

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
 U.S. Public Health Service  
 Office of the Surgeon General  
 Rockville, MD 20857



MINORITY OFFICERS LIAISON COUNCIL (MOLC)

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 22, 2016; 1400- 1600 EST

Teleconference Call: 1-855-828-1770 and Meeting ID: 740 536 066 (New)

Attendance	Rank	Name	Position	CMAG	Agency
Present	CDR	Hamet Touré	Chair	BCOAG	FDA
Present	LCDR	Valerie Marshall	Chair	BCOAG	FDA
UA	CDR	Guillermo Avilés-Mendoza	Vice-Chair	HOAC	ASPR
Present	LCDR	Vladimir Tirado	Vice-Chair	HOAC	BOP
Present	CDR	Khang Ngo	Secretary	APAOC	USCG
Present	LCDR	Eric Zhou	Secretary	APAOC	NIH
UA	CDR	Randy Saria	Liaison	AI/ANCOAG	IHS
Present	LCDR	Dodson Frank	Liaison	AI/ANCOAG	IHS
Present	CDR	David Laird	Past Chair	AI/ANCOAC	FDA
AWA	LCDR	James Warner	Past Chair and JOAG Liaison	AI/ANCOAC	USCG
Present	CAPT	David Lau	DCCPR/RedDog /AMSUS	APAOC	Homeland Security

Present	CDR	Kofi Ansah	COA Liaison (pending)	BCOAG	FDA
Present	RADM	Helena Mishoe	Senior Advisor	BCOAG	NIH
UA	CAPT	Postelle Birch-Smith	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG	FDA
UA	CAPT	Beverly Dandridge	Advisor (pending)	BCOAG	Homeland Security

AWA – Absent with alternate; UA – Unexcused absence

**Guests:**

- LT Anita Mann (BCOAG) – Alternate for LCDR Marshall

**I. Call to Order**

- LCDR Marshall called the meeting to order at 1400.

**II. Council Roll Call**

- CDR Ngo conducted the roll call. A quorum was present.

**III. Meeting Minutes**

- The January 26, 2016 MOLC meeting minutes were approved by email on 8 March 2016.
- The February 23, 2016 MOLC meeting minutes were approved by default with no objections.

**IV. Abbreviated Reports**

1. Combined Commissioned Corps Leadership Meeting – CAPT Lau
  - a. See DCCPR update by CAPT Lau further below in minutes
2. Chair – LCDR Marshall
  - a. LCDR Marshall has confirmed MOLC attendance at the April 26, 2016, FDA PHS Awareness Day, and requested that the four CMAGs be in close proximity to each other and the MOLC table.
  - b. MOLC has been invited to give a five-minute overview of MOLC during the FDA Commissioned Officers (FCON) meetings in Silver Spring, MD, either on Tuesday, May 24, 2016, or Tuesday, June 21, 2016 from 1200 to 1300 ET. CDR Touré reached out to the Chairs of AI/ANCOAC, APAOC, and HOAC to see if the CMAGs would like to provide a brief overview of their group as well. CDR

Touré will present on behalf of MOLC and possibly BCOAG during the May or June FCON meeting.

3. AIANCOAC – LCDR Frank

- a. AI/ANCOAC has filled all positions for subcommittee chairs, which all voting members of AI/ANCOAC and advocates are now a member of at least one subcommittee.
- b. Cultural Subcommittee and Recruitment/Retention Subcommittee are working together in developing a Powerpoint presentation in hopes to having it completed to present at the May 24, 2016 MOLC presentation in Silver Springs and future other events.
- c. Designing an AI/ANCOAC T-shirt to assist in possibly generating funds for AI/ANCOAC.

4. APAOC – CDR Ngo

- a. Regarding the APAOC strategic plan, APAOC has approved sharing the strategic planning process with MOLC/other CMAGs. The Executive Committee will decide what is best to share with respect to templates and subcommittee plans. The plan is currently being finalized.
- b. Announcements:
  - i. APAOC Mentoring Program seeking mentors and mentees – contact LT Oliver Ou at [oliver.ou@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:oliver.ou@fsis.usda.gov) and LCDR Nancy Tian at [nancy.tian@hhs.gov](mailto:nancy.tian@hhs.gov).
  - ii. APAOC Voting Member nominations – contact CDR Diem-Kieu Ngo at [diem.ngo@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:diem.ngo@fda.hhs.gov) and LCDR Emily Baker at [emily.baker@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:emily.baker@fda.hhs.gov) by **Friday, April 8, 2016**.

