



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

Meeting Minutes; September 6, 2022



Total Attendance: 216 attendees; 36 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	Excused
LCDR	Gallaway, Shayne	Executive Liaison	Present
CAPT	Dee, Deborah	Ex-Officio Chairperson	Present

### Voting Members (SC = Subcommittee)

Rank	Name	Role	
CDR	Bjork, Adam	Policy SC Co-Chair	Present
CDR	Halldin, Cara	Awards SC Chair	Present
CDR	Pesce, John	Deployment Preparedness SC Co-Chair	Present
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
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, Theresa	Science SC Chair	Excused
LCDR	Zucco, Julia*	Recruitment and Retention SC Co-Chair	Excused
LT	Ejike-King, Lacreisha*	Visibility SC Co-Chair	Present

\*Pending official Voting Member appointment by Surgeon General

## Non-Voting Liaisons

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

**Participation by Non-Voting Scientist Officers:** CAPT Karon Abe; CAPT Nelson Adekoya; CAPT Marco Bennett; CAPT Renee Calanan; CAPT Michael Cooper; CAPT Joseph Despina; CAPT Anne Dobmeyer; CAPT Laura Draski; CAPT Danice Eaton; CAPT Judy Facey; CAPT Arlin Hatch; CAPT Sally Hu; CAPT Ruth Jiles; CAPT James Kenney; CAPT Sara Newman; CAPT Ryan Novak; CAPT Anne Purfield; CAPT Loren Rodgers; CAPT Erin Sauber-Schatz; CAPT Kenneth Sekulic; CAPT Andrea Sharma; CAPT Michael Smith; CAPT Jacqueline Tate; CAPT Robin Toblin; CAPT Matthew Wise; CAPT Fuyuen Yip; CDR Gelio Alves; CDR Kamil Barbour; CDR David Barry; CDR Tegan Boehmer; CDR Chekesha Clingman-Henry; CDR Daniela Cohn-Aizic; CDR Juana Figueroa; CDR Anne Marie France; CDR Joanna Gaines; CDR Theodore Garnett; CDR Laura Gieraltowski; CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor; CDR Seth Green; CDR Brian Harcourt; CDR Keisher Highsmith; CDR NaTasha Hollis; CDR David Huang; CDR Elizabeth Irvin; CDR Wade Keckler; CDR Jean Ko; CDR Alison Laufer Halpin; CDR Matthew Lozier; CDR Charlene Maddox; CDR Leigh Ann Miller; CDR Mark Miller; CDR Lara Misegades; CDR Erika Odom; CDR Erin Parker; CDR Cesar Perez; CDR Kenneth Phillips; CDR Gabriela Ramirez-Leon; CDR Meghan Reilly; CDR Luz Rivera; CDR Lana Rossiter; CDR Sharon Saydah; CDR Heather Scobie; CDR John Stansberry; CDR Emily Streeter; CDR Peter Thomas; CDR Nancy Tian; CDR Sharyl Trail; CDR Michelle Tsai; CDR James Tyson; CDR Nadra Tyus; CDR Sara Vagi; CDR Tyson Volkmann; CDR Jeremy Wally; CDR Tenaya Watson; CDR Jason Wilken; CDR Geoffrey Wu; CDR Fei Xu; CDR Lauren Zapata; CDR Yi Zhang; CDR Eric Zhou; LCDR Francis Annor; LCDR Tyann Blessington; LCDR Ginny Bowen; LCDR Christine Brady; LCDR Nicholas Buhr; LCDR Angela Coulliette-Salmond; LCDR Israel Cross; LCDR Sharoda Dasgupta; LCDR Samantha DiMisa; LCDR Jessica Dunn; LCDR Brendan Eberenz; LCDR Leora Feldstein; LCDR Charlotte Francia; LCDR Rudolph Francin; LCDR Brandi Freeman-Ponder; LCDR Eboni Galloway; LCDR Rory Geyer; LCDR Yoran Grant-Greene; LCDR Alesha Harris; LCDR Kathleen Hartnett; LCDR Iram Hassan; LCDR Carolyn Herzig; LCDR Kelsy Hoffman; LCDR Brooke Hoots; LCDR Jorielle Houston; LCDR Keisha Houston Jenkins; LCDR Gwendolyn Hudson; LCDR Michelle Hughes; LCDR Asha Ivey-Stephenson; LCDR Lisa Jarvis-Durham; LCDR Folasade Kembi; LCDR Juan Lacayo; LCDR Jonathan Leshin; LCDR Neali Lucas; LCDR Iman Martin; LCDR Gina Masessa; LCDR Shiny Mathew; LCDR Jamie Mells; LCDR Ashleigh Murriel; LCDR Rashid Njai; LCDR Marilyn Park; LCDR Mary Puckett; LCDR Nazia Rahman; LCDR Hilda Razzaghi; LCDR Leslie Rivera-Rosado; LCDR Adelaida Rosario; LCDR Stephanie Rutledge; LCDR Kari Schlessinger; LCDR Dantrell Simmons; LCDR Pilgrim Spikes; LCDR Scott Steffen; LCDR Matthew Stuckey; LCDR Rhondie Tait; LCDR Jessica Tomov; LCDR Tanesha Tutt; LCDR Emily Ussery; LCDR Nana Wilson; LCDR Marcienne Wright; LCDR Xinzhi Zhang; LT Sophia Ajoku; LT Olubukola Banmeke; LT Courtnee Bell; LT Emilie Bouda; LT Andrew Brown; LT Anna Chard; LT Peter DeJonge; LT Nicholas Deputy; LT Brett Dodd; LT Njere English; LT Dianca Finch; LT Robert Gahl; LT Bryan Galvez; LT Sean Griffing; LT Charles (CJ) Helm; LT Kun-Yueh (Jayson) Hsieh; LT Brent Huber; LT Jessica Jacobs; LT Pushpa (Suresh) Jayasekara; LT Emmanuel Jeffrey; LT Jueichuan (Connie) Kang; LT Florence Kanu; LT Christine Kim; LT Hana Kim; LT Ian Kracalik; 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 Oren Mayer; LT Neil Milan; LT Yasmin Ogale; LT Ruth Oni; LT Megan Peck; LT Stephanie Pitts; LT Anthony Powell; LT Jazmin Reed; LT Tia Rogers; LT Beth Rubenstein; LT Phillip Salvatore; LT Hannah Segaloff; LT Lillian Smith; LT Kindra Stokes; LT Carrie Whitworth; LT Nicholas Wiese; LT Marilyn Wolff; LT Lindsay Womack; LT Lauren Woodard; LT Kerui Xu; LT Jia Yin Leo; LTJG Jonathan Burg

