



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



Meeting Minutes; July 11, 2023

Total Attendance: 175 attendees; 40 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
CDR	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	Link-Gelles, Ruth	Website SC Chair	Excused
CDR	Morris, Kate	Psychologist Integration SC Chair	Excused
CDR	Pesce, John	Deployment Preparedness SC Co-Chair	Excused
CDR	Restrepo, Adriana	Career Development SC Chair	Present
CDR	Rossiter, Lana	Rules & Membership SC Co-Chair	Excused
CDR	Steele, Matthew	Policy SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Chen, Debra	Behavioral Health & Wellness SC Chair	Excused
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	Mitzner, George	Recruitment and Retention SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Muniz-Ortiz, Jorge	Deployment Preparedness SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Mpofu, Jonetta	Mentoring SC Chair	Excused
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Thompson-Paul, Angela	Visibility SC Chair	Excused
LCDR	Wang, Teresa	Science SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Zucco, Julia	Recruitment and Retention SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	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	Excused
LCDR	Lin, Michelle	JOAG Liaison	Excused
LCDR	Shaw, Kelly	ICAC Liaison	Excused
LCDR	Zucco, Julia	COA Liaison	Present
LCDR	Ejike-King, Lacreisha	PACE Liaison	Present

Participation by Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Nelson Adekoya, CAPT Marco Bennett, CAPT Qiao Bobo, CAPT Jennifer Bodart, CAPT Joseph Despina, CAPT Anne Dobbmeyer, CAPT Laura Draski, CAPT Judy Facey, CAPT Jose Gomez, CAPT Sally Hu, CAPT Ruth Jiles, CAPT Carrie Nielsen, CAPT Ryan Novak, CAPT Hae-Kyung (Amy) Park, CAPT Anne Purfield, CAPT Kenneth Sekulic, CAPT Michael Smith, CAPT Jacqueline Tate, CAPT Jennifer Thomas, CAPT Robin Toblin, CAPT Michelle Tsai, CAPT Fuyuen Yip, CDR Frances (Lisa) Belcher, CDR Alicea Candido, CDR Dan-My Chu, CDR Minglei Cui, CDR Juana Figueroa, CDR Amy Freeland, CDR Eboni Galloway, CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor, CDR Seth Green, CDR Keisher Highsmith, CDR NaTasha Hollis, CDR David Huang, CDR Jean Ko, CDR Iman Martin, CDR Leigh Ann Miller, CDR Mark Miller, CDR Lara Misegades, CDR Erika Odom, CDR Eduardo O'Neill La Luz, CDR Ruiqing Pamboukian, CDR Erin Parker, CDR Cesar Perez, CDR Cria Perrine, CDR Sara Pulliam, CDR Nazia Rahman, CDR Gabriela Ramirez-Leon, CDR Meghan Reilly, CDR Kari Schlessinger, CDR Jessica Schultz Fischer, CDR Jeff Showalter, CDR John Stansberry, CDR Peter Thomas, CDR Nancy Tian, CDR Nadra Tyus, CDR Jeremy Wally, CDR Maroya Walters, CDR Jason Wilken, CDR Geoffrey Wu, CDR Lauren Zapata, CDR Yi Zhang, CDR Eric Zhou, LCDR Francis Annor, LCDR Andrea Battle, LCDR Tyann Blessington, LCDR Ginny Bowen, LCDR Jason Caballero, LCDR Anna Chard, LCDR Angela Coulliette-Salmond, LCDR Israel Cross, LCDR Sharoda Dasgupta, LCDR Nicholas Deputy, LCDR Samantha DiMisa, LCDR Brett Dodd, LCDR Brendan Eberenz, LCDR Leora Feldstein, LCDR Dianca Finch, LCDR Brandi Freeman-Ponder, LCDR Bradley Goodwin, LCDR Sean Griffing, LCDR Jason Ham, LCDR Iram Hassan, LCDR Marisa Hast, LCDR Brooke Hoots, LCDR Keisha Houston Jenkins, LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson, LCDR Jessica Jacobs, LCDR Eric Jamoom, LCDR Victoria Jeisy-Scott, LCDR Michelle Johnson, LCDR Jueichuan (Connie) Kang, LCDR Folasade Kembu, LCDR Juan Lacayo, LCDR Ana Lauer, LCDR Jonathan Leshin, LCDR Xiaowu Lu, LCDR Neali Lucas, LCDR Gina Masessa, LCDR Oren Mayer, LCDR Jamie Mells, LCDR Ashleigh Murriel, LCDR Rashid Njai, LCDR Oliver Ou, LCDR Marilyn Park, LCDR Jaymin Patel, LCDR Megan Peck, LCDR Mary Puckett, LCDR Leslie Rivera-Rosado, LCDR Tia Rogers, LCDR Adelaida Rosario, LCDR Beth Rubenstein, LCDR Stephanie Rutledge, LCDR Amy Schuh, LCDR Scott Steffen, LCDR Matthew Stuckey, LCDR Rhondie Tait, LCDR Esra Toussaint, LCDR Tanesha Tutt, LCDR Emily Ussery, LCDR Nicholas Wiese, LCDR Kerui Xu, LCDR Shannon York, LCDR Marissa Zwald, LCDR Kindra Stokes, LT Sophia Ajoku, LT Muhammad Altaf, LT Courtnee Bell, LT Andrew Brown, LT Amanda Chaskey, LT Daniel Cheng, LT Sade Collins, LT Peter DeJonge, LT Bryan Galvez, LT Candis Hunter, LT Emmanuel Jeffrey, LT Elizabeth Johnson, LT Nang Thu Thu Kyaw, LT Ying Lin, LT David Mackenzie-Liu, LT Kristin Marks, LT Jessica Meeker, LT Neil Milan, LT Eric Mooring, LT Michael Newford, LT Ruth Oni, LT Anthony Powell, LT Leigh Ellyn Preston, LT Catharine (Cate) Pritchard, LT Jin Qin, LT Sergio Rodriguez, LT Shaniece Theodore, LT Carrie Whitworth, LTJG Dominic Nathan

