



November 13, 2017

Dear Commissioned Corps Officers,

Please join me in welcoming our newly appointed Chief Professional Officers (CPOs). These officers will now serve as an integral part of our U.S. Public Health Service leadership team. As CPOs, they will offer guidance and advice to the Surgeon General and administrative committees on matters such as recruitment, retention, and career development of officers within their professions.

Dietitian Chief Professional Officer

CAPT Suzan Gordon

Environmental Health Chief Professional Officer

RADM Kelly Taylor

Medical Chief Professional Officer

CAPT Brian Lewis

Scientist Chief Professional Officer

CAPT John Eckert

I have included biographical information and photos so that you may get to know each of them as they begin their transition.

As we move forward, I am confident these dedicated officers will certainly play a vital role in implementing our mission and vision for the future of the Commissioned Corps.

Sincerely,

Jerome M. Adams, MD, MPH
VADM, USPHS
Surgeon General

Chief Professional Officer for the Dietitian Category Captain Suzan Gordon, M.S., R.D.



Captain (CAPT) Suzan Gordon is a Registered Dietitian currently serving at the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition as the Foreign Inspections Program Manager. In this role, she is responsible for the development of cross-cutting strategic plans and goals related to regulatory oversight of the foreign food industry and leads the inspection coordination efforts of multiple offices across FDA to help ensure the safety of imported food products.

CAPT Gordon began her career as a civilian clinical dietitian, joined the Navy in 1991, and served at three Naval hospitals before transferring to the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps) in November of 2000. She began her PHS career at St. Elizabeths Hospital in Washington, D.C. Following the September 11th and Anthrax attacks in 2001, she

transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Secretary. There she served as one of the first full-time staff members in the newly created Secretary's Operations Center, which was tasked with providing the HHS Secretary with real-time situational awareness of significant public health incidents and events. She served in various roles within the office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and supported numerous Commissioned Corps response efforts until 2008, when she transferred to FDA.

CAPT Gordon has been active in the Corps having served as the Chair-Elect and Chair of the Dietitian Professional Advisory Committee (Dietitian PAC) (Oct 2010 – April 2012), a Dietitian PAC voting member (2010-2014), and as both a member and Chair of various Dietitian PAC subcommittees throughout her career. She has represented the Dietitian category on several multidisciplinary workgroups including the Uniforms, Personal Appearance and Grooming Standards Working Integrated Project Team, and the Commissioned Corps Positions and Classifications Group Transformation Working Group.

Originally from Ocean Springs, MS, CAPT Gordon received a Bachelor of Science degree in General Dietetics from the University of Southern Mississippi, and Master of Science degree in Nutrition Education from the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science.

**Chief Professional Officer for the
Environment Health Officer (EHO) Category
Rear Admiral Kelly M. Taylor, M.S., R.E.H.S**



Rear Admiral (RADM) Kelly Taylor is currently serving as the Chief Professional Environmental Health Officer for the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps). As Chief Professional Environmental Health Officer, RADM Taylor leads the Commissioned Corps Environmental Health Professional Affairs, and advises the Office of the Surgeon General and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the recruitment, assignment, deployment, retention, and career development of Corps environmental health professionals.

RADM Taylor currently serves as the Acting Chief of Staff for Indian Health Service (IHS). The IHS, an agency within HHS, is the principal federal health care advocate and provider for American Indians and Alaska Natives. In this position, RADM Taylor oversees the coordination of key agency activities and works to improve overall agency responsiveness. She works closely with HHS and supports the Office of the Director in a broad range of managerial duties related to

the development and implementation of IHS initiatives and priorities.

RADM Taylor began her career with IHS in 1990 as a Service Unit Sanitarian in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. She also served as an Environmental Health Specialist in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and as the Director of the IHS Albuquerque Area Office Division of Environmental Health Services.

RADM Taylor was selected as the National Injury Prevention Program Manager in IHS Headquarters, and then was selected to serve in her position of record as the Director of the Division of Environmental Health Services, where she provided leadership and direction to the 12 IHS area environmental health programs and technical expertise to IHS leadership on all environmental health issues affecting American Indians and Alaska Natives. Her most recent assignment was Acting Director, Office of Clinical and Preventive Services.

RADM Taylor has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arkansas and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Health from Colorado State University. She completed the Office of Personnel Management's Federal Executive Institute, Leadership for a Democratic Society in 2013, is a graduate of the IHS Injury Prevention Specialist Fellowship program, and has been a registered Environmental Health Specialist since 1992.

Chief Professional Officer for the Medical Category
Captain Brian Lewis, M.D.



Captain (CAPT) Lewis is a Senior Regulatory Review Officer at the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) Center for Devices and Radiological Health in cardiac pacemakers and implantable cardioverter defibrillators. He has served in this position since joining the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps) in 2003, following nine years of arrhythmia cardiology private practice in Washington, D.C.

