

JUNIOR OFFICER ADVISORY GROUP (JOAG)
 UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE



General Meeting Report

Friday, October 9, 2015
 1300 – 1500 EDT

 Call-in number: (218) 844-1930
 Passcode: 791-9605#

Please note, to un-mute your line, press *6.

I. Roll Call

LCDR Hatch, JOAG Executive Secretary, took attendance by performing roll call.

I. Voting Membership					
Attendance	Rank	Last Name	First Name	OPDIV	Category
X	LT	Abernathy	Grant	BOP	DENT
AA	LCDR	Arroyo	Peter	BOP	THER
X	LCDR	Bailey	Daveta	FDA	EHO
AA	LT	Bante	Katie	IHS	EHO
X	LT	Bates	Mekeshia	HRSA	NURSE
X	LCDR	Burns	Ashley	FDA	PHARM
X	LCDR	Buttke	Danielle	NPS	VET
X	LCDR	Garza	Elizabeth	CDC	HSO
X	LCDR	Halldin	Cara	CDC	SCI
X	LCDR	Hatch	Lindsay	FDA	HSO
X	LCDR	Huang	David	CDC	SCI
AA	LT	Magill	Stephanie	CMS	DIET
X	LCDR	Marrero	Abraham	CDC	ENG
X	LCDR	Nguyen	Quynh Nhu	FDA	ENG
AA	LCDR	Purdy	Kristie	IHS	DIET
X	LCDR	Shumate	Alice	CDC	SCI
X	LCDR	Spindel	Samantha	FDA	ENG
X	LCDR	Stein	Avi	CDC	HSO
AA	LCDR	Whitehart	Jonathan	OS/DCCPR	HSO

X=Present, AA=Approved absence; AWA=Absent with alternate; UA=Unapproved absence

*Ex-Officio/Past Chair, non-voting member

II. Executive Committee Reports

- a. No report from Ex-Officio or Chair-Elect

b. Chair Report: LCDR Elizabeth Garza

- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 1. LCDR Garza welcomed all junior officers to JOAG's first General Meeting of the new operational year.
 - a. She is humbled and excited to serve as the JOAG Chair this year.
 2. JOAG's theme for this year is, "building public health leadership and advancing deployment readiness."
 3. JOAG has developed two new committees/workgroups this operational year.
 - a. Readiness & Deployment Workgroup
 - i. Workgroup's vision is to have all junior officers be 'deployment ready'.
 - ii. Co-Chairs of this workgroup are LCDR Elizabeth DeGrange, RedDOG Training Coordinator, and LT Grant Abernathy.
 - iii. Workgroup structure will include the following:
 1. Officer Health & Fitness Promotion Team
 2. APFT Team
 3. BLS Team
 4. Training and Exercise Team
 5. Deployment Team
 - b. Outreach Committee
 - i. JOAG consolidated the previous Welcoming, Development, and Symposium Planning Committees into this new committee.
 - ii. This committee will bring all Symposium-related activities under one leadership. By doing so, we hope to more effectively manage our presence at the USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium next May.
 1. Mark your calendars to attend the 2015 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium on May 16-19, 2016 in Oklahoma City.
 2. JOAG holds an in-person meeting at the Symposium, which the Surgeon General and CPOs make it a priority to attend.
 3. JOAG's presence at the Symposium also includes:
 - a. JOAG Uniform Inspection Booth
 - b. JOAG Information Table (where we display some of our esprit de corps merchandise)
 - c. JOAG-sponsored community service event
 - d. Co-sponsored Social.
 - iii. Newly-selected Co-Chairs for this committee will be an asset, since one previously served as the Welcoming Committee Co-Chair, and the other is local to Oklahoma City, so she will be our lead for Symposium-related planning.
 4. JOAG's three priorities for the year are as follows:

- a. Advocacy: speaking up and representing a unified junior officer voice at the highest levels of senior leadership.
 - b. Supporting the initiatives of the Surgeon General, starting with supporting the new OSG call to action to #StepItUp.
 - c. Connectedness: by reaching out to officers at all duty stations and locations to ensure after OBC they stay connected and that we serve a resource and network for them.
 - d. These priority areas are all in line with JOAG's new Strategic Plan that was developed this past year.
5. COER is currently online.
- a. Important dates to remember are as follows:
 - i. October 21, 2015: transmit your COER to your Rater (immediate supervisor).
 - ii. November 11, 2015: officer to transmit COER to Reviewing Official.
 - iii. December 2, 2015: COER due to DCCPR.
 - 1. Reviewing Official should ensure that COER is complete and submitted.
6. LCDR Garza encouraged all junior officers to make their professional development a priority, and take full advantage of what JOAG has to offer.
- a. Junior officers can review the call for volunteers that was distributed via the JOAG listserv and find a committee/workgroup that interests them.
- c. Vice-Chair Report: LCDR Cara Halldin**
- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 - 1. LCDR Halldin is currently researching the Corps' Ready Reserve mechanism in response to concerns raised by junior officers.
 - a. If you are an officer in the Ready Reserves or have recently transitioned from the Ready Reserves to the Regular Corps, LCDR Halldin would like to hear about your experience.
 - i. Please email LCDR Halldin at challdin@cdc.gov.
- d. Executive Secretary Report: LCDR Lindsay Hatch**
- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 - 1. All Voting Members submitted the required proxy/alternate form to LCDR Hatch.
 - a. Thank you to all Voting Members for submitting the forms, and doing so in a timely manner.
- e. Financial Liaison Report: LCDR David Huang**
- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 - 1. LCDR Huang held a transition meeting with LCDR Nichols, previous Financial Liaison, and is working through transition documents and materials, including updating the Merchandise List and Order Form for purchasing JOAG merchandise.
 - 2. The Square account, which was previously set up by LCDR Nichols for electronic purchases of JOAG merchandise, was successfully used for sales of JOAG merchandise at OBC this month.

III. JO Voice: LCDR Erin Nichols

- a. LCDR Garza explained that JO Voice was introduced last operational year as a way to give junior officers an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments and suggestions on various topics of interest.
- b. Thank you to all officers who submitted their questions related to the topic of promotion benchmarks.
- c. JOAG DCCPR Liaison LT Miller and USPHS Promotions Coordinator CAPT Mary McCormick worked together to provide answers to the questions and comments that JOAG received.
 - i. LCDR Garza thanked them both for their work on this project.
 - ii. The responses were distributed via the JOAG listserv on 10/09/15.
- d. LT Miller explained the following:
 - i. Benchmarks are guidelines and only offer general recommendations for officers.
 - 1. Promotion Board Members use benchmarks to score individual officers, not to compare officers against each other.
 - ii. Officers should look into continuing education opportunities on their category webpages.
 - iii. Self-empowerment and self-motivation are important during promotion.
 - iv. Officers should strive for growth and leadership opportunities.
 - v. Quality over quantity is important when submitting promotion packages.
 - vi. A large percent of promotion potential falls under job performance.
- e. Next JO Voice topic is on awards and will be presented at the next JOAG General Meeting in two months.
- f. If you have questions on this, or any topic, please send them to phs.joag@gmail.com.
 - i. All questions will remain anonymous.

IV. Committee/Workgroup Reports

- a. **Awards Committee: LCDR Abraham Marrero & LCDR Jonathan Whitehart**
 - i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 - 1. All Subcommittee Co-Leads have been identified.
 - 2. First year Special Assignment Award email should be distributed shortly.
 - ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 - 1. The next JOAG Award Committee General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 4, 2015 at 1200-1300 EST.
 - a. Call-in information: 712-432-0111; passcode: 492866
 - 2. Opportunities to volunteer this year include the following: Reviewers, De-identifiers, guidance document preparation, document revisions and updating, certificate preparation, vendor solicitations, etc.
 - 3. Please contact the Awards Committee Co-Chairs if you'd like to be added to the committee listserv.
- b. **Communications and Publications Committee: LCDR Daveta Bailey & LT Katie Bante**
 - i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 - 1. Summer JOAG Journal was published on September 11, 2015.