Excused Absences of Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Julie Chodacki, CDR Kamil Barbour, CDR Tegan Boehmer, CDR Joanna Gaines, CDR Brian Harcourt, CDR Emily Jentes, CDR Matthew Lozier, CDR Erin Nichols, CDR Sanny Northbrook, CDR Sharyn Parks Brown, CDR Chris Poulson, LCDR Christine Brady, LCDR Evan Brown, LCDR Nicholas Buhr, LCDR William Davis, LCDR Carolyn Herzig, LCDR Patrick High, LCDR Michelle Hughes, LCDR Lisa Jarvis-Durham, LCDR Pushpa (Suresh) Jayasekara, LCDR Olivia McGovern, LCDR Julie O'Donnell, LCDR Hilda Razzaghi, LCDR Kelly Shaw, LCDR Dantrell Simmons, LCDR Lauren Woodard, LT Brent Huber, LT Florence Kanu, LT Christine Kim, LT Andres Wong Sam, LT Gabriella Wuyke, 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

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 noted that the temporary promotion lists were released last month, and commended CCHQ for continuing to release these earlier than in past years. It was great to see higher promotion success rates for the O-4 and O-5 ranks compared to last year. Congratulations to all of our Officers who were promoted, as this is a great achievement in your careers.
- CAPT Sandhu encouraged Officers that were not promoted, reminding Officers that not being promoted does not reflect on them as an Officer, their value and contributions to the service and the agencies they serve. Even with higher promotion rates for some ranks, we know that many exemplary Officers were not promoted. CAPT Sandhu has shared her own story of being passed up multiple times, and the challenges we face as Officers. However, it is encouraging to see so many Officers on this year's list who were able to promote, including some officers that may have been passed up multiple times and who were in the bottom decile/quartile previously.
- CAPT Sandhu committed to spending time analyzing data that become available to the CPOs and so she can share a better understanding of this year's promotion results at the August SciPAC monthly meeting.
- CAPT Sandhu encouraged Officers to take the time to review their promotion board documents, take the time to reflect, and to work with their mentors on any areas of improvement or areas they would like to develop further. Next year, there will be combined promotion boards, and we will share any additional information we can as it becomes available. We have had one set of benchmarks across categories for the last few years, and encouraged officers to please continue to take advantage of the wealth of

resources our PAC has developed. It will take time to see what the impact of the broader promotion boards will be, but CAPT Sandhu is optimistic that our Officers will be highly competitive.

Chair Report: [CDR Alice Shumate](#)

- Congratulations to those Officers who were selected for promotion! It is a testament to your achievements and excellence. Even with the higher promotion rates this year, though, we know that many deserving Officers who scored very highly were still below the cut-off percentage for promotion. As we continue to adjust to the new CV format and see changes in the makeup of our promotion boards, we look to successfully promoted Officers to step up and share their advice with others. Please give back by volunteering for the CV and OS review service, mentoring others, and sharing your experience with the Career Development SC when they survey recently promoted Officers.
- For those who were not promoted, I know it is disappointing and disheartening. I hope that, with some time, you can refocus on positive steps toward both improving your package, as well as focusing on career progression and job satisfaction independent of promotion. Please let me know what you think SciPAC can do to help with this. We have great leaders working toward this goal across many SCs, and we want to hear your ideas and involve you in making the PAC a great support and home for all Scientists.
- I also want to acknowledge that there are still many unknowns about the future promotion process, and we're waiting for more details from CCHQ. In the meantime, CDR Demissie and I are working with leadership from other PACs on ideas for collaboratively supporting Officers; including the possibility of a combined CV review, senior officer talks, and shared promotion resources. We look forward to sharing more details in the months to come.

