



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

Meeting Minutes; June 6, 2023



Total Attendance: 120 attendees; 33 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	Excused
CAPT	Dee, Deborah	Ex-Officio Chairperson	Present

Voting Members (SC = Subcommittee)

Rank	Name	Role	
CDR	Bjork, Adam	Policy SC Co-Chair	
CDR	Halldin, Cara	Awards SC Chair	Excused
CDR	Pesce, John	Deployment Preparedness SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Rossiter, Lana	Rules & Membership SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Morris, Kate	Psychologist Integration 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	Excused
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	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	
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

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	Present
LCDR	Zucco, Julia	COA Liaison	Present
LT	Ejike-King, Lacreisha	PACE Liaison	Present

Participation by Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Nelson Adekoya, bjourCAPT Aditya Bhagwat, CAPT Matthew Breiding, CAPT Joseph Despins, CAPT Laura Draski, CAPT Hae-Kyung (Amy) Park, CAPT Kenneth Sekulic, CDR Kamil Barbour, CDR Alicea Candido, CDR Dan-My Chu, CDR Minglei Cui, CDR Theodore Garnett, CDR Seth Green, CDR Brian Harcourt, CDR Andrew Hickey, CDR NaTasha Hollis, CDR Jean Ko, CDR Leigh Ann Miller, CDR Mark Miller, CDR Erika Odom, CDR Sharyn Parks Brown, CDR Cria Perrine, CDR Meghan Reilly, CDR Luz Rivera, CDR Jessica Schultz Fischer, CDR Tyler Sharp, CDR Jeff Showalter, CDR Nancy Tian, CDR Michelle Tsai, CDR Nadra Tyus, CDR Jeremy Wally, LCDR Francis Annor, LCDR Andrea Battle, LCDR Christine Brady, LCDR Nicholas Buhr, LCDR Jason Caballero, LCDR Angela Coulliette-Salmond, LCDR Israel Cross, LCDR Sharoda Dasgupta, LCDR Samantha DiMisa, LCDR Brendan Eberenz, LCDR Charlotte Francia, LCDR Rudolph Francin, LCDR Eboni Galloway, LCDR Carolyn Herzig, LCDR Patrick High, LCDR Kelsy Hoffman, LCDR Brooke Hoots, LCDR Michelle Hughes, LCDR Victoria Jeisy-Scott, LCDR Jonathan Leshin, LCDR Xiaowu Lu, LCDR Gina Masessa, LCDR Ashleigh Murriel, LCDR Oliver Ou, LCDR Mary Puckett, LCDR Leslie Rivera-Rosado, LCDR Stephanie Rutledge, LCDR Amy Schuh, LCDR Pilgrim Spikes, LCDR Scott Steffen, LCDR Matthew Stuckey, LCDR Rhondie Tait, LCDR Jessica Tomov, LT Sophia Ajoku, LT Olubukola Banmeke, LT Andrew Brown, LT Evan Brown, LT Peter DeJonge, LT Nicholas Deputy, LT Njere English, LT Dianca Finch, LT Robert Gahl, LT Bryan Galvez, LT Suresh Jayasekara, LT Emmanuel Jeffrey, LT Michelle Johnson, LT Jueichuan (Connie) Kang, LT Hana Kim, LT Michael Krage, LT Ana Lauer, LT Ying Lin, LT David Mackenzie-Liu, LT Kristin Marks, LT Oren Mayer, LT Neil Milan, LT Eric Mooring, LT Ruth Oni, LT Stephanie Pitts, LT Anthony Powell, LT Leigh Ellyn Preston, LT Jin Qin, LT Hannah Segaloff, LT Lillian Smith, LT Kindra Stokes, LT Marilyn Wolff, LT Gabriella Wuyke, LT Jia Yin Leo, LT Shannon York

Excused Absences of Non-Voting Scientist Officers: LCDR Shayne Gallaway, CDR Cara Halldin, LCDR Rebecca Levine, CAPT Mark Scheckelhoff, LCDR Michelle Lin, CAPT Julie Chodacki, CDR Tegan Boehmer, CDR Joanna Gaines, CDR David Huang, CDR Emily Jentes, CDR Matthew Lozier, CDR Lara Misegades, CDR Matthew Newland, CDR Sanny Northbrook, CDR John Stansberry, CDR Jason Wilken, CDR Eric Zhou, LCDR Ginny Bowen, LCDR William Davis, LCDR Alesha Harris, LCDR Marisa Hast, LCDR Eric Jamoom, LCDR Folasade Kembi, LCDR Iman Martin, LCDR Megan Peck, LCDR Adelaida Rosario, LT Anna Chard, LT Brent Huber, LT Christine Kim, LT Yasmin Ogale, LT Marsha Samson, LT Andres Wong Sam