2. New Co-Secretaries and Subcommittee (SC) leadership is in place
 3. Committee is currently accepting ideas for JOAG logo redesign until November 1, 2015.
 - a. Please submit logo ideas to the CPC Electronic DropBox at joagcpcsubmissions@fda.hhs.gov.
- ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
1. First meeting of operational year 2016 is scheduled for November 18, 2015.
 - a. Call-in number: 712-432-1500; passcode is 659765#
 - b. WebEx invitation will be sent to CPC members on the current roster.
 2. Committee continues to solicit volunteers for the Outreach Subcommittee (Social Media Workgroup and JOAG Historian Workgroup), JO Voice Subcommittee, and the SOP Subcommittee.
- c. Membership Committee: LCDR Alice Shumate & LCDR Quynh Nhu Nguyen**
- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
- a. Successful Meet and Greet events were held in Phoenix, Arizona, in August, and Albuquerque, New Mexico, in September.
 - i. Meet and Greet Subcommittee has recruited new Leads in many regions including Washington D.C., New York City, San Francisco, Boston, New Jersey, and Detroit.
 - b. Officer Involvement and Outreach sent the following:
 - i. 494 congratulatory emails for permanent promotions in 2015
 - ii. 40 congratulatory emails for 40 non-competitive temp promotions
 - iii. 138 welcoming letters to officers who joined the JOAG listserv in July and August 2015
 - c. Committee held orientation for new Subcommittee Co-Leads, and set priorities for the operational year.
 - d. Committee is working on integrating the Listserv Subcommittee into the Membership Subcommittee (previously part of the Welcoming Committee).
- ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
- a. Next Membership Committee Meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 20 at 1400-1500 EST.
 - i. Call-in information: 855-828-1770; meeting ID: 745 991 785
 - b. New members are welcome to join the committee.
- d. Outreach Committee: LCDR Kristie Purdy & LT Mekeshia Bates**
- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
1. The new Outreach Committee consists of six subcommittees and eight workgroups.
 - a. The positions for subcommittee and workgroup Leads have all been filled.
 2. New mission and vision statements have been devised for the committee.
 3. The first committee meeting was held on October 2, 2015.
 4. Call to Active Duty Subcommittee
 - a. Sent 22 welcome emails to new officers, which included the following: letter, brochure, new officer guide, peer-to-peer guide, and job shadowing guide.
 5. Website Product Sales Workgroup

- a. Working to clean up the webpage for product sales.
 - b. Launch date for website will be forthcoming.
- 6. Symposium Planning Subcommittee
 - a. Co-Chair LCDR Kristie Purdy is working with LCDR Cara Halldin, COF Liaison.
 - i. LCDR Purdy will be the JOAG voice and attend COF Symposium Planning meetings.
 - b. The subcommittee has been asked to brainstorm any needs.
- ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 - a. Next meeting is scheduled for Friday December 4, 2015 at 1400-1500 EST.
 - i. Call in number: 712-432-0111; access code: 228673
 - b. Volunteer opportunities
 - i. Product Research and Selection Subcommittee is looking for creative volunteers to brainstorm product ideas.
 - ii. Officer Basic Course Subcommittee is looking for volunteers to assist with future OBC events. Those interested may volunteer at: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pJDFtmonXhfdPVYvUYXai3McyjRkF_hl0Y4Sjg6niCRg/edit?hl=en_US&pli=1#gid=0
- e. **Policy and Procedures Committee: LCDR Samantha Spindel**
 - i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 - 1. The Policy and Procedures Committee held its first meeting on October 8, 2015.
 - 2. The new Co-Leads for the subcommittees have been identified and are in the process of completing the transition from the previous Co-Leads, dividing up responsibilities, developing specific goals and a timeline for completing the associated tasks, and determining what constitutes "active" participation for their subcommittees.
 - ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 - 1. The next JOAG Policy and Procedures Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday November 12 at 1200 EST.
 - a. Call-in information: 712-775-7300; passcode: 939713#
- f. **Professional Development Committee: LCDR Avi Stein & LT Jennifer Nelson**
 - i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 - 1. Solicitation for the JOAG Job Shadowing Program was sent via the JOAG listserv to recruit new junior officers.
 - a. These officers will be placed with senior professionals working in their career field of interest, allowing them to observe day-to-day activities.
 - 2. JOAG Peer-to-Peer Network has matched 44 experienced officers with junior officers.
 - a. This will help facilitate information exchange and promote camaraderie among these officers.
 - 3. Results from the Professional Development Survey were published in the Spring JOAG Journal.
 - 4. The Committee SOPs are currently being revised.
 - a. An updated version of the SOPs will be available shortly.

5. The JOAG Book Club continues to meet quarterly, most recently discussing Jim Collins' book, "Good to Great."
 - a. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2015 at 1500 EST.
6. The Committee is working to develop a T&E Resource Newsletter.
 - a. The first edition is currently being reviewed and should be disseminated shortly.
- ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 1. Committee is scheduled to meet on the second Thursday of each month.
 - a. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday November 12, 2015 at 1000 EST.
 - i. Call-in number: 712-432-0933; passcode code: 567393

g. Public Health and Community Service Committee: LCDR Danielle Buttke & LT Stephanie Magill

- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 1. Uniformed Service Community Service Subcommittee
 - a. Upcoming Events
 - i. Honor Flight Meet and Greet (Los Angeles, CA)
 1. Lead: LCDR Kari Harris
 2. October 25, 2015
 - ii. Joint Services Make a Difference Day (Washington D.C.)
 1. Lead: LCDR Carolyn Volpe
 2. October 24, 2015
 - iii. Joint Base Myer-Henderson-Grant Hall Open House (Ft. Myer, VA)
 1. Lead: LT Gwendolyn Hudson
 2. November 7, 2015
 - iv. Wreaths Across America (Arlington, VA)
 1. Leads: LT Gail Tarlton and Shanon Aldrich
 2. December 12, 2015
 - v. Wreaths Across America (Atlanta, GA)
 1. Leads: LCDR Zanethia Eubanks and LT Rachel Cook
 2. Date: TBD
 - vi. Wreaths Across America (San Diego, CA)
 1. Lead: LCDR Kari Harris
 2. January 16, 2016
 - vii. Wreaths Across America Cleanup (Arlington, VA)
 1. Lead: LT Gail Tarlton
 2. Date TBD
 - b. Accomplishments
 - i. Spirit of 45 WWII 70th Year Celebration
 1. San Diego, CA
 2. Lead: LCDR Kari Harris
 - ii. Honor Flight Meet and Greet
 1. Kansas City, MO

- 2. Lead: LCDR Jessica Hensley
 - iii. Honor Flight Meet and Greet
 - 1. San Jose, CA
 - 2. Lead: LCDR Joe Seitz
- 2. MWR Subcommittee
 - a. Current activities
 - i. Family Readiness Guide is being formatted and will be sent for approval as soon as it is complete.
 - 1. Projected completion is October 30, 2015.
 - ii. A local resource guide is being created for the AMSUS annual meeting, scheduled for December 1-5, 2015, in San Antonio, TX.
 - iii. Article covering MWR use over the past summer will possibly be submitted for submission to JOAG Journal by October 16, 2015.
 - iv. Taking a vote to move from once a month meetings to every other month.
- 3. Everybody Walks! Subcommittee
 - a. Current activities
 - i. Working to establish leadership for the operational year.
 - ii. Creating updated distribution list and roster.
 - iii. Started planning for Walk to School Day and Susan G. Komen Run/Walk for a Cure.
 - iv. Assessing and assigning regional and agency local lead roles.
- 4. NPS Subcommittee
 - a. Recent Projects
 - i. So Others Might Eat (SOME)
 - 1. Lead: June Germain
 - 2. Washington D.C.
 - 3. September 27, 2015
 - 4. Summary: 10 officers worked together to serve 300 meals for the homeless. The officers prepared and served breakfast at SOME's Dining Room.
 - ii. Los Angeles Regional Area Food Bank
 - 1. Lead: LCDR Kari Harris
 - 2. Los Angeles, CA
 - 3. Saturday October 3, 2015
 - iii. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention for the “Out of Darkness Community Walk”
 - 1. Lead: LT Mekeshia Bates
 - 2. Washington D.C.
 - 3. Saturday, October 10, 2015
 - b. Upcoming Projects
 - i. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention for the “Out of Darkness Community Walk”

1. Lead: LT Mekeshia Bates
2. Washington D.C.
3. Saturday October 10, 2015
- ii. Walk To End HIV
 1. Lead: LT Shannon Aldrich
 2. Washington D.C.
 3. Saturday October 24, 2015
- iii. San Diego Regional Area Food Bank
 1. Lead: LCDR Kari Harris
 2. San Diego, CA
 3. Saturday November 14, 2015
- ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 1. Next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 4, 2015 at 1200-1300 EST
 - a. Call-in information: 712-432-0111; passcode: 605726

h. Readiness & Deployment Workgroup: LT Grant Abernathy & LCDR Elizabeth DeGrange

- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 1. Workgroup will focus on readiness and deployment opportunities, as well as training opportunities, for junior officers.
 2. Workgroup will have subcommittees that focus on deployment aspects, such as APFT, BLS, etc.
- ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 1. Next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2015.
 2. If any junior officers are interested in volunteering, please contact LT Grant Abernathy at gabernathy@bop.gov, or LCDR Elizabeth DeGrange at Elizabeth.degrange@hhs.gov.

