



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



Meeting Minutes; February 7, 2023

Total Attendance: 201 attendees; 25 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	Present
CDR	Rossiter, Lana	Rules & Membership SC Co-Chair	Present
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	Excused
LCDR	Levine, Rebecca	Category Day SC Chair	Excused
LCDR	Link-Gelles, Ruth	Website SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Mitzner, George	Recruitment and Retention SC Chair	Present
CDR	Morris, Kate	Psychologist Integration SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Muniz-Ortiz, Jorge	Deployment Preparedness SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Mpofu, Jonetta*	Mentoring SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Restrepo, Adriana	Career Development SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Steele, Matthew	Policy SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Thompson-Paul, Angela	Visibility SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Wang, Teresa	Science SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Zucco, Julia*	Recruitment and Retention SC Co-Chair	Present
LT	Ejike-King, Lacreisha*	Visibility SC Co-Chair	Present

*Pending official Voting Member appointment by Surgeon General

Non-Voting Liaisons

Rank	Name	Role	
CAPT	Scheckelhoff, Mark	AMSUS Liaison	
CDR	Cria Perrine	CCWIAB Liaison	Present
LCDR	Iturriaga, Luis	SOAGDAG Liaison	Present
LCDR	Lin, Michelle	JOAG Liaison	
LCDR	Shaw, Kelly	ICAC Liaison	Present
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 Qiao Bobo, CAPT Jennifer Bodart, CAPT Matthew Breiding, CAPT Renee Calanan, CAPT Laura Draski, CAPT Judy Facey, CAPT Sally Hu, CAPT Ruth Jiles, CAPT Joel Montgomery, CAPT Sara Newman, CAPT Ryan Novak, CAPT Hae-Kyung (Amy) Park, CAPT Anne Purfield, CAPT Scott Salvatore, CAPT Kenneth Sekulic, CAPT Andrea Sharma, CAPT Michael Smith, CAPT Jacqueline Tate, CAPT Matthew Wise, CAPT Fuyuen Yip, CDR Kamil Barbour, CDR David Barry, CDR Tegan Boehmer, CDR Robert Burns, CDR Dan-My Chu, CDR Minglei Cui, CDR Juana Figueroa, CDR Joanna Gaines, CDR Laura Gieraltowski, CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor, CDR Seth Green, CDR Andrew Hickey, CDR Keisher Highsmith, CDR Elizabeth Irvin, CDR Neal Kimble, CDR Jean Ko, CDR Alison Laufer Halpin, CDR Charlene Maddox, CDR Leigh Ann Miller, CDR Lara Misegades, CDR Matthew Newland, CDR Carrie Nielsen, CDR Erika Odom, CDR Cesar Perez, CDR Chris Poulson, CDR Tracy Powell, CDR Sara Pulliam, CDR Gabriela Ramirez-Leon, CDR Meghan Reilly, CDR Luz Rivera, CDR Alfredo Sancho, CDR Sharon Saydah, CDR Jeff Showalter, CDR Emily Streeter, CDR Peter Thomas, CDR Nancy Tian, CDR Sharyl Trail, CDR Sara Vagi, CDR Tenaya Watson, CDR Jason Wilken, CDR Ellen Yard, CDR Yi Zhang, CDR Eric Zhou, LCDR Francis Annor, LCDR Andrea Battle, LCDR Ginny Bowen, LCDR Nicholas Buhr, LCDR Jason Caballero, LCDR Angela Coulliette-Salmond, LCDR Israel Cross, LCDR Sharoda Dasgupta, LCDR Samantha DiMisa, LCDR Brendan Eberenz, LCDR Leora Feldstein, LCDR Brett Forshey, LCDR Charlotte Francia, LCDR Rudolph Francin, LCDR Amy Freeland, LCDR Brandi Freeman-Ponder, LCDR Megan Gaschk, LCDR Rory Geyer, LCDR Bradley Goodwin, LCDR Jayleen Gunn, LCDR Alesha Harris, LCDR Iram Hassan, LCDR Marisa Hast, LCDR Carolyn Herzig, LCDR Patrick High, LCDR Jorielle Houston, LCDR Keisha Houston Jenkins, LCDR Asha Ivey-Stephenson, LCDR Lisa Jarvis-Durham, LCDR Victoria Jeisy-Scott, LCDR Folasade Kembi, LCDR Jonathan Leshin, LCDR Kimberly (Shay) Litton-Belcher, LCDR Xiaowu Lu, LCDR Neali Lucas, LCDR Iman Martin, LCDR Ashleigh Murriel, LCDR Rashid Njai, LCDR Julie O'Donnell, LCDR Marilyn Park, LCDR Mary Puckett, 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 Scott Steffen, LCDR Matthew Stuckey, LCDR Rhondie Tait, LCDR Jessica Tomov, LCDR Emily Ussery, LCDR Nana Wilson, LCDR Marcienne Wright, LCDR Xinzhi Zhang, LT Sophia Ajoku, LT Olubukola Banmeke, LT Courtney Bell, LT Emilie Bouda, LT Andrew Brown, LT Evan Brown, LT Anna Chard, LT Sade Collins, LT Nicholas Deputy, LT Brett Dodd, LT Robert Gahl, LT Sean Griffing, LT Charles (CJ) Helm, LT Brent Huber, LT Jessica Jacobs, LT Emmanuel Jeffrey, LT Michelle Johnson, LT Jueichuan (Connie) Kang, LT Florence Kanu, LT Christine Kim, LT Martin Kimani, LT Taneshia Knight, LT Ian Kracalik, LT Ana Lauer, LT Ying Lin, LT David Mackenzie-Liu, LT Kristin Marks, LT Oren Mayer, LT Megan Mickum, LT Neil Milan, LT Daniel Nguyen, LT Yasmin Ogale, LT Ruth Oni, LT Stephanie Pitts, LT Leigh Ellyn Preston, LT Catharine (Cate) Pritchard, LT Jin Qin, LT Sergio Rodriguez, LT Beth Rubenstein, LT Phillip Salvatore, LT Lillian Smith, LT Kindra Stokes, LT Shaniece Theodore, LT Carrie Whitworth, LT Nicholas Wiese, LT Marilyn Wolff, LT Lindsay Womack, LT Andres Wong Sam, LT Gabriella Wuyke, LT Kerui Xu, LT Shannon York, LTJG Jonathan Burg

