



JUNIOR OFFICER ADVISORY GROUP

2014-2015 Voting Membership Biographies



LCDR Elizabeth Garza
Voting Member 2014-2016
Executive Committee: JOAG Chair-Elect
Chair: Policy and Procedures Committee

I am honored and excited to serve as your JOAG Chair-Elect and Chair of the JOAG Policy and Procedures Committee. This is my second term as a JOAG voting member. During my last term I served as the Co-Chair of the JOAG Professional Development Committee as well as the JOAG Liaison to the Health Services Professional Advisory Group. I am still able to continue some of that role as I'm currently serving as the JOAG EC Liaison to the Professional Development Committee. I have been an active member of JOAG since 2008 and have been involved with the JOAG Professional Development since that time.

I was called to active duty as a Health Services Officer in September of 2007 and began my Commissioned Corps career with the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response as a research officer in the Modeling Unit of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority. There I was able to conduct research on several public health/ medical emergency preparedness & response topics ranging from pandemic influenza to anthrax. In 2008, I was selected to serve as part of a Joint Humanitarian Mission where I spent two months aboard the USS Boxer as part of 'Operation Continuing Promise' working on public health projects in Central and South America. In August 2008, I joined the HHS Office of Global Health Affairs as an International Health Analyst. In that role, I served as the Project Officer for the Afghanistan Health Initiative which focused on strengthening maternal and child health as well as improving health outcomes of mothers and newborns in Kabul. I was fortunate enough to be able to see first-hand the outcome of our work during my two trips to Kabul; one of which

involved taking part in a hospital-wide patient outcome assessment to determine how best to target our interventions. In December 2009, I joined the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's (CDC) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) where I serve as a public health analyst on several initiatives. At NIOSH I've been able to serve as part of the Office of Global Collaborations, as part of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response Team and have had the opportunity to be involved with several Health Hazard Evaluations investigating various workplace hazards causing injury and illness to workers. I currently serve in the Office of Construction Safety and Health which focuses on coordination of construction safety and health research, partnerships, and practice to address the safety and health challenges that construction workers face. My current focus is on eliminating health disparities among some of the most vulnerable 'hard to reach' workers.

From October 19th – December 18th 2014, I will be serving as a CDC Public Health Advisor assigned to the Ebola Emergency Response Quarantine Station at Washington Dulles Airport.

I have been very active with the PHS-1 RDF team since 2008 and currently serve in the Planning Section. In 2011, I was honored to serve as the Strike Team Lead for one of the clinical sites that the USPHS supported as part of 'Operation Lone Star', the largest public health humanitarian effort in the U.S.

I currently serve as the Public Health Professional Advisory Group's Co-Chair for both the Global Health and Generalist in Public Health Tracks (part of the Health Services Professional Advisory Committee). I also am active with the Hispanic Officers Advisory Committee.

I earned my Master of Public Health in International Health Policy & Programs from George Washington University and my Bachelor of Science degree in Biology & International Relations from The College of William & Mary.

I look forward to serving you in the upcoming year!