i. Recruitment and Retention Committee: LCDR Peter Arroyo & LCDR Ashley Burns

- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 1. COSTEP Connection provided mentoring opportunities for 13 SRCOSTEPs and 84 JRCOSTEPs during the past operational year.
 2. Proposed Committee Fall JOAG Journal topic: 'Fighting for Public Awareness of the Corps'.
 3. Committee reorganized its committee structure to improve efficiency.
 - a. Now includes the Social Media and SOP Subcommittees.
 - b. The Information Subcommittee was decommissioned.
- ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 1. October 14, 2015 at 1200-1300 EDT
 - a. Call-in number: 712-432-0111; passcode: 633865

V. Agency/Organization Reports

a. CCWIAB: LCDR Melissa Laufenberg

- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 1. Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board continues to work on a new resource guide for officers.
 - a. The guide will provide officers with the information they need for benefits, name changes, and other issues that PHS officers experience when they get married.
 - b. Anticipate publication in early 2016 after final approval has been granted from all necessary parties.
 2. "Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace" webinar is scheduled for October 13, 2015.
 - a. Presented by Federal Occupational Health
 - b. Many have been unable to register for the presentation.
 - i. Currently awaiting further instruction regarding registration issues.
 - ii. Registration information will be forwarded upon receipt.
 3. Pregnancy Committee has made some minor updates to the Guide (e.g. Tricare benefits, weblinks) and was sent to the CCWIAB Chair for review.
- ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 1. Tuesday October 27, 2015 at 1000-1100 EDT
 2. Call-in information: 1-888-480-5926; leader passcode: 7033821, participant passcode: 5420258

b. COF Board: LCDR Cara Halldin

- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 1. On September 12, 2015, LCDR Halldin attended the COA/COF Board of Directors Workshop in Bethesda, Maryland, as the Ex-Officio JOAG Representative.
 - a. COA/COF is excited to continue to work with JOAG and have input from junior officers.
 - b. JOAG is eager to work with COA/COF, especially in Symposium planning, to ensure junior officers have the best experience possible.
 2. COA is researching the Corps' maternity leave policy in response to the Navy doubling their maternity leave recently. COA would like to hear from officers who are willing to share how an extended maternity leave granted by the Corps would assist or would have assisted them (as well as families and newborns) during the post-partum period.
 - a. To share your story with COA, please contact Judy Rensberger, at jrensberger@coausphs.org.

c. DCCPR: LT Latasha Miller

- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 1. In September, DCCPR welcomed LCDR Dorinda Ball, Awards Program Coordinator and LCDR Chandra Jolley, COER Program Coordinator.
 2. The deadline for leave verification in COLTS was September 30, 2015.

3. Direct Access migration is scheduled for January 1, 2016.
4. Next Officer Basic Course (OBC) is scheduled for October 4-16, 2015.
 - a. OBC Pinning Ceremony is scheduled for October 9, 2015.
 - b. OBC Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for October 16, 2015.
5. Next Officer Mid-Level Course is scheduled for November 16-20, 2015.
 - a. Attending officers have been notified.

d. MOLC: LCDR James Warner

- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 1. Last MOLC meeting was held on September 22, 2015.
 2. Webinar by retired Captain Jim Knoblen on leadership was completed on Friday, September 25, 2015.
 - a. The slides will be posted on the MOLC website <https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/molc/>.
 3. MOLC is looking into getting a Gold Monkey Survey Account and is seeking the CMAGs (Chartered Minority Advisor Groups) support.
 - a. Pending official approval by CMAGs for support and cost sharing.
 4. MOLC has updated the Demographic Report from the OSG and it will be placed on the MOLC website.
 - a. The Minority Officer Liaison Council (MOLC) categorized the collected data as follows: American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic Black, Hispanic (including Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban origin), Non-Hispanic White, unknown, and blank.
 - b. The MOLC aggregated this data to be used for the first USPHS Officer demographic report in 2006 and again in July 2011.
 - c. MOLC examined the 2006, 2011, and 2014 comparative data by race/ethnicity, race/ethnicity by temporary grade, and race/ethnicity by USPHS professional category.
 - d. Submitted to Frontline and hopefully should be out in next months.
 5. MOLC SAA awards are due October 15, 2015.
 - a. Includes other MOLC sponsored awards.
 6. CMAG voting packages for next year have been completed and submitted.
 7. HOAC
 - a. During National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) HOAC recognized the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate their heritage and culture.
 - b. HOAC completed a series of educational presentations.
 - i. Only two of the presentations were recorded but the slides for each presentation can be obtained. If you wish to obtain additional information regarding these presentations, please contact CDR Gerald Brozyna at Gerald.brozyna@cms.hhs.gov or LCDR Michelle Sandoval at ftv2@cdc.gov.
 - ii. Completed Wednesday September 16, 2015, from 1200-1300 EDT

