Liaison Officers Report – April 2011

Organizations/PHS Liaison:

- American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM) – CDR Robert Macky
- American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) – CDR Robert Macky
- American Pharmacists Association (APhA) – LCDR Helen Saccone
- Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) – LCDR Shannon Hill
- American Society of Health System-Pharmacists (ASHP) - CDR Randy Seys
- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) – CDR Louis Flowers
- American Public Health Association (APHA) – CDR Raymond Carter
- Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) - LCDR Sadaf Nabavian
- American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) – CDR Wil Darwin
- Commissioned Officer Association (COA) - LCDR Aaron P. Middlekauff

Any questions about an organization can be directed to the corresponding liaison officer.

Reports

American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM)
Website: http://www.aahivm.org/

Announcements:

Pharmacist Committee
The National Board of Directors has recently approved the formation of a Pharmacist Committee to ensure that the perspective of the HIV pharmacist will be heard in the shaping of Academy policies and programs. The Chair of the Pharmacist Committee will hold a seat on the National Board of Directors and will become a member of the Credentialing Committee.

Professional Practice:
In 2010, The American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM) continues its 3-year pilot-credentialing program for HIV-specialized pharmacists, enabling qualifying Doctors of Pharmacy (PharmD) and Registered Pharmacists (RPh) to participate in its professional clinical examination program, and to receive an "HIV Expert (AAHIVE)" designation upon successful completion. Complete information on application dates and procedures can be seen here.

Public Policy:
The American Academy of HIV Medicine is an independent organization of AAHIVM HIV Specialists™ and others dedicated to promoting excellence in HIV/AIDS care. Through advocacy and education, the Academy is committed to supporting health care providers in HIV medicine and to ensuring better care for those living with AIDS and HIV disease.

News:
Referral Link National Expansion: With the launch of a new website, the Academy expanded its Referral Link database to include all our Members and Credentialed Providers nationwide.
http://www.aahivm.org/Default.aspx

https://www.aahivm.org/Events/exec/Management%20of%20the%20Aging%20HIV-Infected%20Patient:%20Strategies%20for%20Long-Term%20Success

ACTHIV: AAHIVM will be exhibiting at the American Conference for the Treatment of HIV (ACTHIV) in Denver, CO next week. If you will be attending, please be sure to stop by our booth to learn more about our new 2011 initiatives!

American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)
Website: www.accp.com/

Founded in 1900, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) is the national organization representing pharmacy education in the United States. The mission of the Association is to both represent and be an advocate for all segments of the academic community in the profession of pharmacy.

No Report this Month – please contact the POC list above with any questions

American Pharmacists Association (APhA)
Website: http://www.pharmacist.com/

APhA empowers its members to improve medication use and advance patient care through information, education, and advocacy. APhA has members in all practice settings and provides solutions and support that pharmacists need to practice pharmacy and provide quality care to patients.

APhA2011 Annual Meeting: Pharmacists set the vision for a stronger tomorrow
• Federal Forum was conducted in conjunction with the APhA2011 Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA on March 25-28, 2011. During the USPHS breakout session, representatives from Bureau of Prisons, Veterans Affairs, Indian Health Service, Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services, and Food and Drug Administration presented on exciting projects and opportunities available at the different Agencies.

• The House of Delegates was represented by various Federal Pharmacists and voted on various issues. To review the outcomes of the deliberation, visit www.pharmacist.com/hod.

• APhA adapted the American Public Health Associations (APHA) 2006 policy statement on “The Role of the Pharmacist in Public Health”

• Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA) told attendees at the Political Leadership Breakfast at APhA2011 that health care providers have to work collaboratively and that pharmacists is an essential part of an interdisciplinary team.

Immunizing Pharmacists:
• Zostavax approved for use in patients aged 50 to 59 years

Drug News:
• Pharmacists can continue compounding injectable hydroxyprogesterone caproate for individual patients who present a valid prescription

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)
Website: www.amcp.org/home

AMCP is a professional association of Pharmacists, which emphasizes the use of managed care in pharmacy practice. AMCP’s mission is to empower members to serve society by providing opportunities for continued professional growth through advancing individual and collective knowledge. Provision of the best available pharmaceutical care is their simple goal.

Announcements:

Retired US Navy flight surgeon and NASA astronaut will be the keynote speaker at the General Session of AMCP’s 23rd Annual Meeting and Showcase, April 27-29

Poster presentations have been selected by the Program Planning and Development Committee for AMCP’s 23rd Annual Meeting and Showcase to be held April 27-29, 2011.

