



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

Meeting Minutes; March 7, 2023



Total Attendance: 190 attendees; 27 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	Excused

Voting Members (SC = Subcommittee)

Rank	Name	Role	
CDR	Bjork, Adam	Policy SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Halldin, Cara	Awards SC Chair	Excused
CDR	Pesce, John	Deployment Preparedness SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Rossiter, Lana	Rules & Membership SC Co-Chair	
LCDR	Chen, Debra	Behavioral Health & Wellness SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Edwards, Elizabeth	Website SC Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Knipes, Alaine	Category Day SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Levine, Rebecca	Category Day SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Link-Gelles, Ruth	Website SC Chair	Excused
LCDR	Mitzner, George	Recruitment and Retention SC Chair	Present
CDR	Morris, Kate	Psychologist Integration SC Chair	
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

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	Present
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 Aditya Bhagwat, CAPT Qiao Bobo, CAPT Matthew Breiding, CAPT Renee Calanan, CAPT Laura Draski, CAPT Judy Facey, CAPT Anne Marie France, CAPT Arlin Hatch, CAPT Sally Hu, CAPT Ruth Jiles, CAPT James Kenney, CAPT Sara Newman, CAPT Ryan Novak, CAPT Erin Sauber-Schatz, CAPT Kenneth Sekulic, CAPT Michael Smith, CAPT Jacqueline Tate, CAPT Fuyuen Yip, CDR Kamil Barbour, CDR David Barry, CDR Frances (Lisa) Belcher, CDR Tegan Boehmer, CDR Alicea Candido, CDR Dianna Carroll, CDR Dan-My Chu, CDR Chekesha Clingman-Henry, CDR Eduardo Cua, CDR Juana Figueroa, CDR Joanna Gaines, CDR Theodore Garnett, CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor, CDR Seth Green, CDR Brian Harcourt, CDR Keisher Highsmith, CDR NaTasha Hollis, CDR David Huang, CDR Emily Jentes, CDR Neal Kimble, CDR Jean Ko, CDR Alison Laufer Halpin, CDR Leigh Ann Miller, CDR Lara Misegades, CDR Matthew Newland, CDR Carrie Nielsen, CDR Ruiqing Pamboukian, CDR Erin Parker, CDR Sharyn Parks Brown, CDR Cesar Perez, CDR Cria Perrine, CDR Chris Poulson, CDR Tracy Powell, CDR Sara Pulliam, CDR Luz Rivera, CDR Alfredo Sancho, CDR Sharon Saydah, CDR Jeff Showalter, CDR Emily Streeter, CDR Nancy Tian, CDR Michelle Tsai, CDR James Tyson, CDR Sara Vagi, CDR Geoffrey Wu, CDR Lauren Zapata, CDR Eric Zhou, LCDR Francis Annor, LCDR Ginny Bowen, LCDR Nicholas Buhr, LCDR Jason Caballero, LCDR Angela Coulliette-Salmond, LCDR Israel Cross, LCDR Sharoda Dasgupta, LCDR Samantha DiMisa, LCDR Jessica Dunn, LCDR Brendan Eberenz, LCDR Leora Feldstein, LCDR Brandi Freeman-Ponder, LCDR Megan Gaschk, LCDR Bradley Goodwin, LCDR Alesha Harris, LCDR Kathleen Hartnett, LCDR Iram Hassan, LCDR Marisa Hast, LCDR Carolyn Herzig, LCDR Patrick High, LCDR Kelsy Hoffman, LCDR Brooke Hoots, LCDR Jorielle Houston, LCDR Keisha Houston Jenkins, LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson, LCDR Michelle Hughes, LCDR Asha Ivey-Stephenson, LCDR Eric Jamoom, LCDR Lisa Jarvis-Durham, LCDR Victoria Jeisy-Scott, LCDR Juan Lacayo, LCDR Jonathan Leshin, LCDR Xiaowu Lu, LCDR Gina Masessa, LCDR Jamie Mells, LCDR Ashleigh Murriel, LCDR Oliver Ou, LCDR Marilyn Park, LCDR Megan Peck, LCDR Mary Puckett, LCDR Nazia Rahman, LCDR Hilda Razzaghi, LCDR Tia Rogers, LCDR Adelaida Rosario, LCDR Stephanie Rutledge, LCDR Kari Schlessinger, LCDR Amy Schuh, LCDR Dantrell Simmons, LCDR Matthew Stuckey, LCDR Rhondie Tait, LCDR Tanesha Tutt, LCDR Emily Ussery, LCDR Nana Wilson, LCDR Xinzhi Zhang, LT Sophia Ajoku, LT Olubukola Banmeke, LT Courtnee Bell, LT Emilie Bouda, LT Andrew Brown, LT Anna Chard, LT Sade Collins, LT Brett Dodd, LT Dianca Finch, LT Bryan Galvez, LT Sean Griffing, LT Charles (CJ) Helm, LT Brent Huber, LT Jesica Jacobs, LT Emmanuel Jeffrey, LT Michelle Johnson, LT Jueichuan (Connie) Kang, LT Taneshia Knight, LT Michael Krage, LT Nang Thu Thu Kyaw, LT Anastasia Lambrou, LT Ana Lauer, LT Ying Lin, LT David Mackenzie-Liu, LT Kristin Marks, LT Jessica Meeker, LT Neil Milan, LT Daniel Nguyen, LT Ruth Oni, LT Stephanie Pitts, LT Anthony Powell, LT Leigh Ellyn Preston, LT Catharine (Cate) Pritchard, LT Jin Qin, LT Sergio Rodriguez, LT Beth Rubenstein, LT Marsha Samson, LT Lillian Smith, LT Kindra Stokes, LT Nicholas Wiese, LT Lindsay Womack, LT Andres Wong Sam, LT Lauren Woodard, LT Gabriella Wuyke, LT Kerui Xu, LT Shannon York