5. BCOAG – CDR Touré

- a. BCOAG held its last General Body meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2016. During this meeting, each BCOAG committee provided an update on its activities. The meeting also included the results of the survey that BCOAG conducted recently to assess the interests and needs of its membership.
- b. The BCOAG Website has been updated. The nomination deadline for the three BCOAG annual awards was extended to Friday, March 11, 2016. The BCOAG Mentoring Team, under the Career and Professional Development Committee, is in need of Senior Officers to serve as mentors. The Mentoring Team is reviewing the MOLC Demographic report and the BCOAG networking spreadsheet to assess their feasibility as tools to recruit new senior mentors. In addition, the Team is finalizing a draft letter in an effort to recruit new senior officers.
- c. PHS officers have been invited to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual National Minority Quality Forum Leadership Summit on Health Disparities and 2016 Congressional Black Caucus Spring Health Braintrust, to be held on April 11-12, 2016.
- d. BCOAG has conducted the following community outreach events recently:

- i. The Atlanta CDC Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, in conjunction with BCOAG and Blacks in Government held an event for Black History Month.
  - ii. On March 4, 2016, BCOAG held the Heart Health Awareness (Warm Nights).
  - iii. On March 6, 2016, BCOAG held the 2016 Oral Rehydration Therapy Project.
- e. The following community outreach events are upcoming:
  - i. Atlanta STEM Robotics Competition on March 19, 2016
  - ii. BCOAG Walk/Run Wellness Fair on April 2, 2016, from 0700 to 1030
  - iii. Support of the Prince George's County Public School Saturday Program Activity in Beltsville, MD, is ongoing until May 30, 2016
- f. BCOAG attended Officer Basic Course 85 and recruited seven new officers.
- g. Finally, RADM Jose H. Belardo, J.D., M.S.W., M.S., Regional Health Administrator, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Region 7-Kansas City, MO, delivered an insightful presentation on Professional Development on March 17, 2016. The Webinar information was shared with the sister CMAGs. The Webinar was recorded.

6. HOAC – LCDR Tirado

- a. Report pending

7. MOLC Liaison – LCDR Frank

- a. CDR Saria and I met on March 11, 2016, with CAPT Samuel Wu, with the Office of Minority Health. Captain Wu briefed us on the history of the Office of Minority Health (OMH). The Office of Minority Health was created in 1986 as one of the most significant outcomes of the Heckler Report and was reauthorized by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010. The mission of the Office of Minority Health is to improve the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs that will eliminate health disparities.
- b. This year OMH is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and for the month of April, it is observing it as “National Minority Health Month.”
- c. CAPT Wu suggested that we contact him after April, due to the office’s observance of April. However, he mentioned that he will discuss and make the OMH Communications team aware that MOLC wants to collaborate on a project this year, preferable in the summer. He will contact us with more detail as it becomes available.
- d. Was suggested that MOLC Minutes be posted every month and that CDR Ryan Nguyen (Web Master) will be submitting a new posting format to assist in this transition. The new format will be a cleaner look. Once minutes are finally approved, we will present to him for posting.

8. COA Liaison – CDR Ansah

*Adapted from 1-15 March 2016 Report to the COA and COF Boards on Legislative, Executive Branch, and News Media Outreach and Other Activities*