Excused Absences of Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Julie Chodacki, CAPT Jennifer Thomas, CDR Brian Harcourt, CDR Emily Jentes, CDR Sanny Northbrook, LCDR Tyann Blessington, LCDR Christine Brady, LCDR William Davis, LCDR Jessica Dunn, LCDR Brooke Hoots, LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson, LCDR Michelle Hughes, LCDR Eric Jamoom, LCDR Gina Masessa, LT Olivia McGovern, LCDR Megan Peck, LCDR Tia Rogers, LCDR Tanesha Tutt, LT Njere English, LT Marsha Samson, LT Hannah Segaloff, LT Jia Yin Leo

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

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

- Officers should take note that several messages have come out from CCHQ since the January PAC meeting, including an upcoming CCHQ Connect session on February 15th on the RDB Policy Update, training opportunity announcements, as well as the announcement of our two new CPOs, for the Dental and Pharmacy categories.
- All Officers should also remember the importance of remaining basic ready, including submission of the Deployment Preparedness Plan (DPP) by the due date. For those in the DC metro Area, there is an opportunity to complete BLS at Joint Base Andrews; Please see below contact information:
 - Johnathan Paxton
Life Support Training PGM, BLS Director
johnathan.a.paxton.civ@health.mil
316 MDG/SGNE
DSN: 612-1174 Commercial: 240-612-1174
Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762
 - Education and Training Org box:
usaf.jbanafw.316-mdg.mbx.education-training@mail.mil
 - NCR Training Calendar ALS/BLS/CPR/PALS-Joint Base Andrews
<https://info.health.mil/edu/MTFDIV/NCR/Lists/MDGTS/calendar.aspx>
- For Officers up for promotion, please remember to verify your Promotion Folder by February 15. Also, if you have any requests for corrections to your promotion folder, send those requests to PHSPromotions@hhs.gov by February 13th.
- In closing, thank you to all of our Scientist Officers for the amazing work you do and your dedication. It is not easy to balance the demands from our agencies, PHS, personal

life and all that is happening around us. CDR Shumate sent a message in January after the two mass shootings in which she highlighted the many resources we have both in and out of SciPAC, including those provided by our Behavioral and Wellness SC, the Corps Care Program, and the Employee Assistance programs at our Agencies. Given all that is going on around us, please remember that we are here to support our Officers.

Chair Report: CDR Alice Shumate

- As we look ahead to the new promotion categories slated to go into effect 1 September 2023, I am mindful of the fact that Scientist officers will be split between two sets of promotion boards: our licensed clinical psychologist officers will be evaluated for promotion as part of the Allied Health combined category, and the remainder of Scientist officers will be part of the Applied Public Health combined category. Between these two combined categories our officers are being grouped with those from 6 other professional Categories, and I'm committed to try to support both sets of officers with the best resources possible. The Combined PAC Chairs' Group is considering how to work together to identify the resources that would be most beneficial, whether working together on CV and OS review, producing and trading sample CVs, and other ideas. If you have thoughts about what you would find helpful, please let me know.
- I look forward to our special presentation at the end of the call on SciPAC Voting Membership. In particular, I encourage junior officers to consider applying, and also to think about how you are building your volunteer involvement in the PAC toward positions of increasing leadership, particularly if you think you might be interested in applying to be a Voting Member in the future. Everything that we do to support our Scientist Officers comes from great ideas introduced by our volunteers, and I encourage you to get involved in initiatives about which you're passionate, and bring forward new ideas. I'm also happy to talk to anyone considering applying for Voting Membership and know others VMs are as well.