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

- We thank everyone for their patience as the voting member list is finalized. The list must be approved by OSG before the selections can be shared with the PAC.
- Through work with Rules and Membership SC, we will be obtaining feedback on the process from both Selection Team members and applicants.
- If you have any questions about voting membership, please contact [CDR Demissie](#).

Executive Secretary Report: [CDR Colleen Scott](#)

- Congratulations to all the newly promoted Officers. I have updated the PAC roster for all Officers with a pinning date of July 1, 2023 and I am working with the Website SC to ensure all Officer ranks are updated on the website.
- A call for a new SciPAC liaison to AMSUS will be forthcoming in the near future, please watch for a listserv announcement to come out soon if you are interested in applying.
- **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 [CDR Scott](#) with the email subject line "SciPAC Meeting Attendance."

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

- Please note my updated contact information.
- Standardized SC end of year (EOY) LOA and process – Starting this year, there will be a standard SC EOY LOA format prescribed for use by all SCs.
 - The review and approval of this format is currently underway by the EB and the CPO.
 - The EB will be reaching out to SC leadership for completed SC EOY LOAs immediately following the end of the current OY (September).
 - The EB will facilitate the review and approval of all SC EOY LOAs at one time (October).

Subcommittee Reports

- **Awards SC:** CDR Cara Halldin; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Mary Puckett, and LCDR Ana Lauer
 - Sharing a friendly reminder for officers who will be up for promotion in the next cycle: awards need to be submitted to the Commissioned Officers' Awards Program (COAP) at Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) by NLT COB August 31 if you'd like guarantee that it will be in your eOPF for the next promotion review cycle. Please take into consideration the time your award will need for the entire approval process, which may have already passed for some CIOs.
- **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:** The team's July issue of the Mental Health Monthly newsletter was just released.
 - **Liaison Team:** The team is accepting requests for consultation needs.
 - **New Resources Team:** The team is working out the logistics of hosting an ongoing experiential session series on Qigong and will offer a webinar on officer wellness.
 - **SOP Team:** The most recent edits were sent via the Rules and Membership SC to the EB for further review.
 - **Website Team:** The Behavioral Health & Wellness SC website is now live and can be found here: [Scientist Professional Advisory Committee \(psc.gov\)](http://psc.gov)
- **Career Development SC:** CDR Adriana Restrepo; Co-Chair(s): CDR Nancy Tian
 - **Allied Health Team:** The team identified representatives to join the cross PAC Allied Health Career Development Workgroup, created under the Pharmacy PAC, and seeks SciPAC officers to operate in an Applied Health workgroup. For more information, email [LCDR Nicholas Buhr](#).
 - **Promotion Document Review Team:** The team completed the issuance of the LOA for all officers that served as reviewers. If you have not received yours, please reach out to the team leads. For more information, email [CAPT Michelle Rodriguez](#).
 - **Promotion Panel Initiative Team:** The team completed a survey about promotions and recruited 15 members to perform data analysis summarize the findings. An organizational meeting was held on July 7th. For more information, email [LCDR Neil Bonzagni](#).

- **Training Team:** The team is planning a presentation relating to Career Paths at Various Agencies, where 1-2 speakers from each agency will give a short description of their position. The presentation is scheduled for July 27th at 1 PM. For more information, email [CDR Tamara Henderson](#).
- **Standard Operating Team (SOP) Team:** The team submitted the triennial update of the Career Development SC's SOP to the EB for review via the Rules & Membership SC. We are currently waiting for the EB to complete their review. For more information, email [LCDR Amy Schuh](#).
- **CE Contact Hour Initiative Team:** The team finalized the update list to include psychologist specific resources and will be submitting for review by leadership next week. For more information, email [LCDR Brett Dodd](#) or [LCDR Christine Brady](#).
- **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 [LCDR 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 Kambi](#)
 - Meetings:
 - Next leadership meeting: July 13, 2023, 12:00 PM
 - Next team leads meeting: July 27, 2023, 12:00 PM
 - The Evaluations team compiled results from the 2023 Category Day evaluation survey and presented their findings to the subcommittee on June 29, focusing on year-to-year trends.
 - A request was sent to the EB to share a short version of the presentation with the broader PAC in the new OY.
 - The Category Day 2023 roster was finalized to use for LOAs and for the 2023 Symposium Unit Commendation submission.
 - Official rosters with SERNOs were submitted to the Symposium organizers for inclusion on the Symposium UC that is being submitted by COF/COA for both the 2022 and 2023 events.
 - The Appreciation team prepared LOAs for all Category Day SC Members, Category Day speakers, and pre-Category Day Mentors and submitted them to the executive board for review and signature.
 - The Category Day SOP is being updated based on the most recent EB feedback and lessons learned (particularly around mentoring and outreach) from the 2023 Symposium experience.
- **Deployment Preparedness SC:** [LCDR Jorge Muñiz Ortiz](#); Co-Chair(s): [CDR John Pesce](#), [LCDR Jason Caballero](#), [LCDR Adelaida Rosario](#)
 - **Readiness Reporting:** As of July 1, 2023, we had 1 new CAD and 2 retirements, separations, or deaths of AD Scientists. The total count is 402 AD and 9 RR Officers for a total of 411 Scientist Officers. Out of 398 AD Officers that are not exempt, 392 are basic ready (98.5%), 6 are not qualified (2 LT, 1 LCDR, 2 CDR, and 1 CAPT; 1.5%), and 6 are exempt. Out of the 9 Ready Reserve Officers, 6 are basic ready and