Excused Absences of Non-Voting Scientist Officers: CAPT Dominic Frasca, CAPT Jennifer Thomas, CDR Minglei Cui, CDR Sanny Northbrook, CDR Erika Odom, CDR Meghan Reilly, CDR John Stansberry, CDR Jason Wilken, LCDR Andrea Battle, LCDR Tyann Blessington, LCDR William Davis, LCDR Folasade Kembu, LCDR Iman Martin, LT Olivia McGovern, LCDR Rashid Njai, LCDR Scott Steffen, LT Evan Brown, LT Nicholas Deputy, LT Robert Gahl, LT Pushpa (Suresh) Jayasekara, LT Florence Kanu, LT Yasmin Ogale

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

- CAPT Sandhu reminded Officers about the upcoming 56th Annual USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium being held in Tulsa, OK. She looks forward to connecting with Officers in-person that are able to attend.
- The Deployment Preparedness Plan (DPP) is available on the CCMIS webpage. Officers should submit their DPP early to ensure they remain basic ready. The first readiness check for the DPP will be next month, on April 1st. Any Officers who are missing a DPP will be identified as “not qualified.”
- CAPT Sandhu highlighted recent CCHQ communications detailing training opportunities available to Officers, including leadership trainings.
- It has recently been noted that CCD 124.01 on Retirement and CCI 384.03 on Mandatory, Voluntary and Involuntary Retirement policies are now available. CAPT Sandhu has reminded Officers that CCHQ will send out official messages, accompanied by FAQs for these policies. Once the official message and FAQs are shared, CAPT Sandhu will work closely with our PAC to help address any questions or concerns Officers have with these policies. Be assured, CAPT Sandhu and the PAC are here to support our Officers.
- Thank you to all of our Officers, many who are being pulled in several directions. Please remember to take care of yourself in all aspects.

Chair Report: CDR Alice Shumate

- A huge thanks to the 276 Scientist Officers who completed the State of the Scientist survey. With such a great response rate we should be able to learn a lot about where we are as a Category, and the benefits and also challenges we've identified as officers.