- a. COA continues to advocate for the interest of USPHS officers and the COA leadership is taking extra steps to actively engage its membership by attending different PAC & COA Branch meetings as illustrated below.
  - i. 1 March – COA staff participated in a meeting with Sen. Bill Cassidy’s (R-LA) long-time senior policy adviser. The message was that the public health community wants very much to see Dr. Karen De Salvo confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Health. Judy and others expressed their hope that Sen. Cassidy, as Dr. De Salvo’s home state U.S. Senator, would press Majority Leader McConnell to bring her nomination to the floor for a vote.
    1. COA staff participated in the monthly luncheon meeting of the Nursing Community.
    2. COA staff represented COA at a meeting of the Coalition for Health Funding.
    3. Jim drafted a letter to Home Depot asking that they extend the same discounts to PHS officers that they do to military personnel. The letter can be found on the COA website at [http://www.coausphs.org/media/1261/letter\\_to\\_home\\_depot\\_about\\_discounts\\_for\\_usphs\\_officers\\_march\\_2016.pdf](http://www.coausphs.org/media/1261/letter_to_home_depot_about_discounts_for_usphs_officers_march_2016.pdf)
  - ii. 2 March – COA sent letters to Reps. Rob Wittman (R-VA) and Gene Green (D-TX) asking them to request line item funding for the Office of the Surgeon General. These letters can be found on the COA website at [http://www.coausphs.org/media/1266/letter\\_to\\_rep\\_rob\\_wittman\\_asking\\_for\\_support\\_of\\_funds\\_for\\_osg\\_march\\_2016.pdf](http://www.coausphs.org/media/1266/letter_to_rep_rob_wittman_asking_for_support_of_funds_for_osg_march_2016.pdf) and [http://www.coausphs.org/media/1265/letter\\_to\\_rep\\_gene\\_green\\_asking\\_for\\_support\\_of\\_funds\\_for\\_osg\\_march\\_2016.pdf](http://www.coausphs.org/media/1265/letter_to_rep_gene_green_asking_for_support_of_funds_for_osg_march_2016.pdf)
    1. COA staff at a meeting of the Tricare for Kids Coalition, which is pressing DoD to implement long-promised improvements in health care for the children of uniformed services personnel.
  - iii. 3 March – COA participated the monthly meeting of The Military Coalition
    1. COA Executive Director [Col(ret.) James “Jim” Currie] participated in a PharmPAC meeting.
  - iv. 4 March – COA staff sent a message to Local COA Branch leaders regarding the 50% tuition discount offered by NYMC for their online MPH and online certificate programs for USPHS officers and all employees of DHHS.
  - v. 14 March – COA staff met with a reporter for “Federal News Radio, which is part of all-news radio station WTOP, and discussed COA with him. They also discussed current issues involving the PHS, including the lack of funds for training of Commissioned Corps officers.

1. COA held a preliminary call with representatives of freeCME.com, a website seeking to connect with USPHS physicians, nurses, HSOs, and pharmacists. COA will gather more information before deciding whether to endorse their programs.
  - vi. 15 March – COA Executive Director & Deputy Director participated in the award ceremonies at which the Congressional Public Health Leadership Award for 2015 was presented to Reps. Rob Wittman(R-VA) and Gene Green (D-TX). Also present were some COA board members with the board chair presenting the awards to the Congressmen.
    1. COA staff & a COA board member attended a Capitol Hill briefing co-sponsored by the Nursing Community and the Senate Nursing Caucus. It was titled, “The Nursing Profession: What you need to know and why it matters.”
9. JOAG Liaison – Report not given during meeting. Minutes based on written report.
- a. Last JOAG General Meeting 12FEB16. Next JOAG General Meeting will be 08APR16.
  - b. The Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) Membership Committee is excited to announce an upcoming TWO Meet and Greet (M&G) for the month of April, 1 remaining for March.

Friday, April 8, 2016: Phoenix

Time: 1200-1300 MST/ Arizona Time

Location: Phoenix Indian Medical Center, Conference Room A

Security: Please bring your PIV or CAC card (Individuals are required to show a government ID to gain access to the building)

For remote participants: Audio Conference Details: Conference Number(s):+1-800-832-0736

Conference Room Number: \*9130780#

Topic: "Have You Checked Your Gig Line Lately?" Review of Updated Uniform Guidelines and Other Helpful Tips

Speakers: LT Trisha McCurdy

Friday, April 15, 2016: New Jersey

Time: 12-1300 EST

Location: 1201 Corbin St, Suite 200, Elizabeth, NJ 07201 (if you plan to attend in person, please RSVP directly to LT Kimberly Garner at [kimberly.garner@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:kimberly.garner@fda.hhs.gov)).