**Excused Absences of Non-Voting Scientist Officers:** CAPT Julie Chodacki; CAPT Hae-Kyung (Amy) Park; CAPT Jennifer Thomas; CDR Minglei Cui; CDR Mary Lela Demby; CDR Terrence Lo; CDR Matthew Newland; CDR Sanny Northbrook; CDR Cria Perrine; CDR Jeff Showalter; LCDR Corey Bayliss; LCDR William Davis; LCDR Bradley Goodwin; LCDR Jayleen Gunn; LCDR Patrick High; LCDR Eric Jamoom; LT Olivia McGovern; LT Amanda Hott; LT Michelle Johnson; LT Jenna Lewis; LT Joshua Mjolsness; LT Daniel Nguyen; LT Cate Pritchard; LT Marsha Samson; LT Jennifer Vazquez O'Farril; LT Andres Wong Sam; LT Gabriella Wuyke; LTJG Gabriel Uribe; LTJG William Valiant

**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

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 expressed hope that everyone had a restful Labor Day weekend
- She recognized CAPT Deborah Dee for her service to the Category as Chair, welcomed CDR Alice Shumate as the new PAC Chair, and welcomed all new Voting Members
- CAPT Sandhu provided updates on the analysis she is performing on Scientist promotions from PY2022 (including scores & comments) and hoping to share results at October meeting
- She encouraged all Officers to check their CCMIS dashboards to confirm whether they are up for permanent or temporary promotion in Promotion Year 2023; she also encouraged all officers to maintain basic readiness throughout the year and reminded the Category that some officers did not receive a (nearly guaranteed) permanent promotion this past promotion year because of their readiness lapses
- CAPT Sandhu thanked senior officers within SciPAC who have been assisting with mandatory promotion counseling for some officers based on performance during PY2022; thanks to the assistance of these senior officers, promotion counseling is almost complete
- She asked licensed clinical psychologist officers to review the August 24 CCHQ memo clarifying an extension on practice hours (until June 30, 2023)

**Chair Report:**

- **Outgoing:** CAPT Deborah Dee
- Two issues were placed before OY2022 Voting Members for their consideration; both issues under consideration amounted to changes in the SciPAC SOP