- 3 are exempt. Including the AD Officers and RR officers that are not exempt, 398 out of a total of 408 are basic ready (97.5%). This is a decrease in basic readiness from the last report. Officers that are not basic ready are missing a license, BLS, PHU, DPP, vaccination(s) and/or 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.
- The DPSC Speaker Series is jointly promoting a seminar titled “Physical Care for the Responders” with the Therapist and Dietitian Categories. The seminar will be presented by LCDR Sarah Lyrata, LCDR Brenda Riojas, and LT Samora Casimir. The presentation will be on July 19 at 2:00 pm. CDR Scott sent an email promoting it on 06/23/2023.
 - We would like to remind Officers of the CPO Fitness Challenge and the REP!, which are both fitness programs. Remember the PAC will have its own exercise challenge, a Plank Challenge which will begin around 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 and website once approved.
 - The Skillset Team has prepared a supporting resource document that once finalized will be distributed to all Scientists.
 - 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 SC leadership with questions.
- **Mentoring SC:** LCDR Jonetta Mpofo; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Patrick High, and LCDR Michelle Hughes
 - Next meeting: July 26, 2023, 11 AM ET.
 - A special thanks to all members of the Mentoring SC during OY 2023. All Mentoring SC members have been asked to begin to think about and let us know if they are interested in staying in their current roles for OY 2024.
 - We are in the process of updating current versions of the following documents to our website: the Mentoring Application, the Mentoring Agreement Form, the PSN 1-pager information sheet, and the SciPAC Quick Reference Guide.
 - **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](#).
 - The first round of personal email invites were sent out to 17 FDA CDRs to become mentors.
 - Mentoring team is working with the visibility team on social media posts to advertise all mentorship programs (traditional mentoring and Peer Support Network (PSN)) in an effort increase/encourage mentor participation.
 - **PSN**
 - The one page informational will be posted on the SciPAC website when updated.
 - PSN leads have provided 1 new CAD RR Officer with the new SciPAC mentor application for completion.
 - A total of 14 Officers have assisted with updating the mentoring list so far.

- A SciPAC PSN Mentor Survey was administered to 32 Officers from May 30, 2023–June 13, 2023, to ensure that the Mentoring SC has up-to-date information on PSN Mentors. We’ve received responses from 14 Officers.
- **Capacity Building Team:**
 - The mentoring agreement has been updated and approved by the SC leadership.
 - The team developed the PSN one page informational and it has been approved by SC leadership.
 - Updates from the mentoring chapter were incorporated into the draft SciPAC Handbook and has been returned to the SciPAC Career Development Team for review.
 - 5-year career plan updates were received on 6/9 and further updates are being requested before distribution to SC leadership.
 - We’d like to remind all Psychologist Officers about the Board Certification Mentoring program. If you are a psychologist and have an informal mentor relationship for Board Certification, please contact [LCDR Deb Chen](#) to receive an LOA for your efforts.
- **Mentor Matching Team:**

Number of current agreements	158
Number of new agreements	2 in May
Percent of Scientist Officers (n = 412) engaged	59%
Percent of mentee Officers (includes those requested to be mentees)	42%
Number of pending mentee agreements	12 (4 CDC, 2 BOP, 1 FDA, 2 ICE, 1 DOD, 1 DHS, 1 NIH); we are actively following up with officers with pending agreements
Number unmatched Officers	3
Number of Officers who are mentors	104
Number of Officers who are mentees	158

- **Policy SC:** [CDR Matthew Steele](#); Co-Chairs: [CDR Adam Bjork](#), and [LCDR Lauren Woodard](#)
 - Policy watch:
 - CCI 393.01 - Revisions have been made to the Medical Review Board policy (effective June 20, 2023). The updated version adds an Expedited Medical Review Board that is an alternative fitness for duty process that the USPHS Commissioned Corps may offer to an officer to allow recommendations to be sent to the Surgeon General without convening a Medical Review Board.
https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/ccis/documents/CCI_393.01.pdf.