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 acknowledged how amazing our Scientist Officers are, including making important scientific contributions across the service and our agencies, and being at the forefront of the PHS Ensemble, Choir, MOLC, JOAG, APAOC, and other groups, etc. Our Scientist Officers were definitely noticed in a very positive manner at the symposium.
- CAPT Sandhu noted that many Scientist Officers were recognized last month. In addition to our category awards, this year the OSG PHS Senior Officer of the Year Award recipient was our very own CDR Carrie Nielsen, who was unable to attend the symposium as she was deployed to Zambia. The May Spotlight was also a Scientist officer, LCDR Israel Cross who continues to exemplify the values of being a dedicated and committed Officer. CAPT Sandhu thanked each of our officers for their professionalism, dedication, and motivation to continue to advance science across agencies and PHS.
- CAPT Sandhu highlighted events at the symposium, including our PHS Mascot, our first service dog in the service, LCDR Abigail, and the opportunity to see "The Surgeon General's Own" PHS Ensemble perform, featuring Guest Conductor George King III, the composer of the PHS March and the Centennial Fanfare. The symposium also provided an opportunity to see the premier of the Invisible Corps, throughout which several of our officers are highlighted including CAPT Sara Newman, a mentor for so many officers across our category and serve.
- CAPT Sandhu shared that during the symposium, we received great news in regard to the increased promotion rates for our category. In comparison to last year, T-O4 rates

increased from 35% to 60% and T-O5 rates increased from 11% to 23.5%. She heard directly from Officers expressing reassurance that our service is going in a positive direction, slowly but surely. Officers walked away from the symposium with renewed optimism after hearing the news about the promotion rates and all of the presentations and interactions with our senior leadership, including Admirals Levine, Murthy, Hinton and Schobitz.

- CAPT Sandhu closed by reminding officers to please continue to take care of themselves, both personally and professionally, including taking some well-deserved time off as we go into the summer months. On a personal note, she shared that she has signed up for the Parks Half Marathon and the Army Ten Miler. If any Officers are doing either (or both) of these races, she encouraged Officers to let her know as she would like to connect with Scientist Officers at these events.

Chair Report: CDR Alice Shumate

- Sharing a big Thank You! to the team that put together Category Day and the mentoring event at this year's PHS Symposium. We had a fantastic turnout this year, with a larger than average number of attendees and a great mentoring event, Category Day, and social. Thank you to everyone who helped organize, as well as the attendees!
- Sharing thanks with the Science SC for their tremendous work on the State of the Scientists Annual Survey. The SoS survey is now serving as a model for other Categories.
- We continue to wait for additional updates from CCHQ regarding upcoming promotion process changes. Several SC's are working on ideas to better support all Scientists as promotion processes change and we are engaged in a higher level of cross-PAC collaboration that seen previously. Thank you to everyone for their efforts, and please keep the good ideas coming in!

Vice Chair Report: CDR Zewditu Demissie

- The Voting Member Selection Team met in May to determine Voting Member nominees. The list of officers has to be approved by OSG before the selections can be shared with the PAC.
- Many thanks to the officers who served on the team. Thank you, also, to all the officers who submitted their applications.
- With only six open slots, the team had to make some hard decisions. We appreciate everyone's many contributions to the PAC. All Voting Member applicants will receive feedback about their applications once the process has been completed.
- If you have any questions about voting membership, please contact CDR Demissie.

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 Scott with the email subject line "SciPAC Meeting Attendance."