- VM were asked to vote on the creation of a new SciPAC Behavioral Health & Wellness SC; this SC would be a continuation and formalization of the mission of the Mental Health Initiative Workgroup from OY2022
- VM were also asked to vote on the addition of 3 more VM beginning in OY2023; adding these VM positions would maintain member-to-VM ratios that existed before the expansion of SciPAC to include licensed clinical psychologists
- Both proposals passed resolutely (3 dissenting votes for the creation of a new SC and 0 dissenting votes for the creation of new VM positions). Changes will be implemented immediately for OY2023; the 3 VM positions will be offered to the 2 named alternate VMs and 1 additional (previously unnamed) alternate selected by the VM selection committee
- **Incoming: CDR Alice Shumate**
- A huge thanks to CAPT Dee for her tremendous leadership of the Category this past year, as well as serving as a mentor for me in the Vice Chair and Chair role.
- I look forward to a productive year under the strong leaders we have including CAPT Sandhu as our CPO, and the excellent officers selected for our Executive Board as well as leading Subcommittees this year.
- Subcommittee Co-Chair selection continues, so please watch for a final roster of leaders for the year; I am encouraging Chairs to consider all aspects of diversity when selecting Co-Chairs and Team Leads, as our PAC is stronger when its leadership accurately represents its members.
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility will be a major emphasis this year for the PAC, continuing and broadening the efforts begun by CDR Wilken as part of the review and improvement of the Voting Member selection process. I hope we can all work together to support everyone in the PAC as we continue to move through Corps modernization and other changes.

#### **Vice Chair Report:**

- **Outgoing: CDR Alice Shumate**
- Report deferred to Rules & Membership SC report
- **Incoming: CDR Zewditu Demissie**
- I am honored to serve as the new SciPAC Vice Chair and engage with the EB and Rules and Membership SC.
- I am excited to learn from CDR Shumate and CAPT Dee about how I can best serve the PAC in this new role.
- I also look forward to learning from all of you, the SciPAC membership. I am happy to speak with any Scientists Officers about SciPAC. Please feel free to reach out to me.

#### **Executive Secretary Report:**

- **Outgoing: LCDR Ginny Bowen**
- **Incoming: LCDR Colleen Scott**
- Welcome to LCDR Colleen Scott, the new Executive Secretary of SciPAC. LCDR Scott is currently deployed for monkeypox. LCDR Bowen will continue to perform Secretary functions through the second week of September.
- **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 continue to report your September attendance via email to LCDR Ginny Bowen with the email subject line “SciPAC Meeting Attendance.” Attendance reporting will transition to LCDR Colleen Scott beginning in October.

- **Calendar invitation:** LCDR Scott will be sending a new, 12-month Outlook calendar series for monthly SciPAC meetings later in September. This will contain new Zoom call-in information for the upcoming operational year.

### **Executive Liaison Report:**

- **Outgoing:** CDR Lana Rossiter
- **Incoming:** LCDR Shayne Gallaway
- Welcome to LCDR Shayne Gallaway in the role of Executive Liaison for the new OY. LCDR Gallaway and CDR Rossiter have been working on transition plans. If you have new requests, please send them directly to him.
- The EB has completed review of documents from several SCs. If the EB did not complete review by late August, review will be completed by the new EB in the new OY.
- The EB completed review of several SOPs before the end of the OY. However, there will be carryover into the next OY. SC Chairs please be on the lookout for requests related to SOP updates and remember to include this in upcoming transition meetings.
- If there are questions pertaining to items from last OY, please contact CDR Rossiter and cc LCDR Gallaway.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

- **Awards SC:**
  - Outgoing Chair: CDR Zewditu Demissie
  - Incoming Chair: CDR Cara Halldin
  - Welcome to CDR Cara Halldin, the new Awards SC Chair.
  - The MAX.gov Team has developed a new MAX.gov page for the SC. The SC will use this as a shared working space and document storage for future transitions.
  - The Special Assignment Award package for the 2019–2022 SciPAC Voting Members has been submitted to CAPT Sandhu for approval.
  - Thank you to all officers who have remained on the SC for the new OY. To the officers who have transitioned off the SC, we thank you again for your service and your contributions will be missed. Letters of appreciation are currently being drafted.
  - **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** The SC will have some leadership and non-leadership openings. If you have an interest in serving on the Awards SC, please contact CDR Cara Halldin.
- **Behavioral Health & Wellness SC**
  - Incoming Chair: LCDR Debra Chen
  - **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** This SC is new in the 2022–2023 OY. The SC is recruiting officers of all backgrounds—not only Psychologists—to join the team and help shape its activities. Please reach out to LCDR Deb Chen if interested.