Thanks to the Science Subcommittee for conducting this effort. I look forward to hearing about their results during our June PAC meeting.

- Thanks to the Deployment Preparedness Subcommittee for organizing the excellent presentation on CLAS Standards (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) by CAPT David Wong from the HHS Office of Minority Health. If you weren't able to attend, I recommend watching the recording as it may be relevant for either deployment or duty station work.
- Lastly, a big shout to the Visibility Subcommittee and their history team, especially LCDRs Tyann Blessington, Shayne Gallaway, Iram Hassan, and Colleen Scott. They have done a tremendous job updating our Scientist history. I'm very excited now to work on getting it posted on our website for all of us to see. Great work!

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

- All SC SOP updated revisions are initiated by the Rules and Membership SC. SCs will be contacted when they are scheduled for an update and are not required to reach out proactively.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Awards SC:** CDR Cara Halldin; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Mary Puckett, and LT Ana Lauer
 - We'd like to recognize 4 retiring officers who have been awarded the Retiring Scientist Outstanding Service Award. The officers are CAPT Jill Breitbach, CDR Frank Hershberger, CDR Eduardo Gomez-Saladin, and CAPT William Satterfield. Congratulations to these officers for their exemplary careers.
 - We'd also like to thank everyone who put in a nomination for a SciPAC award and to the officers serving as reviewers for these awards. The nomination packets are currently under review and winners will be announced in the coming months.
- **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 is excited about the release of the Mental Health Monthly newsletter. Please stand by for March's issue, which will focus on International Women's Day and World Bipolar Day.
 - Liaison Team: The team is accepting requests for consultation needs.

- New Resources Team: The team will be presenting on Minimalism on March 22nd at noon and on Qigong with LCDR Reiner on April 26th at noon. Information about these presentations will be provided shortly.
- SOP Team: The team's first SOP has been sent to the Rules & Membership SC for review.
- Website Team: The Behavioral Health & Wellness Subcommittee website is now live and can be found here: [Scientist Professional Advisory Committee \(psc.gov\)](https://psc.gov).
- **Career Development SC:** [LCDR Adriana Restrepo](#); Co-Chair(s): [CDR Nancy Tian](#)
 - The teams are continuing the efforts previously described since the last SciPAC meeting.
 - **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.
 - **Training Team:** Training Team is currently planning a seminar for 4/4 during the SciPAC call on "Post 9/11 GI bill: Information to help you better understand your benefit".
- **Category Day SC:** [LCDR Rebecca Levine](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Alaine Knipes](#), [LCDR Alesha Harris](#), and [LCDR Folasade Kembi](#)
 - Meetings
 - Next leadership meeting: March 9, 2023, 12:00 PM
 - Next team leads meeting: March 30, 2023, 12:00 PM
 - Next COF meeting: March 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 **March 22**.
 - [Junior Officer/Civil Servant Scholarship application](#) deadline (for free registration, see 2/3 of the way down the page) is **March 15**.
 - 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 are requested to check updated task list in the "speaker resource center" as soon as possible (new disclosure form required and need to re-verify profile information).
 - A SciPAC mentoring session will be hosted by the Mentoring SC, with logistical support from the Category Day SC Outreach and Connections teams, on Tuesday May 9th, 2023 in the morning (this is the day prior to Category Day).
 - A SciPAC booth will be hosted by the SciPAC Category Day Subcommittee in the Exhibit Hall on May 9th and 10th.
 - 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 Awards/State of the Category team has been working with the State of the Scientists team on the Science SC, the Awards SC, and CAPT Sandhu to prepare the content for their portion of the Category Day program.
- The Connections team has prepared two scenarios and a speed networking event for Category Day – the items will be submitted shortly for review by the executive board.
- The Outreach team submitted the Category Day SC website updates to the Website SC and prepared flyers with reminders for Category Day registration deadlines.
- The Secretary team has begun to prepare the agenda and “meet the speakers” documents for Category Day.
- The Keynote Speaker team confirmed a one-night hotel reservation for the speaker.
- The Category Day SOP was returned back to the SciPAC Executive Board in mid-February with final revisions.