Executive Liaison Report: LCDR Shayne Gallaway

- Please be aware LCDR Gallaway is currently in the process of PCS-ing. Until his PCS is complete and his email access is restored, please email [LCDR Scott](#) for any updates and/or questions.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Awards SC:** [CDR Cara Halldin](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Mary Puckett](#), and [LT 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:** is collecting data on the behavioral health issues that are most concerning to Scientists. Please share them with [CDR Sharyl Trail](#). The behavioral health survey that was submitted to the Cross-PAC Behavioral Health Initiative was considered by CCHQ and now the Initiative and CCHQ are working on a behavioral health survey for all officers.
 - **Existing Resources Team:** The team's May issue of the Mental Health Monthly newsletter went out last month. Please stand by for the June issue. The team is also looking forward to their presentation to SciPAC in July.
 - **Liaison Team:** The team is accepting requests for consultation needs.
 - **New Resources Team:** The team gave a presentation on Qigong with LCDR Reiner on April 26th. The team is working out the logistics of hosting an ongoing experiential session series.
 - **SOP Team:** The EB has returned the first SOP back to the team and they are actively working on edits. It is anticipated to be ready to submit back to the EB shortly.
 - **Website Team:** The Behavioral Health & Wellness Subcommittee website is now live and can be found here: [Scientist Professional Advisory Committee \(psc.gov\)](http://Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (psc.gov))
- **Career Development SC:** [LCDR Adriana Restrepo](#); Co-Chair(s): [CDR Nancy Tian](#)
 - **Promotion Panel Initiative Team:** The Team will launch a survey about promotions on or before June 7th. For more information, email [LCDR Neil Bonzagni](#).
 - **Promotion Guidance Team:** Five redacted CV examples from successfully promoted officers, were submitted to the EB in April. Once approved by the EB, the CV examples will be distributed. For more information, email [LCDR Tyann Blessington](#).
 - **Training Team:** The Team is planning a presentation toward the end of July about SciPAC Career Paths at Various Agencies. For more information, email [CDR Tamara Henderson](#).
 - **Handbook Team:** The Team is currently updating 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 continues 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](#).
- **Administration & Communication Team:** The Administration & Communication Team provides administrative and communication support to the SC. If you have website questions, please contact [CDR Theodore Garnett](#), the SC Website Liaison. For other administrative and communication questions, please contact [LT Robert Gahl](#), the SC Secretary, as well as SC Chair & Co-chairs.
- **Category Day SC:** [LCDR Rebecca Levine](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Alaine Knipes](#), [LCDR Alesha Harris](#), and [LCDR Folasade Kembi](#)
 - Meetings:
 - Next leadership meeting: June 15, 2023, 12:00 PM
 - Next team leads meeting: June 29, 2023, 12:00 PM
 - Next COF meeting: N/A
 - The [2023 USPHS Symposium](#) was held May 8-11 in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Category Day was on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, and was attended by 78 scientist officers.
 - In addition to the official Category Day at the symposium, SciPAC hosted a mentoring session on May 9, a booth at the exhibit hall May 9-10, and a jam-packed social event in the evening on May 10.
 - The official Category Day agenda and “meet the speakers” document was prepared and shared PAC-wide ahead of the symposium.
 - Presentations that have permission to be shared will be uploaded to the Category Day Max.gov site.
 - The Evaluations team distributed the 2023 Category Day evaluation survey. Data are being analyzed and will be presented to the subcommittee on June 29, focusing on year-to-year trends.
 - The evaluation team would like to present findings to the broader PAC in the new operational year.
 - The Appreciation team is preparing letters of appreciation (LOAs) for all Category Day Subcommittee Members, Category Day speakers, and pre-Category Day Mentors.
 - The Category Day 2023 roster is being finalized to use for LOAs and for the 2023 Symposium Unit Commendation submission.
 - The Category Day SOP was returned with comments on June 2 and will be updated based on that feedback and lessons learned from the 2023 Symposium experience.
- **Deployment Preparedness SC:** [LCDR Jorge Muñoz Ortiz](#); Co-Chair(s): [CDR John Pesce](#), [LCDR Jason Caballero](#), [LCDR Adelaida Rosario](#)
 - **Readiness Reporting:** As of June 6th, we had 2 new CAD and 2 retirements, separations, or deaths of AD scientists. The total count is 403 AD Scientist Officers and 9 RR Officers for a total of 412. Out of 397 AD Officers that are not exempt, 392 are basic ready (98.7%), 5 are not qualified (2 LT, 2 CDR, and 1 CAPT; 1.3%), and 6 are exempt. Out of the 9 RR 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 403 are