- **Career Development SC:**
  - Outgoing Chair: LCDR Xinzhi Zhang
  - Incoming Chair: LCDR Adriana Restrepo
  - **Promotion Guidance Team:** Twenty-five Scientist officers volunteered for the SciPAC CV Example Workgroup. The workgroup is creating 5 de-identified example CVs received from officers who were recently promoted to the O-4, O-5, and O-6 ranks. These deidentified CVs will be ready for review by September 16. For additional information, please email CDR Gelio Alves and LCDR Tyann Blessington.
  - **Benchmarks Assessment & Guidance Workgroup:** The WG recently completed a Benchmark Guidance document that addressed all edits requested by EB. The WG distributed the Benchmarks Guidance through the listserv on September 7. For additional information, please email CDR Gelio Alves and LCDR Tyann Blessington.
  - **Promotion Panel Initiative Team:** The Team will host a webinar, “Preliminary Findings from the 2022 Scientist Officer Promotion Survey,” on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, from 12:00–1:00pm ET. Previous 2017 and 2018 analyses can be found on the [SciPAC Career Development webpage](#). For more information please email CDR Nadra Tyus, LCDR Neil Bonzagni, and LT Taneshia Knight.
  
- **Category Day SC:**
  - Outgoing & Incoming Chair: LCDR Rebecca Levine
  - Meetings
    - Most recent leadership meeting: August 18, 2022
    - Most recent team leads meeting: August 25, 2022
    - Most recent COF meeting: June 8, 2022
    - Next meetings are all TBD
  - **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** If you have been a Category Day SC member this year or in previous years, please consider remaining with us (and let us know you’d like to stay on board) – we love our experienced volunteers! If you have never been a Category Day SC member, please consider joining this fast-paced, high-visibility team for the next OY! Reach out to the Chair (name and contact info above) if you are interested.
  - The Category Day Evaluation Team hopes to brief the Category on findings from the day’s evaluation in the new OY.
  - Appreciation
    - Letters of appreciation have been prepared for all Category Day presenters and SC members and are awaiting signatures from SciPAC leadership.
    - The SC would like to send challenge coins to the two Keynote Speakers to appreciate their excellent contribution to the event. This is being discussed with the EB.
    - The SC has been in touch with the EB about the way forward for a Category Day Unit Commendation.
  - The Category Day SOP was revised and submitted to the SciPAC EB. It incorporated updates from the virtual program in 2021 and the in-person program in 2022.
  
- **Deployment Preparedness SC:**
  - Outgoing Chair: CDR John Pesce



- Incoming Chair: LCDR Jorge Muñiz Ortiz
- **Next meeting:** September 19, 2022
- **Readiness Reporting:** As of September 1, 2022, we have 412 Regular Corps Scientist officers and 5 Ready Reserve officers. Of the 412 Regular Corps officers, 382 are basic ready, 17 are exempt, and 13 are not qualified. Of the 5 Ready Reserve officers, 1 is basic ready and 4 are exempt. A total of 404 officers (96.8%) are either basic ready or exempt. If you are having trouble maintaining basic readiness, please reach out to the SC.
- We are drafting LOAs for officers who volunteered this past OY. Thanks to all for an awesome OY.
- **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** We would like to welcome volunteers to the SC who have ideas to share and execute! Please reach out to any of the chairs if interested.
- We would like to remind officers of the CPO Fitness Challenge and the REP! PHS-wide fitness programs.
- On August 3, 2022, the Mental Health Team presented a talk titled “Strengthening Resilience: Self-care Before, During and After Deployment.”
- 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, 2022, email from CCHQ regarding the new deployment structure.
  
- **Mentoring SC:**
  - Outgoing Chair: LCDR Shayne Gallaway
  - Incoming Chair: LCDR Jonetta Mpofo
  - **Most recent meeting:** August 22, 2022
  - **Next meeting:** September 26, 2022
  - **Leads:**
    - Incorporating and finalizing SOP.
    - Clarifying all end of year reporting and issuances of LOAs.
    - Assessing all team member intent to remain with SC for upcoming OY.
  - **Mentor Recruitment Team:**
    - Finalized year end reporting and recommended improvements for upcoming OY
    - Peer Support Network team reached out to 7 new CAD during July–August
  - **Mentor Matching Team**
    - Currently 158 active mentor-mentee agreements on file (+3), and there are 9 (+4) unmatched mentee applicants (9 from CDC).
      - 59% of Scientist Officers are engaged as either a mentor or mentee.
  - **Mentor Capacity-Building Team**
    - Finalized year end reporting and recommended improvements for upcoming OY.
    - Reviewed proposed projects for upcoming OY, including new panel discussion with Scientist Officers, development of useful resources and reference guides, and additional ways to capture Officer feedback to understand current mentoring gaps and challenges.
    - LOAs for recent participating panelists in-progress
  