1. Introduction to the USPHS Hispanic Officers Advisory Committee and Latinos/Hispanics in the United States
 2. Presentation by: LT Yvonne M. Santiago (HOAC Chair)
 - iii. Completed Monday September 21, 2015 from 1100-1200 EDT
 1. Hispanic Community Health Study
 2. Presentation by: Dr. Larissa Avilés-Santa (Medical Officer – Division of Cardiovascular Sciences, NIH)
 - iv. Completed Wednesday October 7, 2015 from 1200-1300 EDT
 1. Thriving in Stressful Times and Building Resilience
 2. Presentation by: CDR Carlos R. Castillo (ACSW, LCSW, BCD, SAMHSA), LCDR Luz E. Rivera (Psy.D, FDA)
8. BCOAG
- a. The USPHS Black Commissioned Officer Advisory Group celebrated 25 years of excellence at their 25th Anniversary Gala on Saturday October 10, 2015 from 1900-2300 EDT.
 - i. Keynote Speaker was RADM Sylvia Trent-Adams, Deputy U.S. Surgeon General.
 - ii. Location: Officer Club at Joint Base Anacostia/Bolling, 50 Theison Street, Washington D.C.
 - b. BCOAG and HOAC sponsored a Hispanic Heritage Month APFT on September 26, 2015 at Joint Base Anacostia.
9. APAOC
- a. The APAOC (Asian Pacific American Officer Committee) Career Development Committee is pleased to present the 2016 Promotion Resource Packet to help USPHS officers prepare for promotion.
 - i. The Packet is available on the APAOC website, <https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/apaoc>.
 - ii. It is an abridged version of the information contained on the CCMIS website.
 - iii. The Packet contains useful tips on promotion success and writing for impact.
10. AIANCOAC
- a. Released a new Facebook page for activities and updates.
 - ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 1. Next meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2015.

VI. PAC Liaison Reports

a. Dental Category: LT Grant Abernathy

- i. Current activities/updates
 1. No report

b. Dietitian Category: LT Stephanie Magill

- i. Current activities/updates
 1. No report
- ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 1. Next Dietitian PAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 17, 2015 from 1200-1330 EST.
 - a. Call-in information and agenda will be included in the weekly email distributed prior to the meeting.

c. Engineer Category: LCDR Quynh Nhu Nguyen

- i. Current activities/updates
 1. No report
- ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 1. The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2015.
 - a. Call-in information: 866-708-5456; passcode: 7463105
 - b. Webinar: <https://collaboration.fda.gov/usphs-engineers/>

d. Environmental Health Category: LCDR Daveta Bailey

- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 1. No report
- ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 1. Live meeting is scheduled to be held at Western Carolina University on October 20, 2015.

e. Health Services Category: LCDR Avi Stein

- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 1. HS PAC Responder of the Year Award
 - a. The Health Services Professional Advisory Committee (HS PAC) is inviting nominations for the "HS PAC Responder of the Year Award."
 - b. Commissioned officers in the Health Service Category, excluding the current HS PAC Voting Members, are eligible for this award.
 - c. The award will be presented at the Commissioned Officers Association annual meeting.
 - d. For more information, please visit the award webpage.
 - e. Nomination deadline is November 6, 2015, by close of business.
 2. Call for Abstracts 2016 USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium
 - a. The HS PAC Category Day Planning Committee invites all interested Health Services Officers (HSOs) to submit abstracts for oral presentations during the Category Day Roundtable Session on Wednesday May 18, 2016.

