



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



Meeting Minutes; November 1, 2022

Total Attendance: 202 attendees; 29 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	Present
CDR	Halldin, Cara	Awards SC Chair	Present
CDR	Pesce, John	Deployment Preparedness SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Rossiter, Lana	Rules & Membership SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Chen, Debra	Behavioral Health & Wellness SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Edwards, Elizabeth	Website SC Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Knipes, Alaine	Category Day SC Co-Chair	Excused
LCDR	Levine, Rebecca	Category Day SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Link-Gelles, Ruth	Website SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Mitzner, George	Recruitment and Retention SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Morris, Kate	Psychologist Integration SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Muniz-Ortiz, Jorge	Deployment Preparedness SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Mpofu, Jonetta*	Mentoring SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Restrepo, Adriana	Career Development SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Sears, Patrick	Psychologist Integration SC Co-Chair	Present
LCDR	Steele, Matthew	Policy SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Thompson-Paul, Angela	Visibility SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Wang, Teresa	Science SC Chair	Present
LCDR	Zucco, Julia*	Recruitment and Retention SC Co-Chair	Present
LT	Ejike-King, Lacreisha*	Visibility SC Co-Chair	Excused

\*Pending official Voting Member appointment by Surgeon General

## Non-Voting Liaisons

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

**Participation by Non-Voting Scientist Officers:** RADM Theresa Lawrence, CAPT Andrea Sharma, CAPT Anne Marie France, CAPT Arlin Hatch, CAPT Danice Eaton, CAPT Dominic Frasca, CAPT Erin Sauber-Schatz, CAPT Fuyuen Yip, CAPT Hae-Kyung (Amy) Park, CAPT Jacqueline Tate, CAPT James Kenney, CAPT Jennifer Thomas, CAPT Joseph Despina, CAPT Judy Facey, CAPT Kenneth Sekulic, CAPT Laura Draski, CAPT Loren Rodgers, CAPT Matthew Breiding, CAPT Matthew Wise, CAPT Michael Smith, CAPT Nelson Adekoya, CAPT Qiao Bobo, CAPT Renee Calanan, CAPT Ruth Jiles, CAPT Ryan Novak, CAPT Scott Salvatore, CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor, CDR Alfredo Sancho, CDR Alicea Candido, CDR Alison Laufer Halpin, CDR Andrew Hickey, CDR Carrie Nielsen, CDR Cesar Perez, CDR Chekesha Clingman-Henry, CDR Danielle Barradas, CDR Dan-My Chu, CDR David Barry, CDR David Huang, CDR Eduardo O'Neill La Luz, CDR Elizabeth Irvin, CDR Ellen Yard, CDR Emily Jentes, CDR Emily Streeter, CDR Eric Zhou, CDR Erika Odom, CDR Erin Nichols, CDR Fei Xu, CDR Gabriela Ramirez-Leon, CDR Geoffrey Wu, CDR James Tyson, CDR Jason Wilken, CDR Jeff Showalter, CDR Jessica Schultz Fischer, CDR John Stansberry, CDR Juana Figueroa, CDR Kamil Barbour, CDR Keisher Highsmith, CDR Lara Misegades, CDR Leigh Ann Miller, CDR Mark Miller, CDR Matthew Newland, CDR Meghan Reilly, CDR Michelle Tsai, CDR Minglei Cui, CDR Nadra Tyus, CDR Nancy Tian, CDR NaTasha Hollis, CDR Peter Thomas, CDR Ruiqing Pamboukian, CDR Sara Vagi, CDR Seth Green, CDR Sharyn Parks Brown, CDR Theodore Garnett, CDR Tracy Powell, CDR Tyson Volkmann, LCDR Adelaida Rosario, LCDR Alesha Harris, LCDR Amy Freeland, LCDR Andrea Battle, LCDR Angela Coulliette-Salmond, LCDR Asha Ivey-Stephenson, LCDR Ashleigh Murriel, LCDR Bradley Goodwin, LCDR Brandi Freeman-Ponder, LCDR Brendan Eberenz, LCDR Brooke Hoots, LCDR Carolyn Herzig, LCDR Charlotte Francia, LCDR Christine Brady, LCDR Erica Rose, LCDR Folasade Kembi, LCDR Ginny Bowen, LCDR Hilda Razzaghi, LCDR Jamie Mells, LCDR Jason Caballero, LCDR Jessica Dunn, LCDR Jessica Tomov, LCDR Jonathan Leshin, LCDR Jorielle Houston, LCDR Julie O'Donnell, LCDR Kari Schlessinger, LCDR Kathleen Hartnett, LCDR Kimberly (Shay) Litton-Belcher, LCDR Leora Feldstein, LCDR Leslie Rivera-Rosado, LCDR Marilyn Park, LCDR Marisa Hast, LCDR Gina Masessa, LCDR Mary Puckett, LCDR Matthew Stuckey, LCDR Megan Peck, LCDR Michelle Hughes, LCDR Nazia Rahman, LCDR Nicholas Buhr, LT Olivia McGovern, LCDR Patrick High, LCDR Rory Geyer, LCDR Rudolph Francin, LCDR Samantha DiMisa, LCDR Scott Steffen, LCDR Sharoda Dasgupta, LCDR Shiny Mathew, LCDR Tajah Blackburn, LCDR Tia Rogers, LCDR Xiaowu Lu, LCDR Xinzhi Zhang, LT Ana Lauer, LT Andres Wong Sam, LT Anna Chard, LT Anthony Powell, LT Beth Rubenstein, LT Brent Huber, LT Brett Dodd, LT Bryan Galvez, LT Carrie Whitworth, LT Catharine (Cate) Pritchard, LT Christine Kim, LT Courtney Bell, LT David Mackenzie-Liu, LT Dianca Finch, LT Emmanuel Jeffrey, LT Evan Brown, LT Florence Kanu, LT Gabriella Wuyke, LT Hannah Segaloff, LT Ian Kracalik, LT Jazmin Reed, LT Jessica Jacobs, LT Jueichuan (Connie) Kang, LT Kelly Chapman, LT Kerui Xu, LT Kindra Stokes, LT Kristin Marks, LT Lauren Woodard, LT Leigh Ellyn Preston, LT Lillian Smith, LT Lindsay Womack, LT Marilyn Wolff, LT Marsha Samson, LT Michael Krage, LT Michael Newford, LT Michelle Johnson, LT Nang Thu Thu Kyaw, LT Nicholas Deputy, LT Olubukola Banneke, LT Oren Mayer, LT Prince Awuah, LT Robert Gahl, LT Sergio Rodriguez, LT Shaniece Theodore, LT Shannon York, LT Sophia Ajoku, LT Stephanie Pitts, LT Taneshia Knight, LT Tiffany McCain, LT Yasmin Ogale, LT Ying Lin, LTJG Jonathan Burg