- **Policy SC:**

- Outgoing Chair: CDR Adam Bjork
- Incoming Chair: LCDR Matthew Steele
- Revisions to [Commissioned Corps Instruction \(CCI\) 313.01, “Telework and Remote Work”](#) established policy concerning the use of telework and remote work by Public Health Service officers to meet programmatic needs and workplace efficiencies. See August 4, 2022, CCHQ email for more information. Notably, this policy:
  - Added authorization for agencies to allow telework and remote work without needing approval from CCHQ
  - Provided clarification on Permanent Duty Station, Alternative Duty Stations, and Permanent Change of Station.
- The new [Personnel Operations Memorandum \(POM\) 821.85, “Commissioned Service Obligations”](#) establishes guidelines for Commissioned Service Obligations (CSO) to the Commissioned Corps as mandated by the HHS Secretary through Commissioned Corps Directive (CCD) 122.02, “Force Distribution and Management.” The policy only applies to individuals who applied to the PHS on or after June 1, 2022. See August 23, 2022, CCHQ email for details.
- The SG updated [POM 821.79, “Assignment Pay Locations, Rates, and Agreements”](#), which applies to officers detailed to BOP, IHS, and ICE Health Service Corps in specified specialties/positions in certain locations with new qualifying locations and positions. Officers under a current AP agreement are not affected by this new policy. Officers not currently receiving Assignment Pay who are assigned to BOP, IHS, or ICE Health Service Corps should check to see if their duty station and specialty/position now qualifies for AP. See August 23, 2022, CCHQ email for details.
- Practice Hours (more information in August 24 & August 29, 2022, CCHQ emails):
  - CCHQ has updated the electronic version of Form PHS-7047 Practice Hours, which is now available on CCMIS.
  - All Officers in clinical deployment roles or who are applying for or receiving Health Professional Special Pay (HPSP), Incentive Pay (IP) and/or Retention Bonus (RB), must complete 80 practice hours annually.
  - The [Practice Hours FAQ](#) lists examples for the number of ways PHS officers may obtain practice hours and how to submit for credit.
  - PHS has a MOA with the Veterans Health Administration for PHS Officers to engage the VA to complete their clinical hours. In addition, CCHQ is working on MOAs with other facilities to expand opportunities in a formal MOU or MOA.
  - See email for detailed information on due dates for Practice Hours.
- **Psychologist Integration SC:**
  - Outgoing & Incoming Chair: LCDR Kate Morris
  - **Most recent meeting:** August 15, 2022
  - **Next meeting:** September 19, 2022
  - Continuing work to identify and support psychologists in non-clinical roles and who are not license-eligible, including advocating to have them assigned to the Applied Public Health Category (along with other Scientist officers) for promotion purposes instead of the Allied Health Category (where licensed psychologist officers will be routed for promotion purposes)
  - Look forward to working with all new SC leads in our last year



- **Recruitment and Retention SC:**
  - Outgoing & Incoming Chair: LCDR George Mitzner
  - Thanks to all OY 2021–22 Recruitment and Retention SC members and Team Leads for their contributions!
  - **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** We do have some openings; please reach out to me and LCDR Zucco if you have an interest in joining.
  - **Interested Applicant Team:** The CPO/EB have approved the proactive recruitment of future Scientists. Any Scientist interested in carrying out a recruitment activity (e.g., delivering a presentation at their alma mater or a professional organization) will receive coordination, support, and presentation materials from our Team. The Scientist will then complete an after-action report.
    - LOAs will be awarded for efforts.
    - Currently, CCHQ has indicated that the only Scientist applications being accepted are for licensed Psychologists – but any Scientist officer can recruit.
    - If you are interested in conducting a recruitment activity, please reach out to CDR Angela Williams and LCDR Kelsy Hoffman.
  - **OBC Engagement Team:**
    - The OBC 139/12 Open House was held in person August 24, 2022; thank you to LCDR Rudolph Francin for representing SciPAC. Please welcome our newest Scientists:
      - LT Joshua Mjolsness – ICE/IHSC
      - LT Emilie Bouda – CDC
      - LT Andres Wong-Sam – CDC
      - LT Gabriella Wuyke – CDC
      - LTJG Marijulie Martinez-Lozano – Ready Reserve Region 2 (NY)
      - LTJG Gabriel Uribe – Ready Reserve Region 9 (CA)
      - LCDR Corey Bayliss – BOP
    - The Team is pleased to announce that we will start 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.
  - **New CAD Seminars Team:** **\*\*Seminars open to all officers\*\***
    - The New CAD listserv was surveyed to reflect on the 2021–2022 New CAD seminar series and to gather topics for the next OY; data are being analyzed.
    - To receive an invitation for the next seminar or if you would like to brief, please contact LCDR Angela Coulliette-Salmond and LT Jessica Meeker.
  - **New Scientist Officer Team:**
    - **\*\*Open to Scientists from all agencies within 3 years CAD and/or at O-3 grade\*\***
    - **Last meeting:** August 19, 2022, at 12:00pm ET where CDR Niketta Womack (HSO) discussed Space A travel with the group.
    - For details, invitation, or to be added to the distribution list, contact LT Sean Griffing.