Vice Chair Report: CDR Zewditu Demissie

- Update provided under the Rules and Membership SC report.

Executive Secretary Report: LCDR Colleen Scott

- **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 Colleen Scott with the email subject line "SciPAC Meeting Attendance."

Executive Liaison Report: LCDR Shayne Gallaway

- EB Liaison is available to review and/or provide input on any processes or products that may require eventual EB approval. Formally or informally.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Awards SC:** CDR Cara Halldin; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Mary Puckett, and LT Ana Lauer
 - The deadline for the **2023 Derek Dunn Memorial Senior Scientist of the Year Award**, **2023 Shalon Irving Memorial Junior Scientist of the Year Award**, and the **2023 Mentor of the Year Award** nominations was **extended to February 15, 2023**.

- We recognize officers may be hesitant to apply or nominate an officer if they haven't yet converted their CV to the new Standard PHS CV Format. Please be aware that, for awards where a CV is required, the new or old format **are both acceptable**. You do not need to convert your CV to the new format.
- **Behavioral Health & Wellness SC:** LCDR Debra Chen; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Gina Masessa, and LCDR Sharoda Dasgupta
 - Advocacy Team: The Advocacy Team is collecting data on the behavioral health issues that are most concerning to Scientists. Please share them with [CDR Sharyl Trail](#).
 - Liaison Team: The Liaison Team is accepting requests for consultation needs.
 - New Resources Team: The New Resources Team will be presenting on Minimalism on March 22nd. Information about this presentation will be provided shortly.
 - Website Team: The Behavioral Health & Wellness Subcommittee website is now live and can be found here: [Scientist Professional Advisory Committee \(psc.gov\)](#).
- **Career Development SC:** LCDR Adriana Restrepo; Co-Chair(s): CDR Nancy Tian
 - **Promotion Panel Initiative Team:** The Team met on February 2nd to discuss using an alternative platform for a forthcoming survey. The Team is also recruiting members to assist in upcoming efforts. For more information, email [LCDR Neil Bonzagni](#).
 - **Training Team:** The Team is currently scheduling 3 presentations. For more information, email [CDR Tamara Henderson](#).
 - **Handbook Team:** The Team is planning to update 6 Handbook sections: Basic Readiness, Awards, Promotion, COERS, Mentoring, Uniforms. For more information, email [CDR Tamara Henderson](#).
 - **Standard Operating Procedures Team:** The standard operating procedures (SOP) of the Career Development SC were last updated in 2019. The SOP Team has received feedback from all SC Team Leads and has sent a draft of the updated document to the SC Chair/Co-Chair for review. For more information, email [LCDR Amy Schuh](#) and [CAPT Renee Calanan](#).
 - **Administration & Communication Team:** 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 Kembu
 - Meetings
 - Next leadership meeting: February 9, 2023, 12:00 PM
 - Next team leads meeting: February 23, 2023, 12:00 PM
 - Next COF meeting: February 8, 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.
 - For the best rates (early bird registration), register and pay by the end of

March.

- The hotel block filled up quickly. You can try calling Doubletree, they may still have rooms or look for hotels within walking distance.
- The Category Day agenda continues to undergo minor edits.
 - All speakers and moderators completed required tasks in the “speaker resource center” by the January 11, 2023 deadline.
 - The Keynote Speaker, Ms. Aundria Goree, the Director for Mission and Community Health at Tulsa’s Mercy Hospital, will present on “Combating Health Inequities through Co-design: Leading from Within and Leading Together.”
 - The panel, with five distinguished Scientist Officers (and two moderators), will speak on the topic of “Succeeding in the Workplace: Remote Work, Hybrid Teams, and Balancing Workload.”
 - A SciPAC mentoring session will be hosted by the Mentoring Subcommittee, with logistical support from Category Day Outreach and Connections teams, on the morning of Tuesday May 9th, 2023 (the day prior to Category Day).
 - A SciPAC Table will be hosted by the SciPAC Category Day Subcommittee in the Exhibit Hall. More details to come.
- The SciPAC Social, hosted by the Social Team, will take place on May 10th from 7-9PM following Category Day. The [Local Bison](#) will be the venue, which is about 3/4 mile away from the Doubletree hotel.
- The Category Day SOP was received back from the SciPAC Executive Board in mid-September; revisions based on the most recent feedback are underway.
- **Deployment Preparedness SC:** [LCDR Jorge Muñiz Ortiz](#); Co-Chair(s): [CDR John Pesce](#), [LCDR Jason Caballero](#), [LCDR Adelaida Rosario](#)
 - **Readiness Reporting:** As of February 1st, we had 1 new CAD, and no retirements, separations, or deaths of AD scientists. There are a total of 406 AD and 7 Ready Reserve Officers for a total of 413 Scientist Officers. Out of 389 AD Officers that are not exempt, 380 are basic ready (97.7%), 9 are not qualified (1 LT, 6 CDR, and 2 CAPT, 2.3%), and 17 are exempt. Out of the 7 Ready Reserve Officers, 5 are basic ready and 2 are exempt. Including the AD and Ready Reserve Officers that are not exempt, 385 out of a total of 389 are basic ready (98.9%). This is an increase in basic readiness from the last report. Officers that are not qualified are missing PHU, flu, 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.
 - 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, which will begin in spring of 2023.
 - The SC is collaborating with the Recruitment and Retention SC on two projects. One project is to present on the Deployment Buddy Program at future OBCs and another one is on a presentation on various deployment policies and topics scheduled for February 17th. More information on the presentation will be provided soon.
 - Save the date: February 28 at noon, we are arranging for a presentation from HHS Office of Minority Health on the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services standards. We are still arranging the presentation with OMH, so please stay tuned.