- basic ready (98.3%). This is an increase in basic readiness from the last report. One Officer is missing the DPP/PHU and the remaining are missing vaccination(s) 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. Contact information will be provided in the minutes.
- The DPSC Speaker Series recently had a talk titled “Building and Protecting Personal Resilience” by CDR Amy Cason on Tuesday May 16th.
 - The team also provided letters of appreciation to CAPT Loren Rodgers, CAPT Wong, and CDR Cason for presenting to the PAC this operational year.
 - The team will plan for presentations on Nutrition on Deployment and Quarantine Stations.
 - We would like to remind officers of the CPO Fitness Challenge and the REP!, which are both PHS-wide fitness programs. Reminder that the PAC will have its own exercise challenge, a Plank Challenge which will begin around late summer of 2023.
 - CAPT Sandhu has acquired the CPO Coins and we are in the process of distributing them to those who met the challenge! It’s a beautiful coin with a Lion designed by her daughter.
 - We would like to acknowledge CDRs Michelle Tsai, Joanna Gaines, and LT Jonathan Burg for meeting the CPO Fitness Challenge, congratulations!
 - 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 the scientists. It is currently being reviewed by members of the team, but during the symposium discussions were held with ready reservists so they can also provide their point of view on the document.
 - The SC received EB comments in response to the Buddy Program proposal. The team who prepared the proposal is working to address those comments.
 - 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: June 26, 2023, 11 AM ET
 - Thank you to all officers who participated as mentors and mentees during the 2023 PHS Symposium in Tulsa this past May. The event was well attended with 11 mentors and 12 mentees. Officers benefited from 1:1 conversations from Senior Scientist Officers. The Category Day SC will distribute LOA’s to mentors that participated towards the end of this OY.
 - A special thanks to LCDRs Vickie Jeisy Scott and Dantrell Simmons! We have a new Mentor/Mentee application form. If you are interested in applying as a mentor or mentee to the regular Mentoring program or the PSN Mentoring program, the application can be found on our website.

- **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](#)
 - All current PSN mentors and mentees should have recently received a survey to help us assess the status and role of all officers involved. Please complete it at your earliest convenience.
 - If you are interested in serving as a mentor or mentee, or have questions about the PSN survey, please reach out to PSN leads, [LCDRs Vicky Jeisy Scott](#) or [Dantrell Simmons](#).
- **Mentor Matching Team:** There are currently 156 active mentor-mentee agreements on file and there are 4 unmatched mentee applicants and 8 pending agreements (4 CDC, 1 BOP, 1 FDA, 1 ICE, 1 US Army).
 - We received 1 new mentor-mentee match agreement in April.
 - 58% of Scientist Officers are engaged as either a mentor or mentee.
- **Capacity Building Team**
 - The one-pager on PSN has been finalized and will be added to the Mentoring SC website.
 - The Mentoring Guidebook has been updated and can be found on the [website](#) in the Mentoring Resources section.
 - We'd like to remind all Psychologist officers about the Board Certification Mentoring program. Even if you already have an informal relationship with a Psychologist Officer Mentor for Board Certification, please reach out so you can receive a LOA for your efforts. Please contact [LCDR Deb Chen](#) for further information.
- **Policy SC:** [LCDR Matthew Steele](#); Co-Chairs: [CDR Adam Bjork](#), and [LT Lauren Woodard](#)
 - Policy watch:
 - CCHQ sent out notification on 5/25/23 that several fiscal policies have been updated as part of the modernization effort. Revisions were to reformat the policies and update current legal authorities. The Policy SC is reviewing these revised policies, but the changes are not expected to impact officers.
 - The Secretary approved updates to the following Commissioned Corps Directives (CCD):
 - CCD 153.01, "Former Spouse Obligations Retired," and
 - CCD 154.01, "Monthly Pay & Allotments."
 - The Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH) approved updates to the following Commissioned Corps Instructions (CCI): 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.
 - CCI 612.04, "Family Separation Allowance,"
 - CCI 653.01, "Social Security (FICA) Taxes," and
 - CCI 653.02, "Withholding of State Income Taxes."
 - For CCI 612.04, "Family Separation Allowance," which outlines the different types of Family Separation Allowances (FSA) Public Health

Service officers are entitled to, the USPHS Commissioned Corps will provide Frequently Asked Questions.