Topic: “Tips for serving as an Aide-de-Camp”

Speakers: Jerry Zee

Tuesday March 29, 2016 12:00-1:00 p.m. EST

Location: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Roybal Campus, Building 19, Room # 151 (library)

Conference Line: 641-715-3580 Passcode: 137454#

Topic: Award Writing

- c. The CDC/ATSDR Commissioned Corps Activity will kick off its 3rd Annual CDC/ATSDR (Atlanta Area) Commissioned Corps All-Hands and Awareness Day on March 23rd from 1:00-4:00 pm at the Roybal Campus. This year's event will center around "Public Health and Response Readiness: CDC/ATSDR's role in deployment missions." Keynote speaker, RADM Stephen Redd, MD, MPH will share the latest information on the "CDC/ASTDR Ebola Response Stand-Down" and provide information related to public health preparedness and response for disease outbreaks (including the Flint Michigan Water Response, Zika Virus Outbreak Response, the STOP Polio Campaign, and the activation of the USPHS Indian Health Service Great Plains Response).
- d. Junior Officer Scholarships are being offered for the 2016 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium from the C. Everett Koop Living Legacy Fund, which is partially funded by the proceeds of JOAG merchandise sales. The scholarship is available to Commissioned Officers Association members who are officers at the rank of O-3 (LT) or below, and will cover the full registration cost of the Symposium. The scholarship does not cover the registration fee for any pre-conference events, the Anchor and Caduceus Dinner, or any related costs such as travel, housing, etc. No refunds will be made for registrations completed prior to notification of scholarship awards. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is April 4, 2016. For further details on the scholarships, including full qualifications and instructions about how to apply, please visit:  
<http://symposium.phscof.org/registration>
- e. JOAG has established the Officer Room Share/Car Share Program to assist junior officers with the cost of travel and lodging for the conference. This program will facilitate connections between junior officers to assist in: (1) finding a roommate, which can help offset the cost of housing, either in a hotel or at a local officer's home, and (2) finding an officer to share a ride. Note: officers on official government travel with their room paid by a travel order cannot benefit financially from sharing a room, but are allowed to offer their room to be shared. If you have any questions or concerns about the Officer Room Share/Car Share Program, please contact LCDR Tricia Booker by email at [tricia.h.booker.mil@mail.mil](mailto:tricia.h.booker.mil@mail.mil), or by phone at 910-670-3964.
- f. As part of standing up the new JOAG Readiness & Deployment Workgroup (R&DWG) and with our theme this year of building public health leadership and advancing deployment readiness we'd like to highlight the new APFT team and their new initiative, 2 upcoming event locations:
  - i. Walter Reed Annual Physical Fitness Test (APFT), To reserve your participation or ask questions, please contact: LT Danny Benbassat at [dbenbassat@yahoo.com](mailto:dbenbassat@yahoo.com) or (234) 759-9001 or CDR Tom Ellis at

tbellis@bop.gov, The APFT will be administered on the second Saturday in April, June, September, and November at 1100:

1. Saturday, April 9 @ 1100; Saturday, June 11 @ 1100; Saturday, September 10 @ 1100; Saturday, November 12 @ 1100
- ii. CDC-Chamblee Campus, Atlanta GA APFT Event

Date of Event: March 21, 2016; Event Time: 5:30pm

Event Leader LCDR Irvin-Barnwell, 706-206-3175; [jcx0@cdc.gov](mailto:jcx0@cdc.gov)

Cardiorespiratory Events Offered: Run, treadmill, elliptical, bike

Other information: Meet in front of building 107. Non-CDC employees will require visitor access. Coordinate with event leader and plan to arrive prior to 5 PM to gain access.

- g. Please join the JOAG Public Health and Community Services National Prevention Strategy Subcommittee and the DC Central Kitchen in meal preparation for low-income D.C. residents. The meal preparation will take place from 0845-1200 EDT on Sunday, May 1, 2016, at the main kitchen of DC Central Kitchen in Washington, D.C. USPHS volunteers will work alongside DC Central Kitchen's staff to help prepare over 5,000 meals by cutting, chopping, and peeling thousands of pounds of food. This project is limited to 15 volunteers. This event will be open to junior officers. If the maximum number of volunteers cannot be met with junior officers, then senior officers and family members (12 years of age and older) may volunteer.