- b. Roundtables allow for a more in-depth exchange of information on various topics of interest to HSOs.
 - i. This format is an excellent way for officers to provide a less formal, 20 minute presentation with approximately five to ten minutes for questions and answers.
 - ii. Presentations will be repeated on average three to four times to different audiences, to allow officers an opportunity to rotate to other topics of discussion.
 - c. Interested officers should submit abstracts by close of business on November 6, 2015 via the SurveyMonkey link.
 - d. Presenting at Category Day is a great way to network with your fellow officers, and receive a discount on registration.
 - e. If additional information is required, please contact CDR Suzie Garza via email, or by phone at 210-231-4701.
3. Health Service Professional Advisory Committee Public Health Professional Advisory Group (PHPAG): Introduction to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)
- a. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is the largest U.S. initiative to address the global HIV/AIDS epidemic and help save the lives of those suffering from the disease, primarily in Africa.
 - b. Authorized for up to \$15 billion over a five year period, the focus on PEPFAR has made anti-retroviral medications widely available, saving millions of lives.
 - c. Over 6.7 million individuals are on Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART), with an additional 17 million receiving care and support.
 - d. This panel will provide an overview of PEPFAR, as well as dive into specific programmatic challenges and technical areas.
 - e. Presenters:
 - i. CDR Matthew Newland: Office of Global Affairs, HHS
 - ii. CDR Janette Yu-Shears: Global Health Systems Branch, HRSA
 - iii. LCDR Stephanie Davis: Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision Team, CDC
 - f. The presentation will provide an introduction to PEPFAR.
 - g. Additional topics include, but are not limited to:
 - i. How PEPFAR strategizes for and implements interventions to prevent HIV.
 - ii. The PEPFAR Pivot: the third iteration of PEPFAR, emphasizing sustainability, transparency, and impact, accelerating core medical interventions for areas with high epidemic burden
 - iii. How Pivot is also accomplished through coordination and collaboration with host countries and multilateral partners such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

- iv. Why voluntary medical male circumcision is a powerful life-saving and cost-saving piece of the HIV prevention portfolio.
 - h. Scheduled for Friday October 16, 2015 from 1100-1200 EDT
 - i. Call-in information: 301-796-7777 or 855-828-1770; meeting ID: 741-707-312
 - ii. Webinar link:
 - <https://fda.webex.com/fda/e.php?MTID=m801b4c81b24f789126c969b3f9ca48f0>
 - 1. Meeting number: 741-707-312; password: PEPFAR
4. Leadership, Public Health and Disaster Preparedness Training Webinar Series from September through June 2016
- a. Through this program, the category seeks to engage in a conversation among USPHS officers on a wide range of leadership, public health and disaster preparedness topics to arrive at being a better leader.
 - i. Future trainings include:
 - 1. November 7, 2015 at 800 PST
 - a. “Understanding Essentials of National Response Framework” by LCDR Matt Daab, MD USPHS (60 minutes)
 - b. “When a Bomb Explodes in a Building, what to do?” by CAPT Ha C. Tang, DO USPHS (60 minutes)
 - b. Webinar:
 - https://collaboration.fda.gov/usphs_leadershipnofficership_training/
 - i. Call-in number: 855-828-1770; meeting ID: 014533
 - c. A certificate will be issued if and only if an officer attended at least eight out of 12 sessions.
 - i. For record keeping, please email OfficerLeadershipWebinarSeries@gmail.com after each session. Please use the same email address each time.
 - ii. In the subject line, please provide us the following information: rank, first, middle, last name, PHS number, category and site or Agency of service.
 - iii. Certificates will be sent by next June to deserving officers. In the subject line, please provide us the following information:
 - iv. For further information, please contact CAPT Ha C. Tang.
 - ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 - 1. Next meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2015 from 1300 – 1630 EST.
 - a. Call-in information: 888-989-9786; passcode: 8554855
- f. Nurse Category: LT Mekeshia Bates**
- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 - 1. No report

- ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 - 1. NPAC General Meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2015 at 1300 EDT.
 - a. Call-in information: 301-796-7777; passcode: 12345; meeting ID: 746101447
 - b. Website:
<https://fda.webex.com/fda/j.php?MTID=mf90db11dbcabedce7a0f862d47e060a8>

g. Pharmacy Category: LCDR Ashley Burns

- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 - 1. The 2015 Joint Federal Pharmacy Seminar will be held on October 18-21, 2015 at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center just outside of Washington D.C.
 - a. There will be a JFPS Exposition where you will find a one-of-a-kind marketplace that provides you with an opportunity to engage with all federal pharmacy colleagues from the VA, USPHS, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard.
 - 2. The 2016 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium will be held on May 16-19, 2016 in Oklahoma City.
 - a. The theme for next year's conference is "Gimme Five: Building a Better Tomorrow through Prevention Today."
 - b. The Category Day will be on Wednesday, May 18, 2016.
 - i. The Planning Committee is inviting you to submit presentation topics with abstracts for the Pharmacist Category Day.
 - ii. All topics relevant to next year's theme (tobacco and drug-free living, mental and emotional well-being, healthy eating, active living, injury and violence free living, reproductive and sexual health) and notably relevant to the practice of pharmacy are welcome.
 - iii. PAC is looking for a broad representation of PHS Pharmacists across HHS and non-HHS agencies.
 - iv. To encourage different perspectives, officers involved in multi-disciplinary projects pertaining to the theme are invited to present with their peers from different categories.
 - v. If you plan to attend the 2016 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in Oklahoma City, OK and are interested in presenting on Category Day, please e-mail linzi-allen@cherokee.org no later than Friday, October 23, 2015.
 - vi. Speaker slots are 30 minutes long.
 - vii. To assist us with the review process, please provide a brief description of the knowledge gap related to the theme and four objectives to address the gap.
 - 3. Interested in receiving CE opportunities? You are welcome to join a formal USPHS Continuing Education listserv available to all USPHS Commissioned Corps Officers.