**Excused Absences of Non-Voting Scientist Officers:** CAPT Anne Dobmeyer, CAPT Julie Chodacki, CDR Brian Harcourt, CDR Cria Perrine, CDR Dianna Carroll, CDR Jean Ko, CDR Joanna Gaines, CDR Kenneth Phillips, CDR Sanny Northbrook, LCDR Amy Schuh, LCDR Brett Forshey, LCDR Dantrell Simmons, LCDR Eboni Galloway, LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson, LCDR Iman Martin, LCDR Israel Cross, LCDR Lisa Jarvis-Durham, LCDR Tanesha Tutt, LCDR Tyann Blessington, LCDR Eric Jamoom, LT Jia Yin Leo, LT Jin Qin, LT Ruth Oni

**Key Abbreviations:**

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

SC = Subcommittee

SOP = Standard Operating Procedures

VM = Voting Member(s)

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

- CAPT Sandhu highlighted the fireside chat on Officer mental health and well-being sessions hosted by VADM Murthy, RADM Hinton and CAPT Schobitz, encouraging Officers to view the recording if they were unable to attend.
- CAPT Sandhu reminded Officers that CCHQ use/lose annual leave has been extended and to make sure Officers verify their leave in eCORPS.
- She also reminded Officers that this year the use of the new CV and CV summary format is required. Please review the guidance on CCMIS to ensure your promotion package uses the correct format.
- The CPOs are soliciting information from Officers regarding deployment operations, mission selection, and suggestions for improvements. If you have not done so already, please take a moment to share your response using the survey sent out on to the listserv on 10/31/2022.
- CAPT Sandhu closed by reminding Officers to take care of themselves, including their health and well-being. CCHQ is providing commissioned officers and those working at CCHQ the opportunity to take virtual fitness classes. The sign-up process is simple and you should get a monthly schedule of available classes.
- CAPT Sandhu thanked Officers again for all that they do for their agencies and the service.