- 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: June 20, 2023, at 2pm ET
 - With the support of PAC leadership, we have begun collaboration with the dietitians, pharmacists and social workers to organize a consolidated promotion document review group as officers from these four disciplines will soon be reviewed for promotion as part of the Allied Health Promotion category group.
 - Attention all psychologists: You are invited to the PI SC's June 2023 meeting. The focus of the meeting will be to discuss the psychologist transition, to include the accomplishments to date, ongoing concerns, and recommendations to leadership. Your voice matters and we hope you can attend.
 - 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.
 - Meeting Link
 - Meeting ID: 234 203 327 387
 - Passcode: rbzJ6w
- **Recruitment and Retention SC:** LCDR George Mitzner; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Julia Zucco, and LCDR Jorielle Houston
 - **Resources Team:** Working up Top Tips 2023 – Stand by for updates.
 - **Interested Applicant Team:**
 - CCHQ send a Recruitment Blitz email dated 5/18/23, which detailed priorities, procedures, and resources regarding recruitment activities.
 - Any Scientist interested in carrying out a recruitment activity (e.g., delivering a presentation to a professional organization) will receive coordination, support, and 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:**
 - Thank you to LT Lilian Smith for attending OBC 146/19 Open House and pinning ceremonies. Please join in welcoming our newest Scientist:
 - LTJG Dominic Nathan – RR
 - June's OBC has been cancelled.
 - 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 [LT Oren Mayer](#).
 - **New CAD Seminars Team:** **Open to all officers**

- **Last Meetings:** “Uniform Refresher and Self-Care” were well attended – thank you to all presenters and attendees!!!
- Stay tuned for future meeting announcements.
- 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*
 - **Next Meeting:** 6/16/23 at 12PM ET
 - **Save the Date:** RADM Schobitz has rescheduled his meeting, and the raindate will be advertised once available.
 - 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:**
 - LCDR Stuckey conducted 19 individual 30-minute recruitment meetings with incoming EIS officers in the 2023 class and exchanged contact information for future follow-up.
 - Recruitment meetings included 8 PhDs (Nutrition, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Microbiology), 10 MDs, and 1 PharmD.
 - Recruitment meetings covered background and interests, suitability for matching to EIS fellowship positions, and careers in the Corps.
 - EIS/LLS will be meeting internally the week of June 5th to debrief on conference recruitment experiences and plan for engagement going forward.
- **Where I Science Series:**
 - 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 provide review of SOPs and support to SCs on the SOP updates. We continue to track well to bring the SC SOP reviews up to date before the end of the operational year.
 - The combined PAC Charter has been finalized. Accordingly, the Rules and Membership SC SOP and the SciPAC SOP revisions will be updated to align with the charter.
 - The Voting Member Roster Team continues work on developing the updated roster.
 - The Voting Member Selection Process Improvement Team has drafted materials to obtain feedback on the process. These materials will be shared soon with CDR Shumate for review.
 - We remind the PAC that CDR NaTasha Hollis is serving as the SciPAC DEIA Officer. She is currently develop a report of ongoing DEIA efforts and concerns in the PAC. 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](#)
 - The Science SC SOP was posted to the SciPAC website in May 2023. Many thanks to the SciPAC EB and our website SC liaisons.

- **State of the Scientists (SoS)**
 - The team contributed data to inform CPO’s Category Day remarks at the COA symposium in Tulsa 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**
 - Please stay tuned for 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.
- **Surgeon General’s - Priority Engagement for Evaluation and Research Support (SG-PEERS) Team**
 - 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 which will be published in the next edition.
 - 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 Newsletter Team is currently laying out the spring edition of the SciPAC newsletter, after which it will go through internal review before being passed to SciPAC and OSG leadership for final review before distribution. Be on the lookout for the call for articles for the summer edition soon! We would especially welcome articles on this year’s Symposium, including Category Day.
 - 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 SciPAC Social Team wants to plan an in person-summer social. If anyone has ideas or wants to host to reach out to [LCDR Adi Rosario](#) and [LCDR Alesha Harris](#) by Friday, June 9, 2023.
 - **Publications Team:**
 - The Publications team has completed a working draft of their first SOP and anticipates finalizing and submitting the document in the next few weeks.
 - The team will begin their process of reviewing officer publications and selecting a “Top 10” once they receive the final bibliography from the Science Subcommittee on or around July 1.
 - POCs: [LCDR Marisa Hast](#) and [CDR Sharyn Parks Brown](#)
 - **Twitter Team:**