- The Skillset Team is working on a supporting resource that can be given to officers who are going on deployment.
- The Website Team worked on finalizing updates to the SCs webpage.
- The Readiness Assistance Team is working on Deployment Preparedness Plan resources soon to help officers who might have questions on filling and submitting one.
- The Deployment Narratives Team is collecting narratives and will be submitting two narratives for the upcoming PAC newsletter.
- As always, we encourage officers to visit the RDB home page often for updates on readiness information (<https://dcp.psc.gov/RedDOG/default.aspx>). We also want to encourage officers to revisit the May 11th email from CCHQ regarding our new deployment structures. If any officer has any questions regarding the information, please reach out to our subcommittee leadership.
- **Mentoring SC:** LCDR Jonetta Mpofo; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Patrick High, and LCDR Michelle Hughes
 - **Leads:** On May 9, 2023, the Mentoring and Category Day SC will host a Mentoring Event at the USPHS 2023 Scientific and Training Symposium. We are recruiting mentors for a SciPAC Mentoring Event. If you are an O-5 or O-6 Scientist Officer who will be in attendance at the Symposium please let us know (wgp8@cdc.gov). More details will follow in the next coming weeks. Mentors will receive a LOA.
 - **Website Liaison:** The website content is actively being restructured and reviewed for accuracy of information.
 - **Mentor Recruitment Team:** The team will begin targeted recruitment activities to engage newly commissioned Scientist officers and officers who are currently unengaged as mentors and mentees.
 - The Peer Support Network is working on updating the PSN application to get it posted on the website. If you are interested in serving as a mentor or mentee please reach out to PSN leads, LCDRs Vicky Jeisy Scott (fvx0@cdc.gov) or Dantrell Simmons (dantrell.simmons@samhsa.hhs.gov).
 - **Mentor Matching Team:** Currently 153 active mentor-mentee agreements are on file, and there are 3 unmatched mentee applicants (2 from CDC, 1 from DHS), and 10 officers with pending mentee agreements.
 - 57% of Scientist Officers are engaged as either a mentor or mentee.
 - **Mentor Capacity-Building Team:** 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) for further information and to more formally establish the mentoring relationship.
 - First meeting of the CBT was held discussing goals for the OY.
- **Policy SC:** LCDR Matthew Steele; Co-Chairs: LCDR Adam Bjork, and LT Lauren Woodard
- Policy Review:

- The Policy Review Team will begin soliciting questions from the PAC in the near future related to Corps policies in order to ascertain where there are gaps in understanding. Keep an eye out for emails on this topic.
- Policy Watch:
 - CCHQ reported approved revisions to the following Commissioned Corps Instructions (CCI) and Personnel Operations Memorandum (POM) in January:
 - CCI [241.02](#), “Deployment of Public Health Service Officers”
 - Changes “Intra-Agency Response” to “intra-agency activity” throughout the policy.
 - Changes language to allow a designee, in addition to the Surgeon General, to authorize activities to count as deployments for deployment credit and service awards.
 - Removes the reference to the Field Medical Readiness Badge.
 - Adds a new section establishing a Commissioned Corps Deployment Evaluation Council (CCDEC) to evaluate and render a decision on CCHQ deployment response eligibility for service credit.
 - CCI [511.01](#), “Awards Program”
 - Edits language regarding the deployment requirement for the Field Medical Readiness Badge (FMRB) in Section 6-7.j.(3).
 - POM [821.76](#), “Deployment Procedures”
 - Creates a new Section 8: “Intra-Agency Activity,” which describes the establishment, composition, and function of the CCDEC. The CCDEC will establish and maintain criteria to determine whether an intra-agency activity counts as deployment for the purposes of deployment credit and awards. Section 8 also suggests officers include intra-agency activities in the appropriate documents to submit to their eOPF.
 - Creates a new Section 9, which defines normal deployment length limitations for Community Health and Service Missions at 14 days, Routine and Urgent deployments at 21 days, and Public Health Emergencies at 30 to 45 days. These lengths may be increased based on the needs of the mission and officer availability, at the discretion of the Director, CCHQ, or designee.
 - Renumber the existing Sections 8 and 9 to be Sections 10 and 11.
 - CCI [241.01](#), “Readiness and Duty Requirements”
 - Mandates the use of the Deployment Preparation Plan (DPP) in evaluating an officer’s readiness status. Effective March 31, 2023, the DPP will become a readiness requirement.
 - This update to CCI 241.01 also modifies the list of approved Basic Life Support (BLS) courses. Completing the ACLS certification alone will no longer satisfy the BLS readiness requirement. The American Heart Association Resuscitation Quality Improvement course was added as an approved BLS course.
 - Additional Announcements:
 - CCHQ sent out an email on January 11, 2023, indicating that the Commissioned Officers’ Awards Program (COAP) Team at CCHQ will now accept self-uploads of non-USPHS honor awards. Per CCI 511.02 “Award of Uniformed Services Decorations,” Public Health Service officers are eligible for non-USPHS awards.