- **Deployment Preparedness SC:** LCDR Jorge Muñiz Ortiz; Co-Chair(s): CDR John Pesce, LCDR Jason Caballero, LCDR Adelaida Rosario
 - **Readiness Reporting:** As of March 1st, we had no new CAD, and no retirements, separations, or deaths of AD Scientists. The total count is 406 AD Scientist officers and 7 Ready Reserve Officers for a total of 413. Out of 395 AD Officers that are not exempt, 391 are basic ready (99.0%), 4 are not qualified (1 LT and 6 CDR, 1.0%), and 11 are exempt. Out of the 7 Ready Reserve Officers, 5 are basic ready and 2 are exempt. Including the AD Officers and Ready Reserve Officers that are not exempt, 396 out of a total of 400 are basic ready (99.0%). 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! Both are PHS-wide fitness programs. Reminder that SciPAC will have its own exercise challenge, a Plank Challenge which will begin late summer of 2023.
 - The SC collaborated with the Recruitment and Retention SC on two different projects. They will be including information on the Deployment Buddy Program in a presentation provided at OBCs.
 - The Speaker Series Team hosted a presentation by CAPT David Wong from the HHS Office of Minority Health on the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services standards and other opportunities sponsored by OMGH on February 28th. If you missed the webinar, you can access and watch the recording here:
 - <https://fda.zoomgov.com/rec/share/frkZDZkswd6qEvpkgY5HhS2CpeUC2XnbdOr8icZkg0hLTSE93WF2oWLFtpTclh7.vOOeen-n2KHY1Ptq?startTime=1677603666000>
 - Passcode: Vt.D=1Pn
 - The Speaker Series Team is now planning a talk on healthy eating during deployments, so please stay tuned for more information on that. Please check out all the information on deployment trainings on the OMH Thinking cultural webpage:
 - <https://thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/education/deployment-refresher>
 - <https://thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/education/disaster-personnel>

- The Deployment Narratives Team is collecting narrative submissions on a rolling basis. Two narratives are currently under review and will be published in an upcoming PAC newsletter once approved.
- As always, we encourage officers to visit the RDB home page often for updates on readiness information (<https://dcp.psc.gov/RedDOG/default.aspx>).
- **Mentoring SC:** LCDR Jonetta Mpofu; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Patrick High, and LCDR Michelle Hughes
 - Next meeting: March 27, 2023
 - **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 attend the Symposium please let us know (wgp8@cdc.gov). Mentors will receive a LOA. Thank you to all of the volunteers. We currently have nine senior officers confirmed for this event.
 - **Website Liaison:** The website content has been updated. Thank you CDR Theodore Garnett.
 - **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:** The Mentor Match team meeting was held on February 13, 2023
 - Currently, 154 active mentor-mentee agreements are on file, and there are 3 unmatched mentee applicants (2 at CDC, 1 at DHS), and 11 officers with pending mentee agreements.
 - 57% of Scientist Officers are engaged as either a mentor or mentee (n= 409).
 - **Mentor Capacity-Building Team:** The February CBT meeting was held on February 10, 2023. The next meeting will be on March 10, 2023.
 - The team is currently working to develop questions for the USPHS 2023 Symposium Mentoring Event. They are also working on developing a 1-page fact sheet that describes the Peer Support Network (PSN).
 - 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.
- **Policy SC:** LCDR Matthew Steele; Co-Chairs: CDR Adam Bjork, and LT Lauren Woodard
- Policy updates:
 - Commissioned Corps Instruction (CCI) 384.03, "[Mandatory, Voluntary, and Involuntary Retirement](#)", was recently posted to CCMIS with an effective date of

January 9, 2023.