- **EIS/LLS Team:** Disseminated their new Resource Document for EIS/LLS fellows to connect with officers for more information regarding commissioning.
- **Separation Survey Team:** No Update. The Team’s proposal under EB review enables Scientist Officers to receive information and support regarding the decision to separate from or remain serving in the USPHS CC. The intent is to engage early to assist the Officer in their decision-making process.
  - Any Scientist separating or retiring from service may complete the legacy Separation Survey [using this link](#) on their work or personal device.
  - The last question will ask for an email or phone number for a Recruitment and Retention SC member to contact you for an *optional* 30-minute phone interview.
    - No July surveys were completed.
  - Please contact [LCDR Jorielle Houston](#) and [CDR Wade Keckler](#) for questions.
- **Rules and Membership SC:**
  - Outgoing Chair: [CDR Alice Shumate](#)
  - Incoming Chair: [CDR Zewditu Demissie](#)
  - Welcome to CDR Zewde Demissie as the new Rules & Membership Chair as well as CDR Lana Rossiter as Co-Chair. We look forward to a smooth transition as they have both been integral members of the SC for the past year.
  - The 2020–2021 End of Year report was approved and distributed via the Listserv. Thanks to CDR Lauren Zapata, CDR Jason Wilken, CAPT Deborah Dee, and CAPT Sukhminder Sandhu for their hard work in getting this document over the finish line.
  - Thanks to the SC leaders, liaisons, and EB members who have already turned in their draft contributions for the 2021–2022 End of Year report. If you have not yet done so, please turn them in as soon as possible.
  - We are in the process of finishing a number of SOP reviews that have been in process with the EB, including the Awards SC SOP, Mentoring SC SOP, and SciPAC SOP. Thanks to all for their help in updating SOPs and addressing EB revisions.
  - Thanks to all members of the Rules & Membership SC this past year; we are working on Letters of Appreciation and hope to distribute them soon. We couldn’t have done all of this without you!
- **Science SC:**
  - Outgoing Chair: [CDR Kamil Barbour](#)
  - Incoming Chair: [LCDR Teresa Wang](#)
  - Letters of Appreciation have been drafted and will undergo approval prior to issuance
  - End-of-year report has been submitted to leadership
  - **State of the Scientists (SoS) Team**
    - Many thanks to LCDR Hilda Razzaghi and LCDR Shondelle Wilson-Frederick for serving as co-leads for OY2022
    - The team’s summary of key SOS findings has received approval for posting onto the SciPAC website
  - **Research and Practice Team**
    - Many thanks to CDR Ruiqing Pamboukian and LT Ying Lin for serving as co-leads for OY2022
  - **Bibliography Team**

- Thanks to LCDR Brett Forshey and LT Nicholas Deputy for serving as co-leads for OY2022.
- The 2021 Bibliography (660 publications, 142 presentations) is awaiting final approval prior to posting on the SciPAC website. Scientist officers published 192 COVID-19-related publications with at least one Scientist officer as an author, demonstrating the key role that Scientist officers have played during the pandemic.
- **Surgeon General's - Priority Engagement for Evaluation and Research Support (SG-PEERS) Team**
  - Thanks to LT Lindsay Womack and LCDR Leora Feldstein for serving as co-leads for OY2022
  - The Team has completed a Scientist Officer subject matter expert database documenting 235 Scientist Officers' areas of expertise. This will be used to develop communities of practice and address leadership requests for subject matter expertise.
- **Visibility SC:**
  - Outgoing Chair: [LCDR Colleen Scott](#)
  - Incoming Chair: [LCDR Angela Thompson-Paul](#)
  - **Newsletter Team:**
    - The summer edition of the newsletter is currently with SciPAC and OSG leadership for review; we hope to have it distributed in September.
    - Please contact newsletter team lead [CDR David Huang](#) for any questions regarding article submissions.
  - **Socials Team:**
    - The Socials Team has developed a tentative schedule of four (4) events that will occur between late September/early October to February and will consist of a combination of in-person and virtual events. The first event will be an outdoor winery social held in the DMV area in late September/early October; finalized event information will be available soon
  - **Twitter Team:**
    - **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** Twitter Team is recruiting new members for the 2022–2023 OY! 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.
    - Find us and follow us on Twitter at [@PHS\\_Scientist](#)
  - **Facebook Team:**
    - There are currently 192 Facebook members. If you aren't already a member you can [request membership here](#).
    - End of year status: 4091 views, 162 posts, 654 expressions
  - **Fist Bump Team:**
    - In August, the Fist Bump Team received 1 Fist Bump, published 3 Fist Bumps on Facebook, published 1 Fist Bump on Twitter, and submitted 2 Fist Bumps for publication on Twitter.