For inclusion of these awards into the officers' promotion information report (PIR), the process will remain to have agency awards coordinators and agency liaisons review and route these to the COAP Team. After the administrative checks are complete and the award is posted in the PIR, officers may then self-upload the corresponding narrative documentation if they would like it to be visible in the eOPF. The following criteria must be met:

- The award is posted in the officer's PIR
- The award is no older than 7 years
- The award is an honor award
- Documentation must include: the officer's name, SERNO, award name, and award citation
- Acceptable forms for documentation include: nomination form, certificate, or official memorandum from the approving authority
- Significant changes to the 2023 PHU were reported by email on January 26, 2023, and are as follows:
 - Virtual PHUs will no longer be accepted. The Medical Affairs Branch (MAB) recognizes that there are rare circumstances when you cannot get an in-person physical. In those rare situations, please immediately contact MAB at PHSMACCHQ@hhs.gov. Provide documentation from your clinic justifying the virtual PHU request. If MAB grants you permission to get a virtual PHU, you will receive a form from MAB which must be completed and signed by you. This form must be scanned and merged with your other PHU forms and placed as the first page of your PHU PDF file. Waiting until the last four weeks of your birth month period to begin the appointment scheduling process is not a justification for a virtual PHU.
 - Physical examinations completed earlier than two months before your birth month will not be accepted. Example: If your birth month is August and you submit a PHU with a physical examination dated before June 1, that PHU will not be accepted.
 - In addition to blood pressure and pulse, all PHUs must contain a current height and weight and taping measurements if your Body Mass Index (BMI) exceeds 27.5 kg/m². Taping must be documented on a PHS-7044-1 and be included in your PHU submission. The height and weight requirement applies to all officers including officers given permission to get virtual PHUs and officers who have active pregnancy waivers for whom taping is not required.
 - Officers with active pregnancy waivers and elevated BMI will be allowed to upload their PHUs without entering taping measurements. The 2023 PHU Submission Checklist includes a check box for identification of officers with an active pregnancy waiver.
 - Due to the change in the Active-Duty Dental Plan, MAB will continue to accept dental examinations that were done no more than one year prior to your birth month.
- Policy Development:
 - The Policy Review and Development teams stand ready to assist any SC that plan to develop policies.

- **Psychologist Integration SC:** CDR Kate Morris; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Patrick Sears
 - **Next meeting:** February 27, 2023.
 - We continue to work to address the concerns of Commissioned Corps psychologists given recent changes. Currently we are examining the possibilities of cross PAC collaboration given the new promotion category framework. Continuing to work with the American Board of Professional Psychology Public Service Task Force to ensure Commissioned Corps psychologists are supported in their pursuit of board certification.

- **Recruitment and Retention SC:** LCDR George Mitzner; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Julia Zucco, and LCDR Jorielle Houston
 - **SOP Review is underway.**
 - **SciPAC website changes have been submitted.**
 - **Resources Team:** No Update.
 - **Separation Survey:** Possible, partial integration to SoS survey.
 - **Interested Applicant Team:**
 - Recruitment Strategy document currently being drafted.
 - 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 Officer 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:**
 - OBC 143/16 graduated February 3, 2023 and thank you to Lcdr Gwendolyn Hudson and Lcdr Rudolph Francin for volunteering to represent SciPAC respectively at the OBC Open House and Graduation.
 - If you are interested in representing SciPAC at a future OBC Open House and/or Graduation, please reach out to [LT Elizabeth Johnson](#) and [LT Oren Mayer](#).
 - **New CAD Seminars Team:** **Open to all officers**
 - **Last Seminar:** “Awards” was held January 30, 2023. There were 44 attendees at the seminar including presenters. Thank you to Lcdr Mary Puckett, LT Ana Lauer, CDR Cara Halldin, Lcdr Steven Rush for presenting on this subject!
 - **Next Meeting:** A seminar on deployments is planned for February 17, 2023, at 12PM ET. Presenters include CDR Alison Laufer-Halpin, Lcdrs Rudolph Francin and Nicholas Buhr.
 - 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:** January 20, 2022 where 18 officers discussed topics related to COERs, promotions packages, policies, and the APFT.
 - **Next Meeting:** February 17, 2023 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:**
 - Preparing for potential outreach during the April EIS Conference in Atlanta.