**Chair Report:** CDR Alice Shumate

- Scientist Responder of the Year nominations are due December 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have had a lot of response activity in the past few years, and I encourage all who have had significant response impacts to consider nominating themselves, including junior officers.
- Today we have a special presentation that might inspire: the Deployment Preparedness Subcommittee is doing an interview-style presentation with our 2022 Scientist Responder of the Year, CAPT Loren Rodgers.
- Thanks to all officers who are helping with the CV/OS Review Service, and providing helpful feedback to fellow Scientists up for promotion this year.

- It's COER season, as well as flu shot season. Please remember to log in to the Officer Secure Area to check your readiness status and complete requirements to stay up to date.

#### **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

- The EB is steadily working through all items submitted for review/approval, including SC EOY LOAs.
- If you have any questions on the status, it's always appropriate to reach out to me (LCDR Shayne Gallaway). I appreciate all the SC feedback regarding the status of products submitted to the EB.

#### **Subcommittee Reports**

- **Awards SC:** CDR Cara Halldin; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Mary Puckett, and LT Ana Lauer
  - The 2023 **Scientist Responder of the Year Award nomination** call was distributed through the SciPAC listserv on October 18. The nomination deadline is **Friday, December 02, 2022**. Please email LCDR Jessica Dunn and LT Nicholas Wiese for more information.
  - A call for nominations for the **Retiring Scientist Awards**, which include the Retiring Scientist Appreciation Certificate, Retiring Scientist Outstanding Service Award, and Retiring Scientist Distinguished Service Award, went out to the SciPAC listserv on October 20. These are non-competitive award with no limits to the number awards granted each year, so **we encourage all retiring Officers to apply**. There will be a quarterly call for nominations; this **quarter's deadline is Friday, November 20**. Please email LCDR Scott Steffen and LT Jazmin Reed for more information.
- **Behavioral Health & Wellness SC:** LCDR Debra Chen; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Gina Masessa, and LCDR Sharoda Dasgupta
  - The Subcommittee had its first meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and the teams are getting their projects off the ground. Stay tuned!
- **Career Development SC:** LCDR Adriana Restrepo; Co-Chair(s): CDR Nancy Tian
  - **Promotion Guidance Team:** The workgroup has completed deidentifying 5 CVs received from officers who were recently promoted to the O-4 and O-6 ranks. The deidentified CVs are now with the SciPAC Executive Board for review. For additional information, please email CDR Gelio Alves and LCDR Tyann Blessington.

- **Scientist Officer Handbook Team:** The Executive Board has approved the updated 4 sections of the Handbook (Awards, COA Involvement, Mobility, Training) and submitted to the website team for publishing to the SciPAC Handbook. For more information, please email [CDR Tamara Henderson](#) and [LCDR Amy Schuh](#).
- **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
    - Most recent leadership meeting: October 20, 2022, 12:00 PM
    - Most recent team leads meeting: October 27, 2022, 12:00 PM
    - Most recent COF meeting: October 12, 2022, 1:00 PM
    - Next leadership meeting: November 3, 2022, 12:00 PM
    - Next team leads meeting: November 24, 2022, 12:00 PM (date will be changed)
    - Next COF meeting: November 9, 2022, 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!
  - All 11 teams have had leads and members assigned.
    - Monthly meetings for the SC have been established by the Secretary team.
    - Nearly all of the teams have had initial meetings (and some have had many more) and have developed or are developing internal timelines to meet required deadlines.
  - Thanks to the Abstracts team, the call for abstracts for Category Day 2023 is live!
    - We hope that all Scientist Officers consider submitting an abstract for a Category Day 2023 presentation!
    - All selected presentations will be live/in person, 5 minutes in length, and may be submitted for any of four tracks: career development, cool & innovative science, deployments, and Morale, Welfare, & Recreation (MWR). Abstract submissions are due **by 11:59pm Eastern on Thursday, November 10, 2022**. Abstract submission is through an [online portal](#) that may need to be accessed outside of your agency's network. Further information is available in the Call for Abstracts that was distributed via the listserv. Please contact [LCDR Michelle Hughes](#) or [LCDR Michelle Lin](#) with any questions.
      - Several abstracts have already been submitted.
  - The Keynote Speaker team prepared a ranked list of three potential speakers from Tulsa, OK. The speakers were approved by the Executive Board in the same rank order that they were submitted, and an invitation has been extended to the first-choice potential speaker.
  - The Panel Discussion team selected a topic for the panel discussion, prepared an abstract for it, and selected a set of potential speakers. These items have been submitted to Category Day Subcommittee leadership for review and approval.
  - The Evaluation team has started work to identify an appropriate platform with which