- CCHQ sent out an email 6/6/23 regarding submission of PHS awards:
 - To ensure that all Public Health Service awards are included in your electronic Official Personnel Folder (e-OPF) for promotion board review, they need to be submitted to the Commissioned Officers' Awards Program (COAP) at Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) by **NLT COB August 31, 2023**.
 - Please contact your USPHS Commissioned Corps Liaison for agency specific deadlines, which may be earlier than the CCHQ deadline. The awards will be reviewed and processed into your Promotion Information Report (PIR) by December 31, 2023, in time for the 2024 Promotion Cycle.
- CCHQ sent out an email 6/28/23 regarding excess annual leave. While we wait for further guidance on this extension, the current directive regarding leave remains in effect:
 - If the new CCD *is not* signed into effect by September 30, 2023:
 - Public Health Service officers with excess annual leave carried over from FY2020 - FY2022 have until September 30, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. to use the leave. If not used, this leave will be forfeited.
 - Any leave over 60 days in the annual leave bucket *will* expire October 1, 2023, at 12:00 a.m.
 - If the new CCD *is* signed into effect by September 30, 2023, we *anticipate* that:
 - Public Health Service officers with excess annual leave carried over from FY2020 - FY2022 have until September 30, 2025, to use the leave.
 - Any leave over 60 days (up to 120 days) in the annual leave bucket *will not* expire October 1, 2023, at 12:00 a.m.
- Policy Review:
 - The Policy Review Team continues their focused review of the newly revised Deployment and Promotions policies. Any officer with questions regarding these that could be added to an FAQ should send them to SciPAC.Policy@gmail.com.
- **Psychologist Integration SC: CDR Kate Morris**; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Patrick Sears
 - Next meeting: August 21, 2023, at 2pm EST
 - We opened our June meeting to all psychologists and reviewed the current status of active initiatives, ongoing concerns, and recommendations to leadership as the SC sunsets at the end of August.
 - We will hold our final meeting in August of this year and all psychologists who wish to attend are encouraged. Meeting details will be shared during August's SciPAC call.
 - To the Scientist community at large, thank you for your continued support. The success of the psychologist transition could not have been possible without the thoughtful consideration of our Scientist Officers.

- **Recruitment and Retention SC:** CDR George Mitzner; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Julia Zucco, and LCDR Jorielle Houston
 - **Resources Team:** *Top Tips 2023* is with the EB for review.
 - **Interested Applicant Team:**
 - Any Scientist interested in carrying out a recruitment activity (e.g., delivering a presentation to a professional organization or alma mater) will receive coordination, support, and CCHQ-approved materials from our team.
 - If you are interested in conducting a recruitment activity, please reach out to [CDR Angela Williams](#) and [LCDR Kelsy Hoffman](#).
 - **OBC Engagement Team:**
 - June's OBC was cancelled.
 - Thank you in advance to LCDR Oliver Ou, who will be representing SciPAC at July's OBC Open House.
 - If you are interested in representing SciPAC at a future OBC Open House, pinning ceremony, and/or graduation, please reach out to [LT Elizabeth Johnson](#) and [LCDR Oren Mayer](#).
 - **New CAD Seminars Team:** **Open to all Officers**
 - June's seminar, *Benefits and Perks*, was attended by 25 officers. Bravo Zulu to LCDR Dallas Shi for the great presentation!
 - An end of year seminar satisfaction survey will be sent out to all listserv members.
 - To receive an invitation for the next seminar, provide additional seminar ideas, or brief, contact [CDR Rudolph Francin](#), [LT Jessica Meeker](#), and [LT Shara Francin](#).
 - **New Scientist Officer Team:** **Scientists ≤ 3 years CAD and/or at O-3 grade**
 - **Next Meeting:** RDML Schobitz's talk has been postponed and is TBD, please stand by for an announcement of the new date.
 - For details, invitation, or to be added to the distribution list, contact [LCDR Sean Griffing](#), [LCDR Oren Mayer](#), [LT Jessica Jacobs](#), and [LT Sophia Ajoku](#).
 - **EIS/LLS Team:**
 - April 2023 EIS/LLS conference completed and AAR pending.
 - Considering how to best reach these Fellows earlier to give guidance and information on commissioning. Connecting with CCHQ/CADRe.
 - **Where I Science Series:**
 - The team is planning the next series installment for September 2023 and are ensuring to have good agency and professional representation.
 - Please reach out to [LCDR Jamie Mells](#) and [LT Neil Milan](#) for questions or if you would like to be featured in this or a future series.
- **Rules and Membership SC:** CDR Zewditu Demissie; Co-Chair(s): CDR Lana Rossiter; and LCDR Angela Coulliette-Salmond
 - The SC SOP Team continues to provide review of SOPs and support to SCs on SOP updates, with planned catch up by the end of the operational year. The Science SC and Deployment Preparedness SC SOPs have been finalized and sent for website posting.