- Reviewing the EIS/LLS informational flyer for updates this OY.
- **Where I Science Series:**
 - A new project is underway to showcase Scientists working at diverse agencies.
 - The first of this series will occur at the March 7, 2023 SciPAC Monthly General Meeting.
- **Rules and Membership SC:** CDR Zewditu Demissie; Co-Chair(s): CDR Lana Rossiter; and LCDR Angela Coulliette-Salmond
 - The Policy SC SOP has been finalized; posting to the SciPAC Website is pending. The SC SOP Team is continuing to make progress with reviewing SOPs that were delayed due to the demands of the last couple of years.
 - The Rules and Membership SOP and the SciPAC SOP are under revision.
 - The SciPAC Annual Report Team met to discuss new approaches for finalizing the Annual Report in a more timely fashion.
 - The Voting Member Roster Team is revamping the roster to improve recordkeeping of previous and current voting members. The Team will be reaching out to current and past voting members to confirm their information.
 - We remind the PAC that CDR NaTasha Hollis is serving as the SciPAC DEIA Officer. She is currently meeting with the leadership of the SCs to discuss DEIA issues. If you would like to discuss any DEIA issues relevant to the PAC, please do reach out to CDR Hollis at iym7@cdc.gov.
- **Science SC:** LCDR Teresa Wang; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Israel Cross, and LCDR Hilda Razzaghi
 - **State of the Scientists (SoS):** The SOS survey launched on 1/30 and was disseminated via the SciPAC Listserv. The survey is currently live and will be available at [the following link](#) through Monday, 2/20. Please consider taking no longer than 15 minutes of your time to help us meet (or exceed!) last year's response rate of 66% and continue to ensure we collect timely data for action.
 - Please reach out to [LCDR Carolyn Herzig](#) and [LCDR Francis Annor](#) with any questions.
 - **Research and Practice Team:** A webinar on 2/24 will feature CDR Andrea McCollum and Sergio Rodriguez, covering Mpox outbreak data, patterns of transmission, and prevention. More details will be shared through the SciPAC Listserv.
 - Please reach out to [CDR Ruiqing Pamboukian](#) and [LT Ying Lin](#) with questions.
 - **Bibliography Team:** On track for fielding a survey in March via REDCap to collect information regarding officers' scientific products.
 - Continuing to coordinate with Visibility SC to promote Scientist Officers' work through various potential collaborations with the Publications Team, Quarterly Highlights Team, and Fist Bump Team.
 - 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:** Continuing to examine areas of officers' subject matter expertise, as part of an ongoing database initiative.