- a. You may subscribe to the listserv by following the link and providing your name and email address for regular subscription: https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?SUBED1=usphs_continuing-education&A=1.
- 4. The University Points of Contact (UPOC) Newsletter Workgroup is soliciting articles for the upcoming Fall/Winter Edition of the UPOC Newsletter.
 - a. The submission deadline for the Fall/Winter 2015 issue is November 2, 2015.
 - b. Articles can be emailed to LCDR Honeylit Cueco at hkcueco@anthc.org.
- 5. Please send any questions from pharmacy students regarding student programs or submitted pharmacy COSTEP experiences to LT Lena Choe at lana.choe@fda.hhs.gov.
- ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 - 1. The PharmPAC meetings occur on the first Thursday of the month at 1400 EST.
 - a. The next meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2015.
 - b. The agenda, call information, and minutes are distributed via the PharmPAC listserv.
 - i. Sign up for the listserv at this website: <https://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-pharmacists.html>.
 - 2. The PharmPAC will be soliciting nominations for 17 Liaisons in October.
 - a. The following positions will be available:
 - i. Bureau of Prisons (BOP)
 - ii. Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
 - iii. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
 - iv. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
 - v. National Institutes of Health (NIH)
 - vi. United States Coast Guard (USCG)
 - vii. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
 - viii. Department of Defense (DoD)
 - ix. Office of the Surgeon General (OSG)
 - x. American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIV): one opening
 - xi. American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP): one opening
 - xii. Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS): one opening
 - xiii. American Pharmacists Association (APhA): two openings
 - xiv. American Public Health Association (APHA): one opening
 - xv. American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP): one opening
 - xvi. American Society of Health System Pharmacists Foundation (ASHP): one opening

h. Physician Category: LT Jennifer Nelson

- i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 - 1. No report

- ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 - 1. The next PPAC call is scheduled for Thursday October 15, 2015 at 1300-1430 EDT.
 - a. Call-in number: 866-816-2251; passcode: 9700730#

- i. Scientist Category: LCDR Alice Shumate**
 - i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 - 1. October SciPAC Journal Club
 - a. LT Jonathan Leshin from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will lead a discussion on the Characterization of silver nanoparticles in selected consumer products and its relevance for predicting children's potential exposures.
 - i. Scheduled for Tuesday October 27, 2015 from 1200-1300 EDT.
 - ii. Call-in information: 866-768-5238; passcode: 76235781
 - 2. November SciPAC Science and Practice Team seminar
 - a. LCDR Anne Purfield from CDC will discuss the intersection of laboratory work, field work, and epidemiology.
 - i. Scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2015 from 1200-1300 EDT.
 - ii. Call-in information: 866-782-0573; passcode: 2214354
 - ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 - 1. The next SciPAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 3, 2015 from 1200-1300 EST.

- j. Therapist Category: LCDR Peter Arroyo**
 - i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 - 1. Conference is scheduled for October 28, 2015 at 1200-1600 EDT
 - a. Virtual conference on the topic of pain will be provided via Adobe Connect.
 - b. Dr. Adriann Lowe, PT, internationally respected pain expert, will be a guest lecturer.
 - c. CDR Feda and LCDR Bobula will also be presenting.
 - d. CEU's will be provided.
 - ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 - 1. Next TPAC meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2015 at 1200 EDT.
 - a. Call in number: 866-705-8612, passcode 9396977.

- k. Veterinarian Category: LCDR Danielle Buttke**
 - i. Current activities/updates/accomplishments
 - 1. All hands meeting was held on September 23, 2015.
 - a. Category awards were announced.
 - b. Chief Professional Officer RADM Clark was one of 14 officers approved for flag officer promotion.
 - ii. Next meeting and volunteer opportunities
 - 1. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 28, 2015 at 1400 EDT
 - a. Call-in information: 866-703-2103; passcode: 3364863