- SciPAC SOP revisions are ongoing; the updated draft should be concluded this month. Once approved, the Rules & Membership SC SOP will be updated in alignment.
- Call for annual reports from SCs, liaisons, and EB will be coming soon. We ask that SciPAC leadership please look out for this communication and prioritize turning around this important information.
- The Voting Member Roster Team is close to completing the updated roster.
- We remind the PAC that CDR NaTasha Hollis is serving as the SciPAC DEIA Officer. If you would like to discuss any DEIA issues 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 presentation is being prepared for uploading to the SciPAC website.
 - The SoS Team and Science SC leadership will be discussing plans for socializing survey content in advance of next year’s fielding and its tentative transition to REDCap.
 - Please reach out to [LCDR Carolyn Herzig](#) and [LCDR Francis Annor](#) with any questions or comments.
 - **Research and Practice Team**
 - 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 July. 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**
 - Compilation of the Bibliography is ongoing; a proposal to recognize Scientist Officers based on their publications is under review with the EB.
 - Please reach out to [LCDR Nicholas Deputy](#) and [LCDR 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.
 - An article detailing the team’s subject matter expertise database has been submitted to the SciPAC Newsletter.
 - Please reach out to [LCDR Lindsay Womack](#) and [LCDR Leora Feldstein](#) with any questions or ideas for leveraging the database.
 - **Max.gov Transition**
 - [LT Shaniece Theodore](#) will serve as lead for Science SC.

- **Visibility SC:** [LCDR Angela Thompson-Paul](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Tia Rogers](#), and [LCDR Lacreisha Ejike-King](#)
 - **Newsletter Team:**

- The Spring Newsletter is undergoing OSG review and will soon be distributed to the SciPAC listserv and posted to the SciPAC website.
- Be on the lookout for the call for articles for the Summer Newsletter, which will include articles about this year's Symposium. Early submissions are encouraged and appreciated!
- POCs: 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:** The team has planned the following two summer socials:
 - Shenandoah Mellow Tubing and Lunch
What: We're going tubing!! (Shenandoah Mellow Tubing), followed by Lunch at Creeks Edge Winery afterwards at ~12noon
Where: River & Trail Outfitters at Shenandoah Riverfront, 90 Millville Rd, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425 (About 1hr from DC)
When: Sunday, July 30, 2023, arrive between 9-9:30am for a shuttle departure of 10am.
 POCs: LCDRs [Adelaida "Adi" Rosario](#) and [Alesha Harris](#).
 - HHS Night at the Ballpark for the Nationals Game
What: We're going to the Ballgame!!
Where: Nationals Ball Park, 1500 S Capitol St SE, Washington, DC 20003
When: Friday, September 8, 2023, arrive for happy hour at 5pm at Mission Navy Yard (across from the Ball Park), and then walk over to the Ball Park at 6:30 for a 7:05 start time.
 POCs: LCDRs [Alesha Harris](#) and [Adelaida "Adi" Rosario](#).
- Call for Event Leads: If you have any interest in planning a social, in personal or virtual, in the DMV, Atlanta, or even in a different region, we could use the help! Please reach out to us with your interest. This is a great way to show leadership, especially for new CADs.
 - POCs: LCDRs [Alesha Harris](#) and [Adelaida "Adi" Rosario](#).
- **Publications Team:**
 - The team assisted the Bibliography Team with verifying and identifying all Scientist Officer publications for the 2022 calendar year.
 - The team has finalized and submitted the draft of their first SOP for review.
 - POCs: [LCDR Marisa Hast](#) and [CDR Sharyn Parks Brown](#)
- **Twitter Team:**
 - In June 2023, the SciPAC Twitter Team tweeted and retweeted a total of 13 times, and generated 902 new impressions, 35 new engagements, and 40 new likes. This brings the team to more than 314,000 all-time Tweet impressions and 137,000 profile visits since starting in April 2019.
 - The Twitter Team is recruiting new members for the 2022-2023 Operational Year. No experience with Twitter is necessary.
 - Please contact Twitter team leads [LCDR 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 June 2023, there were 469 views, 6 posts, and 58 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](#)
- **Quarterly Highlights Team:**
 - The summer quarterly highlights is currently being compiled.
 - POC: [LT Carrie Whitworth](#)
- **Fist Bump Team:**
 - In June, the Fist Bump Team:
 - Received two Fist Bump submissions for processing.
 - During OY23, the eight Fist Bumps published on USPHS Scientists Facebook Page have garnered 594 views and 84 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](#).
 - POC: LTs [Kerui Xu](#) and [Amanda Hott](#)
- **Website SC:** [CDR Ruth Link-Gelles](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Elizabeth Edwards](#), [LCDR Matthew Stuckey](#) and [LCDR Beth Rubenstein](#)
 - Next SC meeting: 08/17/2023 at 11 AM Eastern
 - Current Activities
 - For OY 2023, Website SC has received 43 update requests so far; 34 requests are completed and 9 are pending.
 - Website SC continues to work with ICAC and SciPAC EB to prepare for Max.gov sunsetting at the end of CY 2023; Website SC has onboarded representative officers to pilot alternatives, including SharePoint, and are also reviewing the max.gov guidance document issued by ICAC.
 - On July 3, 2023, CDR Link-Gelles distributed the Max.gov sunsetting guidance to SciPAC SC Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Website Liaisons. This guidance provides considerations for appropriately archiving materials currently hosted on Max.gov.
 - Website and Visibility SCs continue to collaborate on the update to the SciPAC history webpage; Website SC has addressed EB feedback on newly developed content and formatting within Jarmanator is ongoing.
 - 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.
 - We are continuing to accept new website change requests for OY 2023.
 - 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](#)
 - [AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals](#), will hold their 132nd AMSUS Annual Conference February 12-15, 2024. The meeting will take place in-person at