Location: 425 2nd Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, Limited metered street parking is available. Metro access is available (Judiciary Square on the Red Line).

Date and Time: May 1, 2016 (Sunday) from 0845-1200 EDT

Desired Attire: blue PHS t-shirt (no ball caps), long pants, and closed-toe shoes. Long hair must be restrained. For safety reasons, volunteers are not permitted to wear shorts, skirts, dresses, sandals, open-toed shoes, high heels, or loose jewelry.

The names of volunteers must be submitted by Monday, April 11, 2016. If you are interested in participating, or have any questions, please contact: LT Cindy Hong, JOAG Public Health and Community Service Committee, 301-796-0889, [Cindy.Hong@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Cindy.Hong@fda.hhs.gov)

- h. The Health Information Technology Professional Advisory Group (HITPAG) is pleased to announce a call for applications for the 2016 Scholarship Program. This scholarship program is available to all high school seniors by a Health Services Professional Advisory Council (HS PAC) or HITPAG officer in good standing and basic ready within the United States Public Health Service-Commissioned Corps (USPHS-CC). This scholarship is supported and funded by



active HS PAC and HITPAG Public Health Service officers. Nominations are due via e-mail by COB Friday, 29 April 2016 to:

Attn: HITPAG STEM Scholarship Committee, Email: HITPAGPHS@gmail.com

Email Subject: HITPAG 2016 STEM Scholarship Nomination (Insert Full Name)

Please contact HITPAGPHS@gmail.com if you have any questions.

#### 10. DCCPR/RedDog Readiness Update – CAPT Lau

##### a. DCCPR/CCHQ updates

##### i. Personnel changes

1. Transfer of command of DCCPR Director to RADM Joan Hunter
2. RADM Giberson transitioned to CMS
3. CAPT Sophia Russell has been acting deputy director since 01 FEB
4. CAPT Scott Helgeson deployed to IHS to assist with Great Plains Situation
5. CDR Anitra Johnson will be ExO at HQ
6. LT Caine from FDA detailed to Policy currently; still looking at filling Policy Director position
7. CDR David Magnotta has left the Officer Support Director Position
8. CAPT Calvin Edwards on 90 day detail to RedDOG

##### ii. Vacancy announcements – Will be hiring for 2 remaining O-6 billets in RedDOG

1. Preparedness Billet
2. Overall Program Management position. Senior Level position Looking for recommendations A broad based position. Also serving as de facto deputy for RedDOG.

##### iii. Surgeon General Murthy thanked and presented Letters of Appreciation to:

1. RADM Epi Elizondo, outgoing HS-PAC CPO
2. CAPT Scott Gaustad, outgoing Therapist PAC CPO
3. RADM Terri Clark, outgoing Vet PAC CPO
4. CAPT Dan Beck, outgoing JOAG Senior Advisor
5. CAPT Nita Sood, DHA/DoD
6. CAPT Van Morfit, DHA/DoD

##### iv. Surgeon General Murthy welcomed:

1. CAPT Jeanne Willis-Marsh, new HS-PAC CPO
2. CAPT Mercedes Benitez-McCrary, new Therapist CPO
3. CAPT John Givens, new Vet PAC CPO

##### v. OSG/SG will be engaging Corps concerning Prescription Opioids – Will have Town Hall meetings, Media Blitz, political engagement, etc at Regions throughout the country.

##### vi. National Park Week

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/national-park-week.htm>

April 16–24: Visit for free!

Throughout National Park Week in 2016, every national park will give you free admission

National Park Rx Day – Sunday 24 APR 2016

For the DMV Area, National Park Rx Day will be held at Meridian Hill Park in Washington, D.C. on April 24, 2016 from 11 AM to 3 PM.

VADM Murthy will be present and is requesting a strong Commissioned Corps presence. The goal is to provide community service and enhance the visibility of the nation-wide Park Rx movement in parks and communities across the nation. Park Rx is a community health initiative to “prescribe” time in parks to prevent and treat chronic disease and promote wellness—and create the next generation of park supporters, visitors, and advocates in the process. Please read the attached document and consider volunteering for a great opportunity to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our Nation.