CAPT Lewis provides lead clinical regulatory FDA guidance to industry to facilitate clinical trials collecting the right data and answering the right questions to provide a meaningful picture of pacemaker, defibrillator and lead safety and effectiveness to support market approval. He is a leading FDA voice in the development of clear and truthful device labeling. CAPT Lewis has led FDA's best practices to address pacemaker, defibrillator and lead failures, including detection and care of recalled devices and best practices to communicate this complex

information to physicians and patients.

He is board certified in cardiology and continues to see arrhythmia patients and perform surgery weekly at the Washington, D.C.. Veterans Affairs Medical Center, where he often brings FDA colleagues to observe his work. He has been an active member of Heart Rhythm Society for over 25 years.

CAPT Lewis served a three-year term as Physician Member of the Commissioned Officers Board of Directors, including Chairing the Awards Committee. He has served on the Benefits Subcommittee of the Physicians Professional Advisory Committee (PPAC) since 2015. He is Director of the Medical Services Branch of PHS-1 Rapid Deployment Force and has been an active member of the team since deploying with the team in 2005 to provide medical care to people affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He most recently deployed with the team to Florida for Hurricanes Irma and Maria. CAPT Lewis conducts and plays guitar for the USPHS Music Ensemble and sings the National Anthem for many FDA promotion and awards ceremonies.

He received his Bachelor of Arts from Johns Hopkins University in 1982 and a Doctor of Medicine degree from Northwestern University Medical School in 1987, completed Internal Medicine Residency at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in 1990 and completed fellowships in Cardiology and Cardiac Electrophysiology at St. Louis University Health Sciences Center including training in bedside bioethics consultation in 1994. CAPT Lewis Chaired the

Bioethics Consultation Service at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. from 1997-2000.

CAPT Lewis and his wife, Katherine, a journalist and author, and their children Maddie and Ava live in Potomac, MD. His oldest daughter Samantha is a research analyst and programmer in Cambridge, Massachusetts. CAPT Lewis and his wife are volunteer parent educators for Parent Encouragement Program, Kensington, MD where he has developed programs to encourage dads in their parenting goals.

Chief Professional Officer to the Scientist Category Captain John Eckert, Ph.D., CIP



As the Director of the Human Research Protections Program for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the Defense Health Agency, Captain (CAPT) John Eckert is responsible for the regulatory oversight of \$3 billion in research protocols, including biomedical research at all Military Treatment Facilities worldwide beginning in 2018. His Office ensures compliance with Federal statutes, Regulations and Department of Defense (DoD) policies governing the ethical treatment of human subjects in research conducted and supported by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, and for investigating allegations of research misconduct. He began this assignment in May 2011 with a two-year detail assignment in the middle of this tour.

CAPT Eckert earned his Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Chemistry from Skidmore College in 1985. He then earned his Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Microbiology with a minor in Biochemistry and a Nuclear Science concentration from the Louisiana State University (LSU) in 1991. In 1992, he completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Allergy and Clinical Immunology in the Department of Medicine at the LSU Medical Center. He has received advanced training in forensic medicine and DNA typing through the Office of Chief Medical Examiner for New York City, Federal Medical Executives training at the Brooke Army Medical Center and Federal Emergency Response Official/Continuity of Government certification at a variety of Federal installations. He has also earned Certified Institutional Review Board (IRB) Professional certification.

Prior to his current duty, CAPT Eckert's assignments included twice-tenured university faculty appointments in New Orleans and Upstate New York (Biology Department Chair) from 1992 to 2001. Upon his call to active duty in July 2001, he was assigned to the Food and Drug Administration's Arkansas Regional Laboratory, where he led the persistent organic pollutants analytical program until 2004. During this same period, CAPT Eckert was detailed to the Disaster Mortuary Operations Response Team following the attack on the World Trade Center. He next served as the Executive Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Health through 2006, advising on policy, personnel, research, legislative and regulatory matters.

CAPT Eckert was appointed Deputy Director of the USPHS Force Management Transformation Program in October 2006, with a sea tour in 2008 as Medical Executive Team Officer embarked aboard the USS *Boxer* in the Southern and Eastern Pacific. In March 2013, CAPT Eckert was detailed to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness as the Interim Director of the Research Regulatory Oversight Office. He led that office until July 2015.

CAPT Eckert has served on multiple deployments in response to disasters and in support of operations overseas. Many of those deployments were as an individual augmentee to forward-deployed teams. He served for five years as a Federal Executive Branch member of the Continuity of Government Team. His personal and unit awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal, Outstanding Service Medal (2), Joint Services Commendation Medal, Commendation Medal (2), Achievement Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Outstanding Unit Citation (4), Unit Commendation (13) and multiple service and skills awards. He has also received awards from Former President Clinton, U.S. Senator Breaux (LA), New Orleans government leaders and others for his work toward expanding minority participation in the National Marrow Donor Program.

CAPT Eckert married Michelle Lynn Williams of Bogalusa, Louisiana in 1995. Dr. Michelle Eckert is a general surgeon in private practice in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.