- the Gaylord National Resort & Conference Center, National Harbor, Maryland. This year's theme is "Honoring Our Commitment: Serving Those Who Serve Our Nation".
- **Poster Session:** AMSUS poster abstract portal opened Monday, July 10, 2023.
Note: All abstract submissions must have Supervisory approval and must be sent for Public Health Service review prior to AMSUS submission. It is expected that you will present your poster in-person.
 - Please send any questions and your abstract for Public Health Service review to the Abstract Subcommittee Chair, [LCDR Matthew Gunter](#). Abstracts will be reviewed within 24 hours.
 - **Awards:** Officers are encouraged to apply to the AMSUS Awards which opened Saturday July 1, 2023. All award submissions must be sent for PHS review prior to AMSUS submission. The portal is not yet open, but please check <https://www.amsus.org/events/annual-meeting-2/> for updates.
 - Please submit questions and your AMSUS award submission to [LCDR Evette Pinder](#).
 - **Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB)** [CDR Cria Perrine](#)
 - The next CCWIAB Listening Session will be Thursday August 10, 2023, 12-1pm EST. It will be moderated by CCWIAB's Reproductive Health Committee and will include a short presentation, followed by discussion on topics such as family planning, breastfeeding, and issues faced by expectant parents.
 - Meeting URL:
<https://fda.zoomgov.com/j/1609665091?pwd=WFhDcmNOVzhXNGdkOVM0cmN0dURMUT09>
 - Meeting passcode: pmz!M2
 - Call-In: 1-833-568-8864
 - Meeting ID: 160966 5091
 - Call-In passcode: 432933
 - 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: 05/7/23 Board of Directors meeting.
 - COA is aware of the potential impacts to the PHS Ready Reserve and PHERST from the recent bill, The Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA). COF is also aware of SOAGDAG's concerns with next year's Symposium being held in Florida. Both groups are working with CCHQ on these important matters.
 - Frontline is seeking article submissions for upcoming editions. They would like to hear from Scientists and special topics, including Sickle Cell Anemia Month (September), National Infant Mortality Month (September), suicide prevention, and healthy aging.
 - The PBS PHS documentary is now live! Visit www.invisiblecorps.com to learn about special screenings in your area.
 - The COA new operational year starts in July, so you may start receiving email reminders to renew.
 - 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 finalized the white paper with findings from workgroups testing the All-Partners Access Network (APAN), CDC Partner SharePoint, and milSuite as potential replacements for max.gov, which is sunsetting at the end of this year. The draft has been distributed to PAC chairs and advisory groups' leadership to assist with planning the transition from max.gov.