- vii. Dog Walk – RADM Terri Clark is organizing
- viii. DA Migration – Delayed due to financial accounting infrastructure incompatibility. Tentative GO LIVE pushed back to JUL-AUG CAPT ; Eric Shih is leaving 15 APR 2016; returning to a position in HRSA
- ix. PAC Chairs report – PAC Chairs met; Common theme on concerns:
  - 1. PAC Recognitions and Awards
  - 2. Need additional guidance for fundraising and social media
- x. JOAG Report – Welcome CAPT Sarah Newman, new JOAG Senior Advisor

b. RedDOG Update

i. IHS

- 1. High priority currently is filling clinical support mission in Great Plans area with IHS. Sent a QA/PI team to Rosebud last month. On ground for 3 weeks. Coordinated policy development and quality improvement
- 2. Severe staffing shortages: 3 hospitals impacted ---Rosebud, Pine Ridge, Winnebago. The big crisis ongoing is chronic staffing needs, retention, and has led to significant decrease in the quality of care at hospitals
- 3. Due to high priority of this mission: Corps directed to established 90 day deployments. Corps has authority to deploy any length of time if needed but we don't usually don't need to exercise this authority. Some flexibility for less time
- 4. 18 deploying to Rosebud and 12 to Winnebago- all officers identified for 90 day deployments. Currently have 6 officers on ground
- 5. May have need for reloads
- 6. IHS is already doing internal TDYs to the facilities also. BOP has been very supportive; ICE is in process of a clinical crisis of their own and preparing a memo to be excluded; 90% of PHS Clinical billets are in IHS, BOP, ICE

7. Currently using Tier 3; may have need to tap teams as this is an All Hands on Deck request. If teams have team members who can do a 90 day deployment: Physicians, NP and PAs, send names up to RedDOG
  8. Daily updates are sent to HHS Secretary's Office due to importance of this
- ii. High octane operational tempo currently: Team Leaders => Look at new paradigm and how to structure and prepare for this new paradigm; 2 week deployments may not be a norm. Majority of officers deployed to Flint were for more than 2 weeks. Let team know and their on call preparations and family care plans are for 3-4 week deployments. Evidence indicates that this is more realistic for these longer type mission sets.
  - iii. Flint Michigan
    1. We continue to support Flint. 25 Officers deployed already
    2. RADM Dunwoody deployed and embedded with Mayor's Office; Have also 2 Nurse Case managers and 2 Case Support deployed currently. Total of 6 officers currently deployed
    3. SAT #3 and #4 teams need to keep Flint on radar. Our SATs (Service Access Teams) remain on the hook; case management and public health advisory support to the leadership; 2 officers directly assigned currently
  - iv. Unaccompanied Children
    1. APHT #3 Environmental Health officers to support environmental site assessments
    2. currently we have good surge capacity right now with ACF
    3. UC surge playbook – working on now. We may see some training activity concerning UC in the future
  - v. Zika Virus
    1. Level One Public Health Emergency; Corps has not been asked to deploy yet. Being managed at the agency level. Have officer deployed to Puerto Rico
  - vi. Additional Missions
    1. Nuclear summit – CAP teams – National Special Security (NSS) event
    2. Republic and Democratic National Conventions – awaiting the ask- will be larger NSS
  - vii. RAM (Remote Access Medical) Mission at Front End of COF
    1. Will be in Durant, OKC. RDF #4 taking point and supporting RAM; CAPT Brandon Taylor, RDF #4 Team Commander
    2. Meals and Lodging provided
    3. Saturday and Sunday 14-15 MAY 2016
  - viii. SOC Distribution List - Team commanders should be getting Tier 2 and Tier 3 situational distros. ; If not, send e-mail to LCDR Mahmud
- c. AMSUS Report  
2016 Annual Meeting Call for Abstract Submissions

Don't miss the opportunity to be part of the 2016 AMSUS Annual Continuing Education Meeting, as we celebrate our 125th Anniversary. In addition to attending the event at the Gaylord National in December, we encourage you to share your knowledge. Submit a lecture or poster abstract!

The practice of Medicine demands a constant search for personal growth and professional excellence.

The 2016 AMSUS Annual Continuing Education Meeting, with the theme, "Raising the Bar," will provide a platform for shared accomplishments, research, and strategies for the future of our "new normal" in healthcare as Federal Health Systems take their efforts to the next level of inter-professional collaborative practices.