- This instruction establishes the policies and procedures under which a Commissioned Corps officer is retired after completing 20 or more years of creditable service for retirement.
- This instruction replaces:
 - CCI CC384.02, “Voluntary Retirement (20 to <30 Years)”, dated July 3, 2013
 - CCI CC23.8.3, “Retirement (30 Years)”, dated July 3, 2008
 - Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual (CCPM) CC23.8.4, “Involuntary Retirement (20 Years)”, dated May 21, 2008
- Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI) Coverage
 - Officers have received a series of recent emails about an automatic increase of SGLI coverage to \$500,000 on March 1, 2023.
 - The emails explain that even if an officer declined or reduced SGLI coverage previously, they will need to do so again if not wanting \$500,000 of coverage.
 - The emails provide instructions for the following scenarios:
 - I had SGLI coverage, and I want the higher coverage amount of \$500,000.
 - I had SGLI coverage, but I do not want the higher coverage amount of \$500,000.
 - I did not have SGLI, but I want to keep either \$500,000 of coverage or a lesser amount.
 - I did not have SGLI previously and I still do not want SGLI coverage.
- **Psychologist Integration SC:** CDR Kate Morris; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Patrick Sears
 - Next meeting: March 20, 2023
 - We have found a potential concern with the recently released retirement policy that would affect non-license eligible or non-licensed commissioned corps psychologists. We are working with leadership to voice the concern and work to address the issue.
 - CCI 384.03 Mandatory, Voluntary, and Involuntary Retirement was recently released ([CCI 384.03.pdf \(psc.gov\)](#)). If you scroll to pages 6-7, you will read that officers may be marked as not qualified for monthly readiness checks if the officer "does not meet the licensure requirement(s) for the officer's discipline." The policy refers the reader to CCI 251.01, which refers the reader to CCI 231.03.
 - CCI 231.03, Category Appointment Standards, under Scientist/Psychologist requirements (page 6), reads, "License. A current, unrestricted, and valid license as a doctoral-level clinical psychologist from a U.S. State (as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 201(f)) is required for a clinical psychologist, which encompasses psychologists in clinical, community, rehabilitation and related practice specialties where individual clinical/counseling practice is an expectation during the officer’s USPHS Commissioned Corps career and thus, a license is required for a clinical psychologist."
 - The new CCI 384.03 may significantly and negatively impact those scientist officers who a) have a psychology degree but in an area that does not allow them to be licensed or b) who have a psychology degree, could be licensed, but are not licensed.

- We continue to identify and propose cross-PAC collaborative initiatives for the promotion category of Allied Health.
- **Recruitment and Retention SC:** [LCDR George Mitzner](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Julia Zucco](#), and [LCDR Jorielle Houston](#)
 - **SC SOP revisions were submitted February 15, 2023.**
 - **Resources Team:** Top Tips 2023 revision is underway.
 - **Interested Applicant Team:** Thanks to LT Gabriella Wuyke who performed a recruitment activity at her alma mater, FIU School of Public Health, where 25 students were in attendance.
 - Any Scientist interested in carrying out a recruitment activity (e.g., delivering a presentation to a professional organization) will receive coordination, support, and materials. The Scientist will then complete an after action report.
 - If you are interested in conducting a recruitment activity, please reach out to [CDR Angela Williams](#) and [LCDR Kelsy Hoffman](#).
 - **OBC Engagement Team:** No Scientists at OBC 144/17.
 - Please (belatedly) welcome our Scientists from OBC 143/16:
 - LCDR Megan Gaschk – DOD
 - LT Sade Collins - CDC
 - LT Catherine Lamptey – PHERST
 - 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:** “Deployments” was held February 17, 2023 and attended by 46 Scientists! Thank you to CDR Alison Laufer-Halpin, LCDRs Rudolph Francin and Nicholas Buhr for presenting!
 - **Next Meeting:** A Self-Care seminar is planned for this month, date forthcoming.
 - **Future Meetings:** April – uniforms; May – benefits and perks
 - 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:** February 17, 2023 where 12 officers discussed topics related to SGLI, awards, FMRB, APFT, and DPP.
 - **Next Meeting:** March 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. This starts today after the SciPAC Monthly General Meeting.
- **Rules and Membership SC:** [CDR Zewditu Demissie](#); Co-Chair(s): [CDR Lana Rossiter](#);