Professional Practice:

A few titles of the poster presentations selected for the Annual Meeting and Showcase include:
Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy and the Association with Risk of Hospitalization Among Commercially Insured HIV Patients in the United States

Adherence, Persistence, and Medical Costs Associated with the Use of Clinically Effective Doses of Antipsychotic Medications in Patients with Bipolar Disorder

Assessment of Medication Utilization Before and After Initiation of Pregabalin Utilizing a Pharmacy Claims Database

**Public Policy:** NTR

**News:**
AMCP leaders traveled to the Middle East for an event held on March 3-4th to discuss U.S. Managed Care.

Winners of the 2010 Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy (JMCP) Award for Excellence announced. The winning article was published in the July/August 2010 issue of JMCP.

**American Society of Health System-Pharmacists** (ASHP)
Website: [www.ashp.org/](http://www.ashp.org/)

**Upcoming Events**

**ASHP Summer Meeting**
June 12-15, 2011, Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO

**Midyear Clinical Meeting**
The ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting is the largest gathering of pharmacists in the world. With its focus on improving patient care, the meeting is attended by more than 20,000 pharmacy professionals from 86 countries. [Read more](#)

**Upcoming Events:**
46th ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting, New Orleans, LA, December 4-8, 2011
47th ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, December 2-6, 2012

**Professional Practice:**
ASHP develops official professional policies, in the form of policy positions and guidance documents (statements and guidelines), for the continuum of pharmacy practice settings in integrated systems.

**Public Policy:**
ASHP believes that the mission of pharmacists is to help people make the best use of medications.
The mission of ASHP is to advance and support the professional practice of pharmacists in hospitals and health systems and serve as their collective voice on issues related to medication use and public health.

News:
www.ashp.org/-Please go to the website for the full information:

**Adenovirus Vaccine Licensed for Military Use**

A newly licensed oral vaccine against two types of adenovirus provides the U.S. military an opportunity to restart its lapsed vaccination program against a pathogen that causes respiratory disease epidemics in recruits.

FDA approved the licensing of live, unattenuated, adenovirus type 4 and type 7 vaccine, formulated as enteric-coated oral tablets, on March 16. The vaccine, made by Barr Laboratories and distributed by Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, is indicated for use in military personnel ages 17 through 50 years.

Labeling for the product and additional information about its history and adenovirus in general are available at the Military Vaccine Agency (Milvax) website. Full article on web

**Ipilimumab Approved for Metastatic Melanoma**

FDA today announced the approval of ipilimumab for the treatment of metastatic melanoma.

FDA stated that the Bristol-Myers Squibb product is the first treatment for late-stage melanoma that has been definitively shown in clinical trials to extend the patients' lives. The i.v. immunotherapy drug will be marketed as Yervoy. The company has not announced a product launch date.

According to the product's FDA-approved labeling (PDF), Yervoy is a human IgG1 kappa monoclonal antibody, produced in Chinese hamster ovary cells, that binds to cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated antigen 4 (CTLA-4). Yervoy-mediated blocking of CTLA-4 enhances the T-cell response, which may indirectly enhance antitumor activity in patients with melanoma. Full article on web

**FDA Eases Medication Guide Distribution Requirements**

A draft guidance document from FDA relaxes the agency's stance on the need to distribute medication guides to inpatients.

According to the document, which was released in late February, FDA intends to use "enforcement discretion" in the inpatient setting with respect to the distribution of medication guides, which contain FDA-approved patient information about the therapy. This means that medication guide distribution is generally not required for inpatients, who are presumed to be under the direct supervision of a health care professional.

In hospitals, inpatients must receive a medication guide when it is a component of a product's risk evaluation and mitigation strategy (REMS). And when a patient or a patient's agent asks for a medication guide, it must be provided, regardless of the health care setting. Full article on web

**Interferon Product Approved for Advanced Melanoma**
FDA on March 29 approved the marketing of Sylatron, a new interferon alfa-2b product from Merck, for the treatment of certain patients with melanoma.

According to the product's FDA-approved labeling, Sylatron is indicated for adjuvant use in patients with melanoma characterized by microscopic or gross nodal involvement. Therapy with the cytokine must begin within 84 days of definitive surgical resection, including complete lymphadenectomy.

The company has not announced a product launch date.

Sylatron consists of recombinant alfa-2b interferon covalently conjugated to monomethoxy polyethylene glycol. The product's mechanism of action against melanoma is not known.

