew Stuckey](#) and [LT Beth Rubenstein](#)
  - Next SC meeting: 4/20/2023 at 11 AM Eastern
  - Current Activities:
    - For OY 2023, the SC has received 34 update requests so far; 29 requests are complete and 5 are pending.
    - We are continuing to accept new website change requests for OY 2023.
    - Planning is ongoing for a streamlined SciPAC Website, including updated resources for Scientists, archiving unused portions of the current site, and enhanced integration with appropriate external file sharing systems.
    - Working with ICAC and SciPAC EB to identify a replacement for max.gov once it sunsets at the end of 2023. Officers interested in piloting potential replacements should contact Website SC leadership ([hzt7@cdc.gov](mailto:hzt7@cdc.gov)); we are particularly hoping to have officers from non-HHS agencies serve as pilot testers to ensure a solution that works for all SciPAC members.
    - Website and Visibility SCs continue to collaborate on the update to the SciPAC history webpage: The EB has provided feedback and the team is incorporating their edits.
  - Please visit our SciPAC website for additional information on Subcommittee activities and monthly meeting minutes: <https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/scientist/>.

## Liaison Reports

- **Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. (AMSUS):** CAPT Mark Scheckelhoff
  - Nothing to report this month.
  
- **Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB)** CDR Cria Perrine
  - The next CCWIAB Board meeting will be April 12, 2023.
  - The Board has a voting member opportunity for an officer from the Dietician category. If you know of anyone from the Diet PAC who may be interested, have them contact the current Dietician representative, CAPT Merel Kozlosky. The deadline to apply is 4/7/23.
  - If you have any questions about CCWIAB or the committees' initiatives please contact CDR Cria Perrine or visit CCWIAB's website.
  
- **Commissioned Officers Association (COA):** LCDR Julia Zucco
  - Most recent meeting: 02/15/23 Board of Directors meeting.
  - The COA Board of Directors is accepting applications to join a national COA committee. The term is one year and will begin July 1, 2023. The applicant must be a current COA member. Click here to apply.
  - There will be a retirement seminar on Monday, May 8, 0800-1700 during the Symposium (cost included with Symposium registration). Register here.
  - The PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation (COF) will begin accepting applications on March 20 for the 2023 RADM Michael Fellowship to obtain a certificate in Global Health, Applied Epidemiology, or Data Analytics at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. This opportunity is open to COA members at the rank of 01-04 in the USPHS Commissioned Corps. Applications are due by May 15, 2023.
  - Members, please log onto your COA account to ensure your information is up to date, so you can continue to receive the COA Frontline and important information on COA activities.
  
- **IT Chartered Advisory Committee (ICAC):** LCDR Kelly Shaw
  - Nothing to report this month.
  
- **Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG):** LCDR Xia Michelle Lin
  - Volunteers wanted for 2023 JOAG events at the Symposium!
    - **Community Service Event**
      - Irongate: Iron Gate's mission is simple. We feed the hungry of Tulsa—every day. We feed people in three ways, through our soup kitchen, grocery pantry and Kids Pantry. Volunteers will serve the morning meal, assist with organizing the pantry, and putting together kids snack packs.
      - Tulsa Day Center: Where hope and homeless meet, has a mission to serve those who are experiencing or at risk for homelessness. Volunteers will assist with organizing donations for the center.
      - Click here to sign up.
      - **Time/Date:** Tuesday, May 9, 0745-1030



- **Deadline:** April 7, 1700 ET
- **POC:** [LCDR Deanna Harmon](#) and [LCDR Jennifer Jabara](#)
- **Uniform Inspection Booth (UIB):** click [here](#) to volunteer
  - **Time/Date:** Multiple shifts Monday-Thursday during the Symposium
  - **Deadline:** April 7, 1700 ET
  - **POC:** [LCDR Tiffany Pham](#) and [LCDR Candice Karber](#)
- **Seeking JOAG Photographers!**

Assist with capturing JOAG's presence at the Symposium and award winners. We are requesting volunteers to sign up to take pictures at each of the JOAG-sponsored events including the General Meeting, JOCEB, and UIB. Click [here](#) to volunteer.

**Time/Date:** Multiple shifts Monday-Thursday during the Symposium  
**Deadline:** April 7, 1700 ET  
**POC:** [LCDR Cassidy Burchett](#) and [LCDR Joseph Ralls](#)
- **Junior Officer Career Enhancement Booth (JOCEB)**