- to host the 2023 evaluation. They will work closely with the State of the Scientist team to share information on survey platforms. If there is interest, the team can briefly share findings from the 2022 evaluation with the rest of the PAC.
- The new Outreach team has prepared flyers for posting to social media. This team will be working with broader Symposium events and reaching out to get officers more connected with the benefits of attending the Symposium.
  - **Appreciation:**
    - Letters of appreciation have been prepared for all Category Day presenters and subcommittee members and are awaiting signatures from SciPAC leadership.
    - Challenge coins were obtained to send the two 2022 Keynote Speakers to appreciate their excellent contribution to the event. They will be mailed with signed letters of appreciation as soon as the letters are available.
    - The subcommittee has been in touch with the Executive Board about the way forward for a 2020-2021 Category Day Unit Commendation.
  - The Category Day SOP was received back from the SciPAC Executive Board in mid-September. Revisions based on the most recent feedback are underway.
  - **Deployment Preparedness SC:** LCDR Jorge Muñiz Ortiz; Co-Chair(s): CDR John Pesce, LCDR Jason Caballero, LCDR Adelaida Rosario
    - **Readiness Reporting:** As of November 1st, we have 406 Regular Corps Scientist officers and 6 Ready Reserve officers. 4 Regular Corps officers are not qualified, while 17 Regular Corps, and 4 Ready Reserve officers are exempt. Which brings us to a total of 99% Regular Corps scientist officers that are basic ready. 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.
    - Other Pertinent Deployment intel: We know of officers being deployed to Q stations at various international airports in relation to travelers coming from Uganda being screened for Ebola.
    - We would like to remind officers of the CPO Fitness Challenge and the REP! Which are both PHS-wide fitness programs.
    - An Update on the Deployment Preparation Plan: HQ has delayed the releasing of the DPP template and they are working on further communications to be released to the Corps.
    - The PACs have been given the opportunity to provide feedback to CCHQ, through our CPOs, on how CCHQ might improve PHS deployment operations. Our Subcommittee has prepared a survey to capture your constructive feedback, including proposed solutions that can lead to tangible change and improvement in deployment operations. We ask that you respond to the survey by **COB Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**.
    - As always, we encourage officers to visit the [RDB home page](#) often for updates on readiness information. We also want to encourage officers to revisit the May 11<sup>th</sup> email from CCHQ regarding our new deployment structures. If any officer has any questions regarding the information, please reach out to our subcommittee leadership.
  - **Mentoring SC:** LCDR Jonetta Mpofo; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Patrick High, and LCDR