- Please continue to share your areas of subject matter expertise with [LT Lindsay Womack](#) and [LCDR Leora Feldstein](#).
- **Website Liaisons:** Relayed completion of the Science SC webpage review process to the Website SC on 1/27.
 - Please reach out to [LT Shaniece Theodore](#) and [LCDR Amy Freeland](#) with any questions.
- **Visibility SC:** [LCDR Angela Thompson-Paul](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Tia Rogers](#), and [LT Lacreisha Ejike-King](#)
 - There are so many opportunities to recognize Scientist officers across multiple venues and platforms. Let us help make sure you and/or your team get recognition for the incredible work that you do every day.
 - **Newsletter Team:** The fall newsletter was distributed to the SciPAC listserv on 01/23 and has been submitted for posting on the website.
 - Submissions for the winter edition were due by February 3 and are currently under review.
 - 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:**
 - What:** Mardi Gras Brunch SciPAC DMV Party
 - When:** Saturday, Feb 18, 2023; 11am-1pm (EST)
 - Where:** Due South Dockside, 301 Water St. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003
 - RSVP:** [LCDR Adelaida Rosario](#) and [LCDR Alesha Harris](#)
 - If you have an idea for an in-person or virtual social event, please contact: [LCDR Adi Rosario](#) and [LCDR Alesha Harris](#).
- **Publications Team:** We have completed all activities to identify the top 10 publications for 2021. We have submitted our final product to leadership and have submitted the selections as an article to the *Scientist Officer* Newsletter
 - We have our first team meeting for the current operational year scheduled for the week of February 6th
 - POCs: [LCDR Marisa Hast](#) and [CDR Sharyn Parks Brown](#)
- **Twitter Team:** This January 2023 the SciPAC Twitter Team tweeted and retweeted a total of 36 times, and generated 2,695 new impressions, 202 new engagements, 168 new likes, 256 profile visits and gained 1 new follower! This brings us to more than 310,000 all-time Tweet impressions and 136,449 profile visits since starting in April 2019!
 - 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 January 2023, there were 339 views, 15 posts, and 51 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](#)
- **LinkedIn/Instagram Team:** The Instagram/LinkedIn Team submitted a draft of SOP for review.
 - POC: [LCDR Abby McCabe](#), [LT Brian McAleney](#), [LT Tiffany McCain](#)
- **SciPAC Symposium Poster Team:** We will present our poster titled *The USPHS Scientist Category: The Contributions of Psychologists to the USPHS Mission* at the AMSUS conference on February 13-16th in National Harbor, MD.
 - We have completed drafting the abstract on *Contributions of USPHS Scientist Officers to the Interagency Mpox Response* for this year's PHS Symposium and have received full clearance from the CDC Mpox response. Thank you to all officers who contributed your information! We will submit as soon as the call for poster abstracts opens for this year.
 - POC: LCDR Marisa Hast (iu1@cdc.gov), LT Kerui Xu (kerui.xu@fda.hhs.gov)
- **Quarterly Highlights Team:** The Fall 2022 quarterly highlights 1-pager was completed and is with leadership.
 - The team is currently developing ideas for the Winter edition.
 - POC: [LT Carrie Whitworth](#)
- **Fist Bump Team:** During the past month, the team received 2 Fist Bump submissions, submitted 3 Fist Bumps to the Scientist Officer Newsletter, and posted 1 Fist Bump on the USPHS Scientist Facebook page
 - 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 team is currently working on a short Scientist Category history narrative for a book on PHS History, to be published this year by COF. They provided a first draft by February 6. POC: [LCDR Shayne Gallaway](#)
- **Website SC:** [LCDR Ruth Link-Gelles](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Elizabeth Edwards](#), [LCDR Matthew Stuckey](#) and [LT Beth Rubenstein](#)
 - Next SC meeting: 2/16/2023 at 11 AM Eastern
 - Current Activities
 - For OY 2023, the SC has received 27 update requests so far; 20 requests are complete and 7 are pending
 - We are continuing to accept new website change requests for OY 2023; all backlogged requests received during Jarmanator downtime are now cleared
 - 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
 - Our Special Projects team has asked each SciPAC SC Liaison to review and provide a list of updates for their SC's pages
 - 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
 - Next meeting TBD.
 - AMSUS 2023: Gaylord Hotel, National Harbor, MD; 13-16 Feb 2023 (No virtual platform).
 - Registration closed Feb 3rd; In-person only; no virtual attendance or availability of material.
 - AMSUS awards have been submitted; no additional submissions accepted.
 - PHS award submissions closed.
 - Awardees should plan to attend in-person since event is in-person only (may not require registration if only coming for award).
 - Need volunteers for AMSUS PHS Booth.
 - Key takeaways for AMSUS 2023:
 - Keynote Dr. Steven Lieberman, Veteran Health Affairs.
 - Theme: Healthcare collaborations: Meeting the Challenges of Today and Tomorrow.
 - Offer sessions that have CE/CME (27.5hrs offered) - Expanded to include social work.
- **Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB)** CDR Cria Perrine
 - CCWIAB is launching its first **listening session on Thursday, February 23rd from 1200-1300 ET**
 - These quarterly listening sessions are intended to describe CCWIAB initiatives and resources, as well as hear from attendees regarding issues impacting women officers. The first listening session will provide a high-level overview of CCWIAB, kickoff the listening session series, and briefly describe our recent resources across all committees and topic areas.
Meeting URL:
<https://fda.zoomgov.com/j/1604225442?pwd=OXdWbWJrSFNKVjhpbkIBdUpUMkFTQT09>
Meeting ID: 160 422 5442
Meeting Passcode: &4x?PV
Dial: 833 568 8864 US Toll-free
 - **Assisted Family Planning Support Group (AFPSG)** for Corps Officers will continue to meet in 2023
 - AFPSG is part of the Women's Leadership Support Group and works in collaboration with CCWIAB. AFPSG's mission is to support PHS officers who are seeking fertility treatment, interested in obtaining fertility resources, or desire support in anyway before, during, or after family planning. The 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 officers who are experiencing the challenges of family planning.