In the clinical trial that led to Sylatron's approval, the biological product was found to increase relapse-free survival in patients with melanoma by about 10 months compared with patients who had surgery but did not receive the drug. Patients treated with Sylatron did not live longer than the comparator patients.

A boxed warning in Sylatron's labeling warns that the product and other interferon alfa products increase the risk for neuropsychiatric disorders, including severe depression and suicidality. These risks are also described in a medication guide for patients.

ASHP Publishes New Guide on Anticoagulation Therapy

Anticoagulation therapy, which is used widely to prevent and treat deadly blood clots, can also be highly risky. Anticoagulation Therapy: A Point-of-Care Guide, published by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) is a concise reference designed with the busy clinician and pharmacy resident in mind.

Anticoagulants, developed to save lives by preventing and treating thrombosis, can also be dangerous. More than eight percent of hospitalized patients on warfarin and more than 13 percent of hospitalized patients exposed to heparin experience an adverse drug event, according to the Institute for Safe Medication Practices. Anticoagulation Therapy: A Point-of-Care Guide is a concise reference that can help pharmacists protect their patients from dangerous adverse drug events.

Pharmacy Residency Match Results Show Increased Interest in Residency Training

More candidates than ever received good news today on Pharmacy Residency Match Day (March 23, 2011), with the highest fill rate for positions since the matching program began in 1979.

Nearly 3,675 graduating pharmacy students and new practitioners participated in the Resident Matching Program seeking PGY1 and PGY2 residencies, the highest participation to date.

Here’s how it shook out on Match Day 2011, as compared to last year:

12% increase in candidates seeking PGY1 residencies,
7% increase in candidates seeking PGY2 residencies,
2,027 PGY1 positions matched, a 13% increase, and
438 PGY2 positions matched, an 18% increase over 2010 statistics.
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)
Website: www.aacp.org

No Report this Month – please contact the POC list above with any questions

Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)
Website: www.amsus.org
- AMSUS, the Society of the Federal Health Agencies, supports and represents the military and other federal health care professionals.
- To become a member go to www.amsus.org/membership starting rate is from $65/year to a full time life membership of $1300. The following are some of the benefits offered for members:
  - Members receive Military Medicine the Association's official journal, each month.
  - Members receive the quarterly AMSUS Newsletter.
  - Members may attend the AMSUS Annual Meeting at substantially reduced rates.
  - Members are eligible to join one of the AMSUS Chapters.
  - The Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. WorldPoints MasterCard Credit Card: Earn points and get the rewards.
  - AMSUS Online Resource Library Upgraded.
(Can find out more details about benefits under membership)

Updates

- The next 117th AMSUS Annual Meeting which will be held in San Antonio, TX from November 6-10th. The theme for this year will be “Transformational Pathway to Global Healthcare”. More information will be available regarding registration late summer.

- The Awards program will open on 30 April and close on 30 June 2011. More information will be forthcoming on the type of awards pharmacists can be nominated for and/or nominate others for.

- If you would like to become an AMSUS volunteer mentor email AMSUS membership and provide your name, specialty, contact information, a brief bio (1-2 sentences) and your member number if available. As a AMSUS volunteer mentor you will be asked to meet or correspond with students who are pursuing a
health professional discipline and plan to serve in the military to relay military medical experiences, career advice, and etc.

**American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)**

*No Report this Month – please contact the POC list above with any questions*

**Commissioned Officer Association (COA)**

COA is dedicated to improving and protecting the public health of the United States by addressing unmet health needs and providing support for more than 7,000 members.

**Announcements:** The 2011 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium will be held 20-23 Jun 2011 in New Orleans, LA. The following contains announcements via the following link:

[http://www.phscofevents.org/faqs.cfm](http://www.phscofevents.org/faqs.cfm)

**Hotel**

The 2011 Symposium will be held at the [Sheraton New Orleans Hotel](http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/usphs) June 20-23, 2011.

Hotel Address: 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

Rooms are available at the federal per diem rate of $131 (plus applicable taxes). That rate is available from June 14 to June 29.

Visit [http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/usphs](http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/usphs) today to quickly and easily reserve your room! Scroll down to the brown box and click the reserve button to the right to get started.

**When will registration become available?**

Registration for 2011 is currently underway.

**Will Junior Officer/Civil Servant scholarships be available this year?**

Junior Officer/Civil Servant scholarships will again be available for Commissioned Officers of pay grade 03 or below and Civil Servants that are GS 10/11 or below in 2011.