- So far this year, Fist Bump-related posts on Facebook and Twitter have garnered 2,280 views and 198 impressions, representing a 110% and 20% increase, respectively, compared to last year.
- The SciPAC Fist Bump Form is available on the website on the [Visibility SC page](#). Please use this form to submit Fist Bump nominations, send completed forms to [LT Kerui Xu](#).
- **Ad Hoc History Team:** The history webpage is coming along nicely and will be shared with the EB in the next few weeks.
- **Website SC:**
  - Outgoing & Incoming Chair: [LCDR Ruth Link-Gelles](#)
  - **Most recent meeting:** May 19, 2022
  - **Next meeting** (tentative): September 29, 2022; 12:00 pm ET
  - As of September 1, 2022, the SC received 48 update requests; 38 requests are complete and 10 are pending.
  - Jarmanator is currently unavailable to allow modifications to the website (since early July). We are still accepting new website change requests but will be unable to make the website changes until Jarmanator is available.
  - Planning is underway 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 a major update to the SciPAC history webpage; all new content is now complete and being reviewed by the SciPAC Chair.
  - SciPAC Website Analytics Report was shared with SciPAC leadership and Website SC liaisons.
  - Please visit our [SciPAC website](#) for additional information on SC activities and monthly meeting minutes.

## Liaison Reports

- **Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. (AMSUS):** [CAPT Mark Scheckelhoff](#)
  - **Most recent meeting:** July 29, 2022
  - **Next meeting:** TBD
  - AMSUS 2023: Gaylord Hotel, National Harbor, MD; February 13–16, 2023
    - In-person only (no virtual platform)
    - *No open ‘Call for Abstracts’ for oral presentations. AMSUS will not accept individual requests to present.*
      - ‘Call for Abstracts’ for posters is open: July 6–October 15
      - Award nomination process is currently open (closes October 15)
  - All plenary and breakout sessions are coordinated through federal health leadership offices and their AMSUS teams
  - Need volunteers for AMSUS PHS booth, uniform inspection, etc.; more details will be provided when available, but reach out to [CAPT Scheckelhoff](#) if interested.
  - Key takeaways for AMSUS 2023:
    - Keynote: Dr. Steven Lieberman, Veteran Health Affairs

- Theme: Healthcare collaborations: Meeting the Challenges of Today and Tomorrow
- 27.5 hrs of CE/CME will be offered. CE expanded to include social work.
- Abstract and Award submissions will be reviewed in parallel by both AMSUS and PHS. This parallel review by PHS representatives ensures that PHS submissions to AMSUS are compliant with specifications and comparable to submissions of DOD counterparts. In addition to submitting through the official AMSUS process, please also submit the abstract/award documents to the individuals identified below.
  - Abstract submission: [matthew.j.gunter@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:matthew.j.gunter@ice.dhs.gov)
  - Award submissions: [maria.agrestaworkman@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:maria.agrestaworkman@cms.hhs.gov)
- **CC Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB):** [LCDR Marissa Zwald](#)
  - **Most recent meeting:** August 10, 2022
  - **Next meeting:** Wednesday, September 7, 2022
  - Developed a one-pager summarizing and comparing USPHS reproductive health policies and those included in the overhauled 2022 Army Directive, highlighting discrepancies in policies related to fertility treatment, pregnancy waivers, breastfeeding waivers and accommodations, and perinatal loss. This was disseminated to the DSG and CCHQ.
  - Formed a new ad-hoc working group to better understand how the recent Supreme Court decision may impact reproductive healthcare among USPHS officers. The WG will compile potential challenges impacting officers, describing implications, and provide recommendations to the OSG and CCHQ to improve supports for officers.
  - Met with the Medical Affairs Branch on August 30, 2022, to discuss their deployment waiver policy process for women officers (or officers with partners) undergoing fertility treatment. Effective immediately, the Medical Affairs Branch will now provide a deployment waiver to officers (or officers with partners) undergoing fertility treatment, submit a medical waiver request, and provide appropriate medical documentation from healthcare provider.
  - If you have any questions about CCWIAB or the committees' initiatives below, please contact [LCDR Marissa Zwald](#), or visit [CCWIAB's website](#).
- **Commissioned Officers Association (COA):** [LCDR Julia Zucco](#)
  - **Most recent meeting:** August 31, 2022; Outreach Committee meeting
  - A friendly reminder to pay your dues, both national and local! If you're new to COA or would like to learn more, please reach out to me to learn more about this important organization. We will be conducting outreach activities soon.
- **IT Chartered Advisory Committee (ICAC):** [LCDR Kelly Shaw](#)
  - **Next meeting:** October 14, 2022
  - ICAC leadership shared that the website login was working again as of September 6, so website editing functionality should be restored after being down since early July.
  - We hope to have more news about the website and plans for ICAC after the October call.
- **Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG):** [LCDR Xia Michelle Lin](#)