- **Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG): [LCDR Xia Michelle Lin](#)**
 - JOAG published [With Pride and Distinction \(WP&D\)](#) on Footwear Refresher, [June's Practicing Wellness](#) (Mental Health Reset: Striving for Stability), and July's Practicing Wellness article (Social Media Habits to Support Mental Wellness). See the JOAG listserv announcement on 6/20/2023 and 7/3/2023.
 - JOAG Professional Development Book Club.
 - Choose Your Own (Leadership) Adventure by: CAPT Rebecca Reyes, Pharm.D., M.Admin. July 14th, 1–3pm ET.
 - Join Microsoft Teams: Log into Teams; Under the “Calendar tab”, click the “# Join with an ID button”. Type in the meeting ID and passcode as below, or call in using the audio option. Meeting ID: 272 203 077 318; Passcode: CZpREZ
 - JOAG Public Health Awareness Wellness Workgroup 5k Run/Walk.
 - Location: Virtual Event (Anywhere)
 - Date and Time: Saturday, August 5, 2023 (All participants must complete the event within 24-hour period from 0000 Saturday to 2359 Saturday).
 - Event Lead: [LT Lorna Benoit](#)
 - See the JOAG listserv announcement on 7/3/2023 for more details.
 - JOAG Membership Committee Virtual Meet and Greet event
 - Roanoke VA/WV
 - Date and Time: Thursday, July 27, 2023; 1200-1300 ET
 - Topic: Lessons Learned from Agency (FDA) and PHS Deployments
 - Conference Line: [Teams](#)
 - Meeting ID: 256 518 465 412
 - Passcode: EPZoXk
 - Wilmington DE
 - Date and Time: July 26, 2023; 1200-1300 ET
 - Topic: Meet and Greet and promotion tips from recently promoted Officers
 - Conference Line: [Zoom](#)
 - Meeting ID: 161 788 1432
 - Passcode: p1TX?G
 - Volunteer request:
 - There are 24 vacancies in the JOAG Membership Committee, Meet and Greet subcommittee in 18 locations. POCs: [LCDR Amanda Schaupp](#) and [LCDR Jacqueline Kouadio](#).
 - Outreach Committee has 1 leadership volunteer and 3 volunteer roles open. POCs: [LT Hana Kim](#) and [LT Regina Kahue](#).

- Next JOAG meeting: Friday, 8/11/2023, Time: 1300–1400 ET; Zoom link is [here](#).
 - Presentation topic: Leading during times of change.

- **Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE):** [LCDR Lacreisha Ejike-King](#)
 - Next meeting: Next meeting: August 10, 2023; 2:00 pm ET
[Click here to join the meeting](#)
 Meeting ID: 227 453 203 351; Passcode: yhGjFL
 Audio only: (240) 800-7959; Conference ID: 461728590#
 - If you want to share an event or information on the PACE listserv, please note the required format that must be followed. Please see the PACE listserv announcement from June 7, 2023, for the template. Post requests that are sent in a format other than the template may not be sent out. Any questions should be sent to [CDR Iman Martin](#).
 - The Outreach SC is seeking PHS Officers in the DC metropolitan area who are willing to represent PACE at the OBC Open House Event during the next operational year (June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024). The OBC Open House is held in person. The format of the Open House consists of a one minute “elevator” speech (provided), followed by question/answers with the trainees. The goal of the Outreach SC is to create a pool of volunteers to allow for a rotating schedule of PACE representation each month. We are requesting volunteers agree to attend four OBC Open House Events. Volunteers will receive 1.5 hours PACE credit for each event and are eligible to receive a COA upon completion of the four events. Volunteers may also commit to less than four Open House Events; however, a minimum of 5 hours of volunteer time is required for the COA. If you are interested in serving as a PACE OBC Open House volunteer, please contact [CDR Ryan Gard](#) and [LCDR Lysette Deshields](#) for more information.
 - The PACE Communications SC is looking for an Assistant Editor-In-Chief (AEIC) on the PACE Newsletter for a 2-year appointment. The AEIC will promote to the Editor-in-Chief position after successful completion of the first year. The application deadline is COB Friday, July 20, 2023. Additional information about this opportunity can be found in the PACE listserv announcement from July 11th. Please contact [CDR Andrea Peay](#) and [LCDR Alena Korbut](#) if you have any questions about this opportunity.
 - The PACE Communications SC is looking for two (2) Social Media Workgroup Co-Chairs. The application deadline is COB Friday, July 20, 2023. Additional information about this opportunity can be found in the PACE listserv announcement from July 11th. Please contact [CDR Andrea Peay](#) and [LCDR Alena Korbut](#) if you have any questions.
 - The new OSG-approved PACE Lessons are now LIVE.

- **Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Advisory Group (SOAGDAG):** [LCDR Luis Iturriaga](#)
 - Next meeting: 25 JULY 2023 @ 1300 HRS EST
 - SOAGDAG membership has increased 14% from baseline and continues to grow.
 - SOAGDAG had a very successful Pride month, especially in visibility and advocacy.
 - Education & Training SC Speaker Series 4th Quarter Training: Safe Zone Training by

- LCDR Sandra Herrera; Tues 08/29/2023 @ 1400 EDT. Contact [LCDR Echols/LCDR Bak](#) if interested.
- Trainings for “Language Matters” and “Transgender Cultural Awareness” have been submitted to CCHQ and await final approval.
 - **USPHS Mental Wellbeing and Behavioral Health Working-Group:** [LCDR Gina Masessa](#)
 - The group has been working on increasing communication regarding mental health efforts within all PACs.

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