## Michelle Hughes

- **Most recent meeting:** October 24, 2022
- **Next meeting:** November 28, 2022
- **Leads:**
  - The Mentoring SC SOP has been updated and posted on the website.
  - Congratulations to our new co-chair, LCDR Michelle Hughes.
  - Thank you to CDR Theodore Garnett for volunteering to serve as the Mentoring SC website liaison.
- **Mentor Matching Team**
  - Welcome new team co-lead, LT Anna Chard
  - Currently 157 active mentor-mentee agreements on file, and there are 10 pending agreements and 4 mentee requests (3 CDC and 1 FDA)
- **Mentor Recruitment Team:**
  - Welcome new team leadership, CDR Alison Halpin (Lead) and LCDR Matthew Steele (Co-Lead).
- **Mentor Capacity-Building Team**
  - Welcome new team co-leads, CDR Luz Rivera and LCDR Christine Brady.
- **Policy SC:** LCDR Matthew Steele; Co-Chairs: LCDR Adam Bjork, and LT Lauren Woodard
- **Policy Watch:**
  - As a part of the “Continuing Appropriations and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023,” signed by the President on September 30, 2022, officers can now carryover their leave more than 60 days for FY 2022. The excess leave must be used by September 30, 2023. Those with unverified leave should have been notified. Officers must confirm all leave was taken within the eCORPS system before November 1, 2022. Leave that has not been verified will be automatically deducted from your leave balance.
  - Officers may now electronically submit transcripts obtained during postgraduate training. This is applicable to training in which a Graduate Certificate, Master’s, or Doctoral degree is conferred. For an officer’s transcript to be considered official and to allow for its proper documentation at Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ), it must be received directly from the academic institution either electronically or in hardcopy. For electronic submissions, secured postgraduate transcripts should be submitted directly from the academic institution (or verified electronic delivery provider) to the PHS Licensure Resource Box at [PHSLicensure@hhs.gov](mailto:PHSLicensure@hhs.gov).
  - The release of the Deployment Preparation Plan (DPP) has been delayed. CCHQ will notify officers of the new release date and will update the timeline. Officers will have a minimum of three months after the release of the DPP before it becomes a readiness requirement.
  - Pursuant to section 625 of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2022, a pilot program was established to assess the feasibility and advisability of using a direct hire authority to appoint spouses of members of the Uniformed Services. Members of the Uniformed Services must be stationed at locations outside of the United States in order for their spouses to be eligible for time-

limited appointments to a competitive service position within the DoD under this authority. Appointments shall be made without regard to chapter 33, subchapter I of title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.), other than sections 3303 and 3328. As a matter of policy, section 3326 of chapter 33, subchapter I of title 5, U.S.C., and corresponding Code of Federal Regulations provisions will continue to apply.

- As a reminder, the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) reported that approximately 15,000 community pharmacies will leave the TRICARE retail pharmacy network as of October 24, 2022. Impacted beneficiaries will receive a letter from Express Scripts with a list of alternative in-network pharmacies. After October 24, 2022, beneficiaries who continue to fill prescriptions at departing community pharmacies will pay the full retail price for the medication. Walgreens and CVS remain in-network, as do many grocery store pharmacies and smaller chains. Network pharmacies also can be found using this [online search tool](#).
- **Policy Development:**
  - The Policy Review and Development teams stand ready to assist any Subcommittees that plan to develop policies in the coming OY.
- **Psychologist Integration SC:** LCDR Kate Morris; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Patrick Sears
  - POC for officers who want to get involved: [LCDR Kate Morris](#)
  - Most recent meeting: October 17, 2022
  - Next meeting: November 21, 2022
  - We have met with Mentoring SC and are actively working on standing up a board certification mentoring program. We have identified all psychologists who have non-clinical degrees and are working with leadership to advocate for them to join non-clinical Scientists in the Applied Public Health promotion category instead of the Allied Health promotion category when we move to the new promotion categories.
  - We are partnering with Career Development on initiatives unique to psychologists (i.e., license relevant CEs, representation and mentorship in new promotion category, etc.).
- **Recruitment and Retention SC:** LCDR George Mitzner; Co-Chair(s): LCDR Julia Zucco, and LCDR Jorielle Houston
- **Resources:** Currently updating the SciPAC Welcome Letter for OBC attendees.
- **Interested Applicant:** *CCHQ has opened accessions to ALL Scientists!*
  - 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.
  - *The IAT is looking for 3-4 Scientists to help support these efforts.*
  - If you are interested in being a part of the Team and/or conducting a recruitment activity, please reach out to [CDR Angela Williams](#) and [LCDR Kelsy Hoffman](#).
- **OBC Engagement:**
  - The OBC Engagement Team is inviting Scientists to attend OBC graduation to provide recognition, support, and fellowship to new CAD Scientists. 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:** *\*\*Open to all officers\*\**