**Can students attend sessions free?**

Student Scholarships will again be available again in 2011.
What meals are included in the registration fee? Monday lunch and dinner, Tuesday continental breakfast and lunch, Wednesday continental breakfast, Thursday continental breakfast and lunch.

Where can I make travel arrangements to and from the conference? Travel arrangements are the responsibility of the attendee.

How many Continuing Education credits are available for my category? Please see the Continuing Education Credits page for an overview of credits typically offered at the Symposium. Further details will be available soon.

What is the uniform for the Symposium? TBD

Will Basic Officer Training Courses be offered at the conference? Basic Officer Training Courses will not be offered in conjunction with the Symposium.

What are the name and address of the hotel where the conference is being held? See location navigation button

Surgeon General's 5K Run/Walk

The 2011 event will be held on Wednesday, June 22. It will start at 6:30 a.m. with the Annual Physical Fitness Test followed at 7:15 by the Surgeon General’s Run/Walk just a few blocks from the hotel. Please join us afterward for a continental breakfast in the Exhibit Hall.

Retirement Seminar

A free one-day seminar for retiring officers will be held on Friday, June 24. Check back soon for more details.

Other Activities

National Hansen's Disease Museum Tour on Sunday, June 19

Nurse Category Social. An evening of Cajun Cuisine and live Jazz music Tuesday June 21, 2011 6:45 pm Mulate's Restaurant, 201 Julia Street, New Orleans. No cover or minimum cost. OPEN TO ALL CATEGORIES

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News:

2011 Operation Purple Camps is Now Accepting Applications

03/31/2011 - The National Military Family Association is now accepting applications for its popular Operation Purple Summer Camps. This free summer camp program was developed by the Association to support military children, ages 7-17, dealing with the
stress of war. Each camp is "purple" and open to children of active duty, National Guard or Reserve service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or the Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service and NOAA. Applications will only be accepted online.

In this eighth summer of the program, Operation Purple camps will host more than 3500 children at 40 weeks of camp in 25 states as well as one overseas location:

**States:** Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia

**Overseas:** Okinawa, Japan

Information about the camp program, specific camp locations, ages, and dates is available on their website at [www.militaryfamily.org/op](http://www.militaryfamily.org/op).

Applications will be accepted until midnight EDT April 29th. Priority is given to military children with a parent deployed or deploying anytime between September 2010 and December 2011 who have not had the opportunity to attend an Operation Purple camp in the past. Camps are free to all participants’ thanks to support from Goldman Sachs Gives, the Sierra Club, and The Sierra Club Foundation.

**Retired PHS Flag Officers Petition Senate HELP Committee for Public Health Science Track Funding**

03/25/2011 - Forty-three retired Public Health Service Commissioned Corps admirals have signed a letter to Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Tom Harkin urging him to inquire into the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) failure to implement the Public Health Science Track as required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

The PPACA was signed into law one year ago and clearly and unequivocally directs the DHHS Secretary to "transfer such sums as necessary" from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund to the Office of the Surgeon General beginning in FY 2010 to implement the Public Health Science Track established in the new law. The Track will provide 850 annual scholarships to students of certain health professions who commit to serving in the PHS Commissioned Corps as payback for their education. The law requires two years of service in the Corps for each year of funded education and is similar to the ROTC programs offered by the other uniformed services.

To date, DHHS has taken no action to comply with the law in this regard.

The 43 retired flag officers signing the letter to Chairman Harkin collectively represent more than 1,000 YEARS of public health expertise, leadership, and service. They express their concern that the "infrastructure for public health and the protection and
promotion of our nation's health and well-being are being eroded” by the DHHS lack of action to follow the law.

Click here to read the Admirals’ letter to Chairman Harkin... (pdf, 98 KB)

Call for Nominations - 2011 Carruth Wagner and Mabel May Wagner Awards
Deadline for Nomination Submission: 10 April 2011

03/11/2011 - The PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation (COF) is pleased to announce a call for nominations for the 2011 Carruth Wagner and Mabel May Wagner Awards. The five Carruth Wagner awards are named in honor of Dr. Carruth Wagner who dedicated his life to improving the health of the Nation. During his 30-year service to the U.S. Government and later contributions to the California Department of Health, he championed the development of medical professionals, future leaders, health policy and innovative public health improvements. He recognized that all levels of health professionals have the capacity to influence, and improve, the health of communities. Dr. Wagner served as the second Director of the Indian Health Service (1962 - 1965), and is credited as a pioneer in developing innovative education and training techniques designed to enhance quality health care providers and proficient management systems to improve health care delivery systems. The Mabel May Wagner award was established in 1979 and is open to all professional nurses in the USPHS who are engaged in clinical nursing practice.