JOCEB will provide junior officers at the rank of LCDR/O4 and below with resources and advice on career and professional development. A brief teleconference prior to the Symposium will be available at a later date to review details of volunteer duties. Alternates will be contacted if a slot becomes available. Click [here](#) to volunteer.
- JOAG published March's Practicing Wellness – Staying Mentally Health in Today's Social Media Use, and CyberGram – Readiness and Deployment Updates. See JOAG listserv announcement on 3/13/2023.
- Next JOAG meeting: Friday, 4/14/2023, Time: 1300–1400 ET; Zoom link is [here](#).
  - Presentation topic: Leading by Example - setting an example for others to follow.
- **Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE):** [LT Lacreisha Ejike-King](#)
  - Next meeting: April 13, 2023; 2:00pm ET:  
Virtual meeting information (Microsoft Teams):  
[Click here to join the meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 227 453 203 351; Passcode: yhGjFL  
Audio only: (240) 800-7959; Conference ID: 461728590#
  - The call for the 2023 PACE Annual Awards has been announced. There are three PACE Annual Awards: Individual, Group, and Regional. Awards cover the past 2 calendar years (1/1/21-12/31/22) to allow for a broader scope to highlight officers' achievements. These awards will be reviewed by our PACE Annual Awards Review Board, similar to a PAC or JOAG. If selected, the award will be uploaded to the officer(s)' e-OPF as an official PACE award. Please see the email sent via the PACE listserv on March 27, 2023, for more information on each of the three PACE Annual Award types. Submissions are due April 14, 2023, at 2359 EST. Award nominations should be sent to all of the following officers: [CDR Elizabeth Van Dyne](#), [LCDR Andrew Brown](#), [LCDR Jorielle Houston](#), and [LCDR Stacy Yung](#).
  - The PACE IT Subcommittee is hosting a PACE Event Forms-UPDATE training webinar. The Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) established a Corps-wide process for collecting information on 3<sup>rd</sup> party events. OSG has informed PACE of slight

- changes to this process that are important for all PACE Officers. Please join us for a quick training to understand the new process and receive the information needed for submitting PACE event documentation. Please contact: 'PACE-IT-REQUESTS@LIST.NIH.GOV' with any questions.
- April 12<sup>th</sup> 11-12 EDT : [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- April 17<sup>th</sup> 11-12 EDT : [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- There are opportunities to complete your PACE COVID-19 Presentation Skills Evaluation. This is the final step in the certification process for those who have already completed the COVID-19 101 Training and self-study found on max.gov. Click on the link, complete registration for your desired time slot, and the COVID-19 coordinators will be in touch with you. All times listed are in Mountain Standard Time (MST). Sign up [here](#). Please reach out to [LCDR Julie Niewoehner](#) with any questions. If you are interested in obtaining the prerequisite certification to present the PACE COVID-19 presentation, please reach out to the PACE COVID-19 coordinators, [LCDR Julie Niewoehner](#) or [LCDR Juula Stutts](#).
  - The new Healthy Mind Initiative presentation is now available on Max.gov for SGETs to use for outreach. Please visit Max.gov for the lesson plan, presentation, and training SOP to become eligible to present.
  - The new OSG-approved PACE Lessons are now LIVE at <https://community.max.gov/x/YQXpTQ>
  - Sign up for the PACE Listserv by clicking here: <https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=nps-pace>
  - **Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Advisory Group (SOAGDAG):** [LCDR Luis Iturriaga](#)
    - Next meeting: April 25, 2023; 1:00pm EST
    - Current Projects:
      - Collaboration with the Black Commissioned Officers Advisory Group (BCOAG) on a White Paper focused on negative experiences of minority officers.
      - Interview with N-PAC for their Newsletter article on “An introduction to LGBTQ+ Cultural Competence and Humility in the Workplace and Clinic.”
      - Reviewed and provided feedback on the FDA Pride Workplace Transition resource document.
      - Provided feedback to the Commissioned Corps Women’s Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB) Anti-Harassment Committee on recommended updates to Medical Accession Standards.
      - Volunteering to represent SOAGDAG on Cultural Humility Roundtable discussion at the Preconference COA Symposium 2023.
      - Ongoing work with CCWIAB-SOAGDAG parental leave workgroup - proposal for changes.
    - SOAGDAG is currently seeking nominations for the annual SOAGDAG Courage Award. This award recognizes an officer who has contributed significantly to reducing health disparities among the LGBTQ+ population and pursuing health equity for the LGBTQ+ population. The award nomination package should be emailed to LCDR D’Alessandro and LT Hardy by COB 28 April 2023: [LCDR Domenic D’Alessandro](#); [LT Regena Hardy](#).

- Communications subcommittee is preparing for the June PRIDE Social Media Takeover.
- The Education and Training subcommittee 3rd Quarter Speaker is LT Rubenstein scheduled on April 19, 2023; 12:00 EST. Topic: Mpox Vaccination in NYC: Experiences and Lessons Learned.
- Policy subcommittee is developing a Resource Guide of Tricare policies for gender affirming care.
- Social subcommittee planning is underway for in-person Atlanta meetup on 26 April 2023, a joint Asian Pacific American Officers Committee (APAOC)-SOAGDAG watch party, and symposium meet-up in Tulsa.

**NOTE:** Next meeting—Tuesday, **June 6, 2023**; 12:00–1:00pm ET