- **Next Seminar titled:** “Officer Statement (OS)” will be held November 4, 2022 12PM ET featuring a CCHQ SME and a senior Scientist officer.
- **Looking ahead:** “Promotions” planned for December 15, 2022.
- 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:**
  - **\*\*Open to any agency Scientist within 3 years CAD and/or at O-3 grade\*\***
  - **Last meeting:** October 21, 2022 where 15 officers met and discussed topics related to promotions, awards, and COERs.
  - **Next Meeting:** November 18, 2022 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](#).
- **Separation Survey:**
  - Currently this team is being considered for removal due to low response rate.
  - May consider addition of prospective separation questions to the SoS survey.
- **Rules and Membership SC:** [CDR Zewditu Demissie](#); Co-Chair(s): [CDR Lana Rossiter](#); and [LCDR Angela Coulliette-Salmond](#)
  - Thanks to the Subcommittee leaders, liaisons, and Executive Board members who have already turned in their draft contributions for the 2021-2022 End of Year report. If you have not yet turned in your report, please do so ASAP. We appreciate your timely submissions so that we can share officer accomplishments with the entire PAC membership.
  - We are in the process of finishing a number of SOP reviews that have been in process with the Executive Board. Thank you for continued efforts to finalize these SOPs. If your subcommittee’s SOP is due for an update this operational year, we will reach out to the subcommittee leadership.
- **Science SC:** [LCDR Teresa Wang](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Israel Cross](#), and [LCDR Hilda Razzaghi](#)
  - Letters of appreciation for those who served during the previous operational year were distributed on 10/25/22. Please contact [LCDR Teresa Wang](#) with any questions
  - Team recruitment is complete: Science SC currently comprised of 24 Officers, including 6 new officers
  - Kickoff meeting was held on 10/26/22; SC leadership will be in contact with Team Leads to set up individual meetings
  - **State of the Scientists (SoS)**
    - Previous version of SoS questionnaire as been submitted to EB for review and comment, to inform next iteration of SoS
    - Responding to Recruitment and Retention SC inquiry for related data from previous years
    - Please reach out to [LCDR Carolyn Herzig](#) and [LCDR Francis Annor](#) with any questions
  - **Research and Practice Team**
    - Aiming for 4 webinars this OY and currently developing presentation

- ideas and timelines
  - Please reach out to [CDR Ruiqing Pamboukian](#) and [LT Ying Lin](#) with questions or ideas for future webinars
- **Bibliography Team**
  - The team is developing a data call and mining approach for the 2022 Bibliography, and looking to further showcase its findings
  - 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**
  - SG-PEERS proposal has been resubmitted to OSG for approval
  - The team has developed a Scientist Officer subject matter expert database, and will continue to build this out during the current operational year and seek opportunities for implementation
  - 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 held a meeting on October 17 to kickoff this OY.
    - Currently reviewing submissions for the Fall 2022 Newsletter.
    - 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 socials team conducted the first social event of the operational year on Sunday, October 16, 2022, 4 DC Region Scientists, family, and 1 guest from another PAC enjoyed a social at Windridge Vineyards in Darnestown, Maryland. The socials team looks forward to hosting more in-person and virtual events in the near future.
    - The next DC area social will be held on Saturday, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be a Holiday Potluck. A Sign-Up Genius will be available with food item options to select. The formal announcement with details is soon to follow. For more information, contact [LCDR Alesha Harris](#) or [LCDR Adi Rosario](#).
    - If you have an idea for an in-person or virtual social event, please contact: [LT Lacreisha Ejike-King](#)
  - **Publications Team:**
    - The publications team is recruiting for 3 additional team members. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact team lead [LCDR Tia Rogers](#)
  - **Twitter Team:**
    - In October, the Twitter Team tweeted and retweeted a total of 59 times, and generated 11,100 new impressions, 609 new engagements, 557 new likes and 964 profile visits! This brings us to an incredible 306,766 all-time Tweet impressions and 132,838 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 October 2022, there were 301 views, 9 posts, and 24 expressions on the SciPAC Facebook page.
  - There are currently 193 Facebook members. If you aren't already a member you can [request membership here](#), or contact [LCDR Patrick Sears](#).
- **LinkedIn/Instagram Team:**
  - Last meeting was held on 10/04/2022. They have completed a first draft of the SOP and will share it with Subcommittee leadership for review.
  - You can contact [LCDR Abby McCabe](#), [LT Brian McAleney](#), and [LT Tiffany McCain](#) for more information.
- **SciPAC Symposium Poster Team:**
  - Our abstract entitled "*The USPHS Scientist Category: The Contributions of Psychologists to the USPHS Mission*" was accepted for AMSUS this coming February. LT Xu will represent our team and the list of authors at the meeting.
  - You can contact [LT Kerui Xu](#), and [LCDR Marisa Hast](#) for additional information.
- **Quarterly Highlights Team:**
  - This newly formed team will hold its first meeting during the month of November. The goals for the team include:
    - Developing and sending 4 one-pagers to SciPAC Leadership during the 2022-23 Operational Year
    - Developing an SOP
  - You can contact [LT Carrie Whitworth](#) for more details.
- **Fist Bump Team:**
  - In October, the Fist Bump Team:
    - Received 1 Fist Bump
    - Submitted 5 Fist Bumps to the Fall Edition of the SciPAC Newsletter
    - Published 3 Fist Bumps on Facebook
    - Submitted 1 Fist Bump for publication on Twitter
  - 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](#), and [LT Amanda Hott](#).
- **Website SC:** [LCDR Ruth Link-Gelles](#); Co-Chair(s): [LCDR Elizabeth Edwards](#), [LCDR Matthew Stuckey](#) and [LT Beth Rubenstein](#)
  - Next SC meeting: 12/15/2022 at 11 AM Eastern
  - Current Activities
    - For OY 2023, the SC has received 5 update requests so far; 3 requests are complete and 2 are pending.