and LCDR Angela Coulliette-Salmond

- The SC SOP Team is continuing to make progress with SOP updates:
 - Behavioral Health and Wellness SC SOP is under review with the EB.
 - Several other SOPs are pending EB review or re-review.
 - Recruitment and Retention SOP is under review with Rules and Membership SC.
- The SciPAC Annual Report Team continues to discuss new approaches for finalizing the Annual Report in a more-timely fashion.
- The Voting Member Roster Team reached out to current and past voting members confirming their information. An updated roster is in development.
- The Voting Member Selection process will start in late March or early April. Please do look out for communications. If you missed the presentation last month about voting membership, please do review the slides. They were emailed out to the PAC after the presentation.
- We remind the PAC that CDR NaTasha Hollis is serving as the SciPAC DEIA Officer. She is currently developing 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
 - **State of the Scientists (SoS)**
 - The SoS fielding window began on January 30th and ended on February 23rd. Thanks to our fellow officers, we achieved 276 respondents, marking a 68% response rate. For context, our response rate from the past two years were 66% (2021 SoS, fielded in 2022) and 65% (2020 SoS, fielded in 2020). These data will help us assess the strengths and concerns of the Scientist Category, and track trends in our category over time.
 - 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 in fielding the survey. Please reach out to them with any questions or comments.
 - **Research and Practice Team**
 - On Friday February 23rd, CDR Andrea McCollum and LT Sergio Rodriguez presented “The 2022 Mpox outbreak in the United States and the development of surveillance diagnostics for special populations impacted by Mpox”. A total of 50 officers attended the presentation.
 - The next webinar, “Mental Health Disparities During the COVID-19 Pandemic” will be held on 3/22, from 12-1 pm EST. CDR Natasha Hollis 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**
 - In the coming weeks, please keep an eye out for a new Bibliography survey that will be used to collect information from Scientist Officers about their publications, presentations and other scientific products. Officers should expect to receive individual emails with a unique code for accessing the survey in REDCap.

These data will go a long way in supporting various initiatives to further demonstrate the unique work and contributions of Scientist Officers.