Each of the Carruth Wagner and Mabel May Wagner Awards will include a $1,000 cash award and will require the awardee to complete an Ethics Review Form to be endorsed by their respective agency's Ethics Officer before the cash award can be received.

Click here for the full details, (pdf, 34 KB)

COA Joins with MOAA and Other Associations in HASC Testimony on TRICARE Fees

03/10/2011 - COA has joined with MOAA and eleven other organizations in submitting testimony to the House Armed Services Committee concerning DoD proposals to raise TRICARE fees for under age 65 uniformed service retirees. DoD proposes to raise TRICARE Prime annual enrollment fees for under age 65 retirees by as much as 12% in FY 12 and then index annual increases after that to a yet-to-be-decided formula. COA's position is that annual indexing should be no more than the annual COLA driven increase to retired pay.

Click here for the full testimony... (pdf, 59 KB)

Legislative

Senate HELP Committee to Consider PHS Regular Corps Nominations
02/09/2011 - COA has learned that the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee is scheduled on Wednesday, February 16th, to consider the first list of individuals nominated for a commission in the PHS Regular Corps following the passage of the Affordable Care Act last year. Following approval by the HELP Committee, the nominations must still be approved by the full Senate.

This first list of nominations for a Regular Corps commission consists primarily, if not exclusively, of officers commissioned into the Ready Reserve component under a special Presidential authorization last year. These officers were in a unique situation since the operating policies and procedures for the new Ready Reserve have yet to be approved. This placed these officers at a disadvantage for promotion and other similar professional considerations for which they might otherwise be eligible.

COA's understanding is that there is now a routine process in place by which names of individuals proposed for a Regular Corps commission will be forwarded by DHHS to the White House for further nomination by the President to the Senate for confirmation as required by law. This includes all reserve officers on active duty and all new accessions to the Commissioned Corps.

The names of the 232 Ready Reserve officers that will be considered by the Senate HELP Committee on February 16th are at the link below.

*Click for the names nominated for a commission in the Regular Corps on 2 February... (pdf, 37 KB)*

**Member**

**TRICARE Beneficiaries Urged to Try Pharmacy Home Delivery**

03/25/2011 - PHS Rear Admiral Tom McGinnis, Director of TRICARE Pharmacy Operations for the DoD TRICARE Management Activity is urging all TRICARE beneficiaries to try the Pharmacy Home Delivery option for prescription renewal as both a cost saving measure and to improve efficiency for both the beneficiary and TRICARE. Click on the link below to read Admiral McGinnis' reasoning and recommendation. COA supports the Admiral's position and we urge our member's to give the home delivery pharmacy a try.

*Click here for more information on TRICARE Home Delivery... (pdf, 20 KB)*

**Position available as Senior Public Health Advisor, to serve as the Editor of the Public Health Reports (PHR) within the Office of the Surgeon General**

03/03/2011 - This position is located within the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG). The Surgeon General serves as America's chief health educator by providing Americans the best scientific information available on how to improve their health and reduce the risk of injury. The OSG, under the direction of the Surgeon General,
oversees the operations of the 6,500-member Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and provides support for the Surgeon General in the accomplishment of her mission. The Surgeon General is appointed by the President of the United States with the advice and consent of the United States Senate for a 4-year term of office. In carrying out all responsibilities, the Surgeon General reports to the Assistant Secretary for Health, who is the principal advisor to the Secretary on public health and scientific issues. The OSG is part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health (OASH) in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The incumbent serves as the Editor of Public Health Reports (PHR), the official scientific/medical/public health journal of the USPHS. PHR is one of the Nations leading professional and technical journals in the health science field. The incumbent serves as a senior official of the OSG, providing executive-level recommendations to the Surgeon General on content for national publications, establishment of editorial policies, decision-support for selection of articles, and execution of publication of material.

The work requires an extensive breadth of public health research knowledge, intensity of efforts, and the managing of multiple projects operating concurrently. The incumbent serves as a nationally and internationally recognized authority, advisor, and administrator for a leading national public health journal.

*Click here for the full description of the position.* *(pdf, 21 KB)*