Topics of special interest for Military, VA, USPHS as well as international military medical officers will be contained in both podium and poster presentations. Session content will address advancements in prevention, wellness, resilience, health promotion, integrated care, as well as complementary and alternative medicine, rehabilitation, and family focused care.

Track categories: Clinical Practice, Deployment and Operational Healthcare, Psychological Health, Global Health, Health Technology.

Deadline for Lecture Submission is Friday, 29 April 2016, 11:59pm ET

Deadline for Poster Submission is Friday, 8 July 2016, 11:59pm ET

#### Abstract Submission is Open

Lecture and Poster abstract submission for the 2016 Annual Meeting is open. This year's theme, "Raising the Bar," will provide a platform for shared accomplishments, research, and strategies for the future of our "new normal" in healthcare as Federal Health Systems take their efforts to the next level of inter-professional collaborative practices.

New for 2016 -- Abstract Review Fee

\*\*NOTE -- AMSUS is a non-profit, membership-based organization which receives no government funding.\*\*

-There is no charge for initial abstract submission (first review)

-If your abstract is accepted, final accreditation review requires either an active AMSUS Membership ([click here](#) to join) or \$100 administration fee

-The Primary Lecture Presenter will receive a registration code which will waive the Meeting registration fee and entitle the presenter full meeting access with CE

-Poster Presenters will have the option to receive a two-day Expo Pass Only for the poster session in the exhibit hall, or full meeting access including CE for the

low cost of \$200

For more information and to submit, visit [www.amsusmeetings.org/ce](http://www.amsusmeetings.org/ce).

Additional Pre-Conference Courses:

US Air Force Acupuncture Certification Training Tier One Battlefield

Acupuncture – 28 NOV 2016

Opioid Prescribing Safe Practice, Changing Lives – 28 NOV 2016

Joint Humanitarian Operation Course (JHOC) – Tentatively 01-02 DEC 2016

The monthly PHS AMSUS Planning Meeting will be held the last Friday of every month leading up to the 2016 AMSUS Annual Meeting. Meeting agendas will be sent out prior to each meeting.

Next meeting:

25 MAR 2016 Friday from 1200-1300 EST

Conference Line: 1-866-741-7052 -- Participant Code: 3962471

- d. Rx for Change: Tobacco Cessation Intervention

There will be a FREE training during the COF Symposium in Oklahoma City. This is a USPHS-wide initiative and beyond with a goal of getting 100% of all USPHS officers trained

Sunday, MAY 15, 2016

RX for Change: Tobacco Cessation Intervention for Clinicians (1:00 pm - 5:00 pm). No Charge. Sign-up during registration.

1. This training will focus on providing tobacco cessation intervention at every patient encounter and will cover behavior counseling and pharmacotherapy as it pertains to tobacco cessation and treatment. The training aims to enhance the health care provider's knowledge concerning the Five A Model used for tobacco cessation interventions, and equip the health care provider to provide comprehensive tobacco cessation counseling services.
2. At the end of the presentation, the participant will need to successfully complete a written exam, a skills demonstration and sign a tobacco free pledge in order receive a certificate.

Monday, May 16

RX for Change: Basic Tobacco Intervention Program (Ask-Advise-Refer) (offered twice: 8:00 am -- 10:00 am and 10:00 am - 12:00 pm) No Charge. Sign-up during registration.

1. This program is an abbreviated tobacco cessation intervention training for individuals with little to no patient interaction and can be applied to any tobacco user within the community. This program will equip the participant to effectively provide tobacco cessation interventions in under three minutes.
2. At the end of the presentation, the participant will need to successfully complete a written exam, a skills demonstration and sign a tobacco free pledge in order receive a certificate.