- Please reach out to [LT Nicholas Deputy](#) and [LT Philip Salvatore](#) with any questions.
- **Surgeon General's - Priority Engagement for Evaluation and Research Support (SG-PEERS) Team**
 - The SG-PEERS proposal has been resubmitted to OSG for review and is pending formal approval.
 - LCDR Leora Feldstein and LT Lindsay Womack have developed a Scientist Officer database populating areas of expertise related to SG priorities and other public health topics. They are exploring ways to share snapshots of preliminary data, such as through the SciPAC Newsletter.
 - Please reach out to [LT Lindsay Womack](#) and [LCDR Leora Feldstein](#) with any questions or ideas for leveraging the database.
- **Visibility SC:** [LCDR Angela Thompson-Paul](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Tia Rogers](#), and [LT Lacreisha Ejike-King](#)
 - **Newsletter Team:** Thank you to Scientist Officers who submitted excellent content for the Winter 2023 newsletter!
 - All articles have gone through two rounds of editorial review and will soon be laid out before the next round of reviews and approval by SciPAC and OSG leadership.
 - 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:** New event!
 - **What:** Virtual St. Patrick's Day Social
 - **When:** Friday, March 17, 2023; 8:30 p.m. (EST)
 - **Where:** Zoom (<https://fda.zoomgov.com/j/1609990682>)
 - **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:** In February, the Publications Team held its first full team meeting to orient the team and review the team calendar and deliverables for this operational year.
 - At a minimum, the team expects to work closely with the Science-Bibliography team to produce the PAC Top 10 publications for 2022-23, present at the September PAC meeting on the top 10 pubs and process, and develop an article for the PAC newsletter.
 - POCs: [LCDR Marisa Hast](#) and [CDR Sharyn Parks Brown](#)
 - **Twitter Team:** This February 2023 the SciPAC Twitter Team tweeted and retweeted a total of 24 times, and generated 844 new impressions, 101 new engagements, 60 new likes, 541 profile visits! This brings us to more than 311,000 all-time Tweet impressions and 136,990 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 172 views, 7 posts, and 35 expressions on the SciPAC Facebook page.
- There are currently 199 Facebook members. If you aren't already a member you can [request membership here](#). POC: [LCDR Patrick Sears](#)
- **SciPAC Symposium Poster Team:** We have submitted a poster abstract on *Contributions of USPHS Scientist Officers to the Interagency Mpox Response* to this year's USPHS Symposium.
 - We successfully presented our poster titled *The USPHS Scientist Category: The Contributions of Psychologists to the USPHS Mission* at the 2023 AMSUS Annual Meeting on February 15th in National Harbor, MD.
 - POC: [LCDR Marisa Hast](#), [LT Kerui Xu](#)
- **Fist Bump Team:**
 - In February, the Fist Bump Team submitted 3 Fist Bumps to the Winter Edition of the SciPAC Newsletter, received 1 new Fist Bump, and published 2 Fist Bumps on Facebook
 - During OY23, the 5 Fist Bumps published on USPHS Scientists Facebook Page have garnered 385 views and 53 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, the SC has received 31 update requests so far; 25 requests are complete and 6 are pending.
 - We are continuing to accept new website change requests for OY 2023.
 - Planning is ongoing for a streamlined SciPAC Website, including updated resources for Scientists, archiving unused portions of the current site, and enhanced integration with appropriate external file sharing systems.
 - Working with ICAC and SciPAC EB to identify a replacement for max.gov once it sunsets at the end of 2023. Officers interested in piloting potential replacements should contact Website SC leadership (hzt7@cdc.gov); we are particularly hoping to have officers from non-HHS agencies serve as pilot testers to ensure a solution that works for all SciPAC members.
 - Website and Visibility SCs continue to collaborate on the update to the SciPAC history webpage: The EB has provided feedback and the team is incorporating their edits.
 - Please visit our SciPAC website for additional information on Subcommittee activities and monthly meeting minutes: <https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/scientist/>.

Liaison Reports

- **Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. (AMSUS):** CAPT Mark Scheckelhoff
 - Next meeting: TBD.
 - AMSUS 2023: Occurred at the Gaylord Hotel, National Harbor, MD; 13-16 Feb 2023 (No virtual platform).
 - Key takeaways for AMSUS 2023:
 - Keynote Dr. Steven Lieberman, Veteran Health Affairs.
 - Theme: Healthcare collaborations: Meeting the Challenges of Today and Tomorrow.
 - CE/CME credit is available to meeting registrants (up to 20 available).
 - Credit hours available 13 Feb – 31 Mar, 2023.
 - The link to the accreditation site to complete post-session evaluations and receive certificates will be provided both at the meeting and via email to all who attended the in-person sessions.

- **Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB)** CDR Cria Perrine
 - CCWIAB held its first listening session on February 23rd.
 - Recording available at: https://fda.zoomgov.com/rec/share/ia9ZhqYbacu7nyu6cyy-9eW8Euymop9xWnpV1gtD07yX0SHmnpCljwEn5JX_hmCF.kn6HihtG7N22_UYE
 - Passcode: ?ytak*B3
 - Listening sessions will be held quarterly (next ~May, date TBD).
 - CCWIAB has a new listserv, which will be used to share information about future listening sessions and resources.
 - Link to subscribe: <https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?SUBED1=CCWIAB&A=1>
 - 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 Board of Directors meeting: 02/15/23.
 - The Outreach Committee virtual social for new OBC and Ready Reserve officers originally scheduled for February 26, was postponed. We will be rescheduling soon.
 - The 2023 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium planning is in full swing. Registration for the symposium is open with early bird rates that end March 22, 2023.
 - The deadline for poster submissions for the Symposium is March 8, 2023.
 - Members, please log onto your COA account to ensure your information is up to date, and you can continue to receive the COA Frontline and important information on COA activities.