- **Most recent meeting:** August 12, 2022
    - Leadership presentation: CAPT Luis Rodriguez and LCDR Sandra Carpio
    - Slides and meeting minutes are archived [on Max.gov](#).
  - **Next meeting (new OY):** Friday, October 14, 2022, 1:00–2:00pm ET
    - Meeting information will be sent out through JOAG listserv in October.
  - New JOAG Voting Members have been announced.
  - JOAG Readiness and Deployment Committee, Behavioral Health Team published September’s Practicing Wellness – *Lessons from the Field*.
  - The JOAG Public Health Awareness Subcommittee, Wellness Workgroup hosts virtual swimming event throughout the month of September. Event details were announced via JOAG listserv announcement on August 29.
  - Meet-and-Greet virtual event in DMV area
    - Topic: Pacing Yourself: Balancing Self Care and Professional Development in the Corps.
    - Speaker: Dr. Buckingham (CAPT, Ret.)
    - Wednesday, September 7, 2022; 12:00pm ET
    - Register [here](#).
  - Annual Physical Fitness Test at Walter Reed National Military Medical Ctr.
    - Saturday, September 17, 2022; 11:00am ET
    - To reserve your participation or to ask questions, please email [Danny Benbassat](#) at least 24 hours in advance using your civilian email account. For further information dial (234) 759-9001.
  - JOAG published September’s Practicing Wellness – Wellness Tips to Prepare for the Upcoming Fall Season. See JOAG listserv announcement on August 1 for the article; to be published on the JOAG website.
  - The JOAG Public Health and Uniformed Services Committee, Public Health Awareness Subcommittee, published the Public Health Champions newsletter. See the August 11 JOAG listserv announcement.
- 
- **Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE):** [LT Lacreisha Ejike-King](#)
    - **Most recent meeting:** August 11, 2022; 2:00 pm ET
    - **Next meeting:** October 13, 2022; 2:00 pm ET
    - **New Process for PACE IT Requests:** A new process has been established for PACE IT requests. Officers are now encouraged to utilize the newly developed [IT SC Change Assistance Request Form](#) for requests such as MAX.gov access, changes to publicly viewable pages, CCMIS webpage updates on the PACE website, and PACE Database data/reporting needs. If the form is not utilized, free text in an email to the [list-serv](#) is appropriate but may require requesting additional information if information is omitted.
    - **Recognitions Updates:** 2022 PACE Certificates of Appreciation were issued in late August. Officer recognition with LOAs for work done on behalf of PACE/SGET is determined by the 4 leadership bodies: PACE Executive Board, PACE Subcommittee Leads, PACE Regional Leads, and SGET leads. LOA calls will go out this fall and LOAs will be issued to officers by the end of November.
    - **Officership opportunities:** Region 4 is recruiting new SGET Instructional Officers (SIOs). If you are interested in learning more or have questions, please contact [LT Ana](#)



Lauer. Positions remain open with the Region 7 SGET. Please contact LCDR Iman Martin and LT Catherine Olguin with any interest in positions.

- **Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Advisory Group (SOAGDAG):** LCDR Luis Iturriaga
  - **Most recent meeting:** August 23, 2022
  - **Next meeting:** September 27, 2022; 1:00pm ET
  - SOAGDAG is soliciting Voting Membership applications for the next operational year (3-year term; 2023–2025 term; four open positions). This has been distributed via the SOAGDAG listserv and to liaisons for further distribution. Please apply if you are interested in a VM position.
  - SOAGDAG’s Policy SC is working on Tricare policies and procedures regarding gender-affirming care.

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