- In May 2023, the SciPAC Twitter Team tweeted and retweeted a total of 31 times, and generated 1,614 new impressions, 94 new engagements, 77 new likes, 138 profile visits! This brings us to more than 314,000 all-time Tweet impressions and 137,000 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 May 2023, there were 1046 views, 34 posts, and 194 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 and LinkedIn committee received edits for their draft SOP. They're reviewing edits and working on revisions to the document.
 - POC: [LCDR Abby McCabe](#), [LT Brian McAleney](#), [LT Tiffiny McCain](#)
- **SciPAC Symposium Poster Team:**
 - The Poster Team successfully presented a poster titled "Contributions of USPHS Scientist Officers to the Interagency Mpox Response" at this year's USPHS Symposium
 - A newsletter article with the same content was submitted to the *Scientist Officer* newsletter for publication in an upcoming issue.
 - POC: [LCDR Marisa Hast](#), [LT Kerui Xu](#).
- **Fist Bump Team:**
 - In May, the Fist Bump Team:
 - Published 1 Fist Bump on the USPHS Scientist Facebook page
 - Submitted 2 Fist bumps to the Spring Edition of *Scientist Officer* newsletter
 - During OY23, the 8 Fist Bumps published on USPHS Scientists Facebook Page have garnered 579 views and 83 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](#).
- **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, Website SC has received 40 update requests so far; 33 requests are completed and 7 are pending.
 - Website SC continues to work with ICAC and SciPAC EB to prepare for Max.gov sunseting at the end of CY 2023; Website SC has onboarded representative officers to pilot alternatives, including SharePoint, and has drafted

a considerations document 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
 - Nothing to report this month.
- **Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB)** CDR Cria Perrine
 - The next CCWIAB Board meeting will be June 7, 2023.
 - Two new resources to share:
 - **Fertility Treatment and Deployments in USPHS:** This one-pager provides an overview of fertility treatment waiver process for deployments.
 - **Breastfeeding and Deployments in USPHS:** This one-pager describes the types of waivers that are available that may relate to breastfeeding, in addition to the types of breastfeeding support available during a deployment.
 - 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.
 - The 2023 USPHS Scientific Symposium was a great event! Please let me know if there is anything you would like to see different about the event and I can pass along a message. Start making plans for the 2024 Symposium June 24-27, 2024, in Jacksonville, Florida.
 - The long-awaited PBS documentary on the history and evolution of the Public Health Service and the USPHS Commissioned Corps is now live! Visit www.invisiblecorps.com to learn more.
 - 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 is planning to have a white paper drafted to share with OSG leadership by the end of this month. The results of a survey of PAC members with interest in max.gov

replacements will be presented, along with findings from testing multiple potential replacements. As ICAC's CDC SharePoint workgroup lead, I am summarizing findings from tests pioneered by the SciPAC Website Subcommittee with pros and cons of the system. With another ICAC member representing Nurse PAC, we met with CDC OCIO leadership to ensure we had language to appropriately describe how CDC could be able to accommodate partner SharePoint requests.

- **Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG):** LCDR Xia Michelle Lin
 - Congratulations to our own LCDR Scott Steffen on winning the JOAG Excellent Award this year!
 - JOAG published JO Voice, Career and Life Tip, and May's Practicing Wellness (Placing Wellness at the Center of our Workplace Practices). See JOAG listserv announcement on 5/8/2023 and 6/5/2023.
 - JOAG Professional Development Book Club:
 - Dare to Lead by: Brene Brown. June 29th, 2–3pm ET.
 - Call #: 206-420-5032; ID# 873 319 384
 - JOAG's Officer Spotlight next speaker is CAPT Angeline Washington. Please join us as she shares her career journey and tips for success!
 - Date/Time: Thursday, July 13, 2023; 1000-1030 ET
 - Meeting: [Link](#); Meeting ID: 160 923 1089, Passcode: JOAG-pdc23
 - POC: [LCDR Julie Witmer](#) or [LT Sarah Hughes](#) or [LT Jazmin Reed](#)
 - JOAG Membership Committee Virtual Meet and Greet events
 - Raleigh/Durham, NC
 - Date and Time: Monday, June 12, 2023, 1700 ET
 - Topic: Financial Decisions
 - Conference Line: [zoom](#)
 - Meeting ID: 868 1769 3444
 - Passcode: bVBey2
 - New York Region
 - Date and Time: Wednesday, June 21, 2023, 1500–1600 ET
 - Topic: Physical Care for the Responders
 - Conference Line: 202-964-4011 Passcode: 600 693 268
 - Virginia Area
 - Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2023, 1200 Noon ET
 - Topic: Deployment Preparation: Are you Deployment Ready?
 - Conference Line: 410-874-6742 Passcode: 562 753 300#
 - Volunteer request: there are 24 vacancies in the JOAG Membership Committee, Meet and Greet subcommittee in 18 locations. POC: [LCDR Amanda Schupp](#) and [LCDR Jacqueline Kouadio](#) .
 - Next JOAG meeting: Friday, 6/9/2023, Time: 1300–1400 ET; Zoom link is [here](#).
 - Presentation topic: Deployment Leadership: Success is when preparation meets opportunity, by **CAPT Mark Miller and LCDR Brad Benasutti**.
- **Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE):** LT Lacreisha Ejike-King
 - Next meeting: Next meeting: June 8, 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#