- Jarmanator is online! We are accepting new website change requests for OY 2023 and continue to clear the backlog of requests received during Jarmanator downtime.
- Planning continues for a streamlined SciPAC Website, including increased interface with Max.gov, updated resources for Scientists, archiving unused portions of the current site.
- Website and Visibility SCs continue to collaborate on the update to the SciPAC history webpage; all new content is under review by the SciPAC Chair.
- SciPAC Website Analytics Report for OY 2022 was shared with SciPAC leadership and Website SC liaisons.
- 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; Co-Liaison(s): CDR Qiao Bobo
  - **Most recent meeting:** October, 28, 2022
  - **Next meeting:** TBD
- AMSUS 2023: Gaylord Hotel, National Harbor, MD; 13-16 Feb 2023 (No virtual platform)
  - In-person only next year; no virtual attendance or availability of material
  - Registration and hotel reservations are open
  - One or multi-day attendance available
  - Submission process for Abstracts is now closed
    - If you are selected to present and cannot attend, please provide notification as soon as possible so a replacement can be selected
  - AMSUS awards have been submitted; no additional submissions accepted
    - Volunteers to review AMSUS Award submissions needed
  - PHS award announcements will be coming shortly
    - Will be same process as previous years
    - CPO will gather submissions
  - Need volunteers for AMSUS PHS Booth
- Key takeaways for AMSUS 2023:
  - Keynote Dr. Steven Lieberman, Veteran Health Affairs
  - Theme: Healthcare collaborations: Meeting the Challenges of Today and Tomorrow
  - Offer sessions that have CE/CME (27.5hrs offered) - Expanded to include social work
- **Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB):** LCDR Marissa Zwald
  - Points of contact: LCDR Marissa Zwald and CDR Kiran Perkins (CCWIAB Co-Chair)
  - Last CCWIAB meeting: Wednesday, October 5, 2022
  - Next CCWIAB meeting: Wednesday, November 2, 2022