## V. Old Business

1. FDA PHS Awareness Day – report previously given by LCDR Marshall; see Chair report.
2. MOLC Charter and Bylaws Subcommittee – CDR Touré
  - a. The MOLC Charter and Bylaws Subcommittee is taking shape. LT Vu Nguyen, RPh, currently stationed with CMS in Bethesda, MD, an active member of APAOC, has agreed to serve as the Co-Chair of the MOLC Charter and Bylaws Subcommittee. CDR Hamet Touré and LT Nguyen met on March 9, 2016, to have a preliminary discussion about the process for the revision of the Charter and Bylaws. LT Jorge Muñiz Ortiz, active member of HOAC, will continue to serve on the Subcommittee. CDR Touré is in contact with CDR Warner to seek representation of AI/ANCOAC on the MOLC Charter and Bylaws Subcommittee. CDR Touré and LT Nguyen will have a follow-up meeting on March 30, 2016. The MOLC Charter and Bylaws Subcommittee will hold its first meeting thereafter.
3. MOLC Senior Advisor – CDR Ngo
  - a. Regarding the selection of a new MOLC senior advisor this year, what is the timeline for the nomination of the Senior Advisor from the CMAGs and when will MOLC make the selection?
  - b. In response, LCDR Marshall and CDR Touré will reach out to the senior advisors to discuss and will engage CMAG representatives. A timeline will be proposed.
4. MOLC Awards Ceremony Committee – LCDR Tirado and CAPT Lau
  - a. **Report pending**
  - b. Confirmed attendance of SG as keynote speaker
  - c. CDR Ngo inquired about the amount of contribution from each CMAG for the ceremony. Coins will be gift. What about contributions for other costs? COA will have lunch costs covered. LCDR Tirado/CAPT Lau will check with Tim O'Neill.
  - d. Areas of need:
    - i. Need volunteers color guard, a/v sound check, room setup, confirmation of meals, table setup, VIP names, CMAG coins for presentation
    - ii. Opening prayer, who is giving it
    - iii. Need a save the date flyer
  - e. CDR Ansah will follow up with CDR Aviles-Mendoza
    - i. Planning committee needs to get back to COF Tim O'Neill
  - f. RADM Mishoe will donate the cake for ceremony
5. APAOC collaboration – CDR Ngo
  - a. Regarding APAOC collaborative efforts with other CMAGs in outreach events and training – At the last meeting, there was a positive response from CDR Toure. However, we have not heard anything further from the CMAGs. For example, the Education & Training Subcommittee invited the PharmPAC to attend the last training session. If there is interest from the CMAG, please let myself or LCDR Zhou know and we'll be happy to make the connection.

- b. CDR Touré and LCDR Marshall will reach out to the respective CMAGs' leadership to inquire about interest. CDR Ngo and LCDR Zhou will be APAOC POCs for any further collaboration with CMAGs.

## **VI. New Business**

1. No new business item.

## **VII. Open Floor**

1. Promotions – CDR Touré
  - a. On March 15, 2016, a promotion ceremony was held for Captain Carmen T. Maher, MA, BSN, RN, RA, who was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral. RADM is currently serving as Acting Assistant Commissioner for Counterterrorism Policy at FDA.
  - b. Recently, the following officers were selected as CPO:
    - i. CAPT Jeanean Willis Marsh as Chief Professional Officer for the Health Services Officer Category. CAPT Willis Marsh, DPM, is the Director of the Division of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) in the Bureau of Health Workforce, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
    - ii. CAPT Mercedes Benitez-McCrary as the Chief Professional Officer for the Therapist Category. CAPT Benitez McCrary is currently a Senior Advisor in the Learning and Diffusion Group, (LDG) in the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, (CMMI) at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
2. COA Combined Social – CDR Ngo
  - a. APAOC would like to inquire how much each CMAG is to donate toward the combined social.
  - b. CAPT Lau indicated that there is no set amount to contribute; past years any amount is appreciated. Oklahoma COA contributing \$1500 so no cover cost; depending on funding that's available, one refreshment to each officer or light hors d'oeuvre; suggested \$100 or \$50 or gift cards for prize drawing.
3. Fundraising – CDR Ngo
  - a. With respect to fundraising, how do other CMAGs raise funds due to restrictions placed on government entities?
  - b. CDR Ansah stated that fundraising is a challenge; cites document by CAPT Karen Sicard; CDR Ansah and CDR Touré will send out further information as guidance for CMAGs
  - c. Per CDR Touré, BCOAG sells coins, calendars, etc.

## **VIII. Announcements and Adjournment**

- CDR Touré adjourned the meeting at 15:25.