- On May 23, 2023, the U.S. Surgeon General released [Social Media and Youth Mental Health: The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory](#). To read the Advisory and to access information and resources, visit surgeongeneral.gov/yhm-socialmedia. VADM Murthy's personal reflection on the topic can be found [here](#).
- The PACE Recognitions Subcommittee is announcing the final PHS Awards call of 2023! The due date is Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 11:59 PST. Please only send the narrative write-up for review. Hold off on getting signatures for the nomination form until the narrative is finalized. Narratives should be sent to all of the following officers: [CDR Brittany Keener](#), [LCDR Kristin Allmaras](#), and [LT Kathryn McNamara](#). After receiving feedback from the PHS Awards working group of the RSC, you will be told how to proceed. All awards that will be processed by CCHQ [in time for review by the upcoming promotion boards](#) for Promotion Year 2024 must be included in this call. Please see the final version of the PACE PHS Awards SOP for details. PHS Awards are individual or unit awards with the accompanying ribbon and/or medal (Unit Commendations, Achievement Medals, etc.) for officers who are recognized by PHS for their achievements within PACE. See the attached SOP for instructions. All questions should be directed to [CDR Brittany Keener](#), [LCDR Kristin Allmaras](#), and [LT Kathryn McNamara](#).
- 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: June 27, 2023; 1:00pm EST
 - During the COA/COF Symposium SAOGDAG representatives connected with RDML Schobitz who wants to work with SOAGDAG to provide resource/support to families of LGBTQ+ youth and navigate how to keep LGBTQ+ officers safe, for example, how to navigate sensitive issues of disclosure of one's demographics/ LGBTQ+ status.
 - SOAGDAG had a successful presentation at the Symposium. Discussed continued partnership with the Minority Officers Liaison Council (MOLC) and other advisory groups.
 - Certain SOAGDAG members have expressed concerns about the COA/COF Symposium being held in Florida next year. SOAGDAG has reached out to COA's Executive Director to enter into dialogue with other USPHS advisory groups including the Minority Officers Liaison Council (MOLC) regarding potential shared concerns about the Florida site and the opportunity to provide training at the next Symposium on racism, sexism, homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia as public health problems.
 - June is Pride Month and SOAGDAG will be sponsoring several events including the Social Media Takeover, a virtual PHS Athletics event known as the June Pride "Ride

- or Stride”, and a Social Event with the Asian Pacific American Officers Committee (APAOC).
- Committee Chair goals for 2023 are to increase Membership, Visibility, and Collaboration. One of the Current Priorities of the Surgeon General is advising on the healing effect of social connection and community: Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation.
 - The Education and Training SC is proud to announce the next speaker for the SOAGDAG Speaker Series: Safe Zone Training by LCDR Sandra Herrera.
 - Date: Tues August 29, 2023, at 1400 EST.
 - SOAGDAG is also looking to solicit other speakers. If officers have ideas for future topics and/or an officer would like to present, please contact [LCDR Echols](#) or [LCDR Bak](#).
 - **USPHS Mental Wellbeing and Behavioral Health Working-Group:** [LCDR Gina Masessa](#)
 - The group has been working with CCHQ on the development of a follow up mental health survey to the original survey disseminated approximately one year ago.
 - The working-group continues to work with CCHQ on the development of a Town Hall to reduce the stigma of mental health in the CC.
 - The working-group has developed a series of Wellness Tips to be sent to all Officers by CCHQ in the coming months – please watch for the email notification!

NOTE: Next meeting—Tuesday, **July 11, 2023**; 12:00–1:00pm ET