- AFPSG meetings occur on the third Friday of each month over Zoom. Please contact [CDR Carrie Ceresa](#) or [LCDR Anne Tobenkin](#) for more information or to receive an invite to the meetings.
- 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: 12/7/22 Board of Directors meeting.
 - COA hosted a great leadership series event on February 1, "The Incredible Power of Praise," where we did exercises on how praise can help improve relationships and create a motivating environment in both our professional and personal lives.
 - The Outreach Committee is hosting a virtual social for new OBC and Ready Reserve officers on February 26, where we will have Chris Schueler, the PBS film producer making the PHS documentary, will be our guest speaker.
 - The 2023 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium planning is in full swing. Registration for the symposium is now open with early bird rates that end March 22.
 - 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](#)
 - ICAC is working on an issue paper around the subject of the sunset of max.gov and recommendations for moving forward. Thanks to SciPAC's Website subcommittee blazing a trail, we've been able to supply information about CDC's external SharePoint capabilities that may allow for this to be a good replacement option. I'll be creating a pilot ICAC SharePoint site and contributing additional information about this option for ICAC and the categories, including the other SciPAC subcommittees currently using max.gov.
- **Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG):** [LCDR Xia Michelle Lin](#)
 - Walk for Your Heart for American Heart Month from Feb 1 – Feb 28, 2023
 - Event Leader: [LCDR Tyann Blessington](#).
 - JOAG invited CAPT Andrew J. Chen to share what he says is a rather unconventional PHS career journey in the upcoming Officer Spotlight event.
 - Date/Time: Thursday, March 9, 2023; 1000-1030 EST
 - Meeting link: [here](#).
 - Social Work Month 5K Run/Walk on Tuesday, March 21, 2023
 - Virtual Event (Anywhere)
 - All participants must complete the event within 24-hour period from 0000 Saturday to 2359 Saturday.
 - Uniform of the Day: PHS gear (e.g., Blue PHS t-shirt, long pants with no holes or tears, closed-toe shoes, and attire appropriate for the weather). For cold weather, you may choose to wear a long-sleeved shirt under the blue PHS t-shirt.
 - Deadline to Submit Results: Once your run/walk is complete, please email your pictures and a screenshot of your fitness tracker results along with your rank, full

name, SERNO, run location (city/state), agency, and category to the event lead using the contact information provided below.

- Event Lead: [LCDR Jennifer Weekes](#).
- The JOAG is soliciting feedback from all Junior officers on any PHS-related questions, concerns, or input through Junior Officer “JO” Voice, Communications and Publications Committee (CPC) using this [form](#).
- JOAG published January’s Practicing Wellness - ‘Tis the Season for Stress Free Resolutions. See JOAG listserv announcement on 1/17/2023.
- JOAG published February’s Practicing Wellness - Practicing Culture as a Protective Factor. See JOAG listserv announcement on 1/30/2023.
- JOAG published CYBERGRAM - readiness and deployment updates.
- Next meeting: Friday, 2/10/2023, Time: 1300–1400 ET
 - Zoom link: <https://fda.zoomgov.com/j/1611869072>
 - Presentation topic: managing up - changing your approach to better suit your leadership.
- **Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE):** [LT Lacreisha Ejike-King](#)
 - Next meeting: February 9, 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 winter edition of the PACE Connections newsletter was released February 1, 2023, via the PACE listserv. The next call for articles will be in March 2023. Submissions can include interviews with PACE leadership, reports on PACE activities, reports from the committees on special initiatives, lists of or features of PACE award winners, or other features on topics or individuals related to PACE activities/participation. Submissions can be sent to PHSPACEnewsletter@gmail.com.
 - Leadership opportunity:
 - There is an open call for nominations for PACE Senior Advisor. The PACE Senior Advisor will serve a 3-year term from 01 June 2023 – 31 May 2026. The PACE Senior Advisor will serve as a resource, advisor, and liaison, assisting in the development and coordination of protocols and activities related to public health education provided by the Commissioned Corps. The Senior Advisor will be a consultant to PACE, and will advise PACE on all related issues, concerns, policies, and procedures. The Senior Advisor serves as a liaison between PACE and the OSG, speaking and advocating on behalf of PACE. The Senior Advisor must be an officer ranked O-6 or above, meet basic readiness standards, and have supervisory approval. The officer may be from any agency or operating division. Complete nomination packages will be submitted via email to the Executive Directors, [LCDR Jonathan Leshin](#) and [LT Austin Van Horn](#). Nominations are due no later than Midnight on February 10th, 2023. Self-nominations are welcome. Please see the PACE listserv announcement from February 6, 2023, for Application Package materials and for additional information/details.
 - Awards:

- The PACE Recognitions Subcommittee announces a special PHS Awards presentation on Tuesday, February 21 at 1100 ET. Bring your questions about writing awards, common pitfalls, and the CCHQ review process. Volunteers from the PACE Recognitions Subcommittee and a representative from the Commissioned Officers' Awards Program at CCHQ will be presenting and answering FAQs.
Meeting link: <https://ihs.gov.zoomgov.com/j/1616051066?pwd=endnRFYwZXdQRk1HaUZ6TXc2TjNKUT09>
Audio only: (833) 568-8864; Meeting ID: 161 605 1066; Passcode: 651329
- All historical data on PACE PHS Awards outcomes is now live on the [PACE Max.gov site](#). Navigate to the “Forms” tab and look for the “PACE PHS Awards History”. Information on award success rates, downgrades, etc. are available. Please contact [LT Kathryn McNamara](#) with any questions or concerns.
- The official first call of 2023 for PACE PHS Awards is coming soon.
- 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: 28 FEBRUARY 2023 @ 1300 HRS ET

NOTE: Next meeting—Tuesday, **March 7, 2022**; 12:00–1:00pm ET