- If you have any questions about CCWIAB or the committees' initiatives below, please contact [LCDR Zwald](#), or visit [CCWIAB's website](#).
- **Commissioned Officers Association (COA):** [LCDR Julia Zucco](#)
  - Point of contact for officers who want to get involved: [LCDR Julia Zucco](#)
  - Most recent meeting: 09/20/22 Board of Directors meeting
  - As a reminder, COF is partnering with Christopher Productions, LLC to produce a documentary on the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) for the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). If you would like to find out more about this project and where you can help get the documentary produced, please check out the documentary webpage on the COF website, (<https://www.phscof.org/documentary/>).
  - We had a record number of lapsed members this year at over 1200. The Outreach Committee partnered with local branches and the Retirement Committee to send out hundreds of emails and texts to remind officers of the importance of COA activity, which includes advocacy and scholarships to the Symposium.
- **IT Chartered Advisory Committee (ICAC):** [LCDR Kelly Shaw](#)
  - The new operational year kicked off for ICAC – priorities of leadership include:
    - Getting clarity on the status of ICAC's charter and revisions,
    - Finding opportunities for ICAC to support PHS deployments or IT systems.
  - The next meeting is currently scheduled for Veteran's Day; likely to be rescheduled.
- **Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG):** [LCDR Xia Michelle Lin](#)
  - Next meeting: Friday, 12/9/2022, Time: 1300–1400 ET
    - Zoom link: <https://fda.zoomgov.com/j/1611869072>
  - JOAG VADM Richard H. Carmona Inspiration Award Call for Nominations
    - Nomination deadline: Wednesday, December 7, 2022
    - Send nominations or questions to both:
      - LCDRs [Salvatore Pepe](#) and [Brendan Eberenz](#)
  - JOAG VADM C. Everett Koop Junior Officer Award Call for Nominations
    - Nomination deadline: Wednesday, December 7, 2022
    - Send nominations or questions to both:
      - LCDRs [Alena Korbut](#) and [Maria S. Agresta Workman](#)
  - Meet and Greet virtual event in Houston TX
    - **Topic:** Strategies to Increase Promotability
    - **Speaker(s):** CAPT Seligman and CAPT Tredway
    - November 9, 2022; 1200–1300 CST.
    - Meeting Link: [here](#).
  - Meet and Greet virtual event in Tucson AZ
    - **Topic:** Nutrition and Deployment
    - **Speaker(s):** CDR Stacey Gyenizse
    - Monday, November 14, 2022; 1230 MST.
    - Meeting Link: [here](#).
  - JOAG Public Health Champions – Call For Articles
    - Submission Deadline: Monday, December 5, 2022
    - Contact: [LCDR Sandra Herrera](#)

- All JOAG Committees request volunteers – see the JOAG listserv email announcement on 10/24.
- **Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE):** LT Lacreisha Ejike-King
  - Last meeting: October 13, 2022; 2:00pm ET
  - Next meeting: December 8, 2022; 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#
  - 2022 Annual Call for Letters of Appreciation (LOAs):
    - Executive Board members, Subcommittee Leads, Regional Coordinators, SGET Leads, and/or designees are asked to prepare PACE Letters of Appreciation (LOAs) for all those they would like to recognize with a PACE LOA for the most recent PACE operational year (June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022). Please submit completed LOA spreadsheets via e-mail with Subject: 2022 PACE LOA by 2359, EST, 11/15/2022.
    - Please direct any questions and submit nominations/spreadsheets to the RSC LOA Workgroup of the PACE Recognitions Subcommittee: [CDR Theresa Gallagher](#); [LCDR Maria Agresta-Workman](#), and [LCDR Julie Witmer](#)
- **Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Advisory Group (SOAGDAG):** LCDR Luis Iturriaga
  - Most recent meeting: 25 OCTOBER 2022 @ 1300 HRS EST
  - Next meeting: 22 NOVEMBER 2022 @ 1300 HRS EST
  - The Asian Pacific American Officer's Committee (APAOC) roundtable discussion on cultural humility is scheduled for November 08, 2022.
  - All committees and general members started working on succession planning for the next SOAGDAG operational year.
  - The health and wellness monthly spotlight for November will be posted soon and the December posting is being prepared. Articles can be found on the listserv and Max.gov.
  - The Education and Training subcommittee would like to introduce CAPT White as the first presenter for the SOAGDAG Speaker Series scheduled on November 21, 2022 at 3:00 PM EST. The topic is bisexual people and behavioral health disparities.
  - The Policy subcommittee prepared and updated a draft of Blood Donation White Paper. The White Paper was submitted to the Executive Committee for distribution to CCHQ. The draft has been posted on Max.gov.
    - There was a recent article in the Washington Post regarding why gay men and other groups are banned from donating sperm.  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2022/10/20/sperm-donor-criteria/>

**NOTE:** Next meeting—Tuesday, **December 6, 2022**; 12:00–1:00pm ET