- **IT Chartered Advisory Committee (ICAC):** LCDR Kelly Shaw
 - Nothing to report this month.

- **Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG):** LCDR Xia Michelle Lin
 - 2023 JOAG events at the Symposium
 - VISIT OUR BOOTHS: Learn about JOAG resources and opportunities that can enhance your career at the Junior Officer Career Enhancement Booth.
 - Visit the Uniform Inspection Booth to make sure you look your best.

- NETWORK with other junior officers at the only in-person JOAG General Meeting of the year to be held on May 11th at 7:00 AM (Breakfast provided!)
 - GIVE BACK by volunteering for JOAG's Community Service Event
 - [Room/Ride Share Link](#)
 - 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).
 - 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](#)
 - JOAG Virtual 10K Walk/ 5K Run: National Walking Day
 - Date and Time: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 (All participants must complete the event within a 24-hour period between 0000 to 2359 Wednesday, April 5, 2023)
 - Event Lead: LCDR Smaw, shercoda.smaw@hq.dhs.gov
 - More details are available from the Feb 27 JOAG listserv announcement.
 - JOAG published Tip of the Quarter February - 'Time Management'. See JOAG listserv announcement on 2/13/2023.
 - JOAG published [JO Voice Feb Edition](#).
 - Next meeting: Friday, 4/14/2023, Time: 1300–1400 ET
 - Zoom link is [here](#).
 - Presentation topic: Leading by Example - setting an example for others to follow.
- **Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE):** [LT Lacreisha Ejike-King](#)
 - Next meeting: April 13, 2023; 2:00pm ET
Virtual meeting information (Microsoft Teams):
[Click here to join the meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 227 453 203 351; Passcode: yhGjFL
Audio only: (240) 800-7959; Conference ID: 461728590#
 - The next call for the PACE Connections newsletter articles will be announced 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.
 - Awards:
 - a. The PACE Recognitions Subcommittee is announcing the first PHS Awards call of 2023! The due date is Friday, March 24, 2022, at 11:59 PST. Please see the

attached final version of the PACE PHS Awards SOP for details. PACE PHS Awards are distinct from the PACE Annual Awards. 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. Please see the SOP attached to the February 17th awards nomination listserv email for instructions. Please only send the narrative writeup 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](#). All questions should be directed to the officers listed above.

- 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 MARCH 2023 @ 1300 HRS EST
 - Health & Wellness Monthly Spotlight for February posted to the listserv and [max.gov](#) site.
 - Language Matters & Transgender Cultural Awareness OBC training pending Commissioned Officer Training Academy (COTA) policy approval.
 - The Education and Training subcommittee has secured the Speaker Series presenters for the 2nd-4th Quarters.
 - 03/14/2023 @ 1300 EST, 2nd Quarter Speaker: CDR Geiger, Topic: HIV Prep
 - 04/19/2023 @ 1200 EST, 3rd Quarter Speaker: LT Rubenstein, Topic: Monkey Pox vaccinations: MPV Vaccination in NYC; Experiences and lessons learned.
 - Date/Time TBD, 4th Quarter Speaker: LCDR Sandra Herrera
 - Policy SC proposed a Needs Assessment Survey to identify issues from PHS officers for SOAGDAG consideration to be administered online through the ListServ, Professional Advisory Groups, Chartered Advisory Groups, and at Symposium.
 - Policy SC current projects include development of a Resource Guide for Tricare gender affirming care, liaison selection SOP being finalized, and SOAGDAG Charter, Bylaws and SOPs are being reviewed.
 - Social SC Book Club event upcoming on 03/17/2023. Dates have been selected for 5 additional social events throughout the year (not including Symposium). Stay tuned for more details. Planning is currently in-process for an in-person Symposium event in Tulsa.

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