



**U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**  
**Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee**  
**Department of Health and Human Services**

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**06 September 2012**  
**FDA White Oak Conference Room 1419**  
**1400-1530 (EST)**

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**Members Present**

RADM Scott Giberson (CPO), DCCPR-Rockville, MD  
CDR Peter Diak (Chair), FDA-Silver Spring, MD  
CDR Michael Crockett (Chair-Elect), BOP-Pollock, LA  
CDR Jeff Mallette (Ex-Officio), BOP-Pensacola, FL  
CAPT Aaron Sigler, FDA-Rockville, MD  
CDR Daniel Brum, FDA-Silver Spring, MD  
CDR Jefferson Freedy, IHS-Crownpoint, NM  
CDR Jinhee Lee, SAMHSA-Rockville, MD  
CDR Kristen Maves, IHS-Anchorage, AK  
CDR Aaron Middlekauff, DHS-Washington DC  
CDR Timothy Murray, IHS-Claremore, OK  
LCDR Troy Bernardo, BOP-Butner, NC

LCDR Christina Eldridge, IHS-Anchorage, AK\*  
LCDR Jerome Lee, FDA-Rockville, MD\*  
LCDR Marisol Martinez, DoD-San Antonio, TX  
LCDR Tiffanie Myers, BOP-Marianna, FL  
LCDR Khang Ngo, IHS-Taholah, WA  
LCDR Jodi Sparkman, IHS-Claremore, OK  
CAPT Greg Dill (Assoc.), CMS-Chicago, IL  
CDR Carmen Kelly (Assoc.), AHRQ-Rockville, MD  
CDR Christina Mead (Assoc.), HRSA-Denver, CO  
CDR Vasavi Thomas (Assoc.), CDC-Atlanta, GA  
LT Jai Patel (Assoc.), DHS-Taylor, TX

\*indicates PharmPAC alternate

**Excused members:** CDR Larry Lim, FDA-Silver Spring, MD; CDR Devvrat Patel, FDA-Rockville, MD; CDR MaryJo Zunic, IHS-Albuquerque, NM; LCDR Brittany Keener, IHS-Anchorage, AK; CDR Fortin George (Assoc.), NIH-Bethesda, MD; LCDR Kenda Jefferson (Assoc.), DHS-Washington DC; LCDR Liatte Krueger (Assoc.), JOAG-Parsippany, NJ

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**Call to Order:** CDR Peter Diak ([Peter.Diak@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Peter.Diak@fda.hhs.gov))

Meeting began at 1400, EST.

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**CPO Report & Open Forum → RADM Scott Giberson**

- **Please see the September PharmPAC CPO Report.**
- Q: When will we receive certificates for the Continuing Education credits earned during the June COA symposium?  
A: The CE credits are now available via the NABP CE Monitor. If you have any questions about the CE credits from the Symposium – contact LCDR Khang Ngo.
- Q: At our BOP site, we have not had a staff physician for over a year. How do I request for the Agency to recruit for a physician at my site?  
A: Go through your (BOP) liaison and CAPT Dean Coppola, the head of recruitment at DCCPR.

- About 70+ officers (half being pharmacy officers) will be participating in the Tough Mudder this Sunday in Frederick, MD. They will rally at 8am at the yellow PHS flag.
- Q: How can one become a member of or more involved with the PharmPAC?  
A: Sign up for the PharmPAC listserv if you haven't already (see the last page of these minutes for more information) and respond to the various volunteer opportunities sent through the listserv. The PharmPAC is comprised of 5 Sections: Communication, Administration, Recruitment, Career Development, and Readiness. If you have a special interested in working in any of these groups, you can reach out to the section leads, noted in the agenda and the meeting minutes. If you have additional questions, you can reach out to the Chair, CDR Diak, and Chair-elect, CDR Crockett.
- Q: Are there any updates for this year's COER?  
A: The COER is on time and targeted for October. Proceed as you normally would.
- Q: How do know when officers in the pool are ready for hire?  
A: You can reach out to CDR Thomas Pryor ([Thomas.Pryor@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Thomas.Pryor@fda.hhs.gov)). Later this fall, the list of officers, if they have a 1662 on file, will be accessible online. You should also be working with your Agency Liaison regarding hiring.
- Q: I will be going to OBC in a couple weeks. Do you have any advice?  
A: Get plenty of sleep. Bring your running shoes. Try not to bring work with you. And step up and lead!
- Q: At CMS, there is a growing need to hire pharmacists with clinical experience in administrative positions. With the 5 Pillars and shift in paradigm, will we be able to fill administrative positions with new CADs? In the past we've very successfully filled these types of positions with PHS officers. In fact, we've attempted to hire through civil service with little success and have gotten better-matched candidates through the Corps. The hiring managers are noticing this trend.  
A: DCCPR, the Department, and the Agencies are currently undergoing discussions. The Agencies are aware of the need and are prepared to advocate for the ability to hire PHS officers in administrative positions. There will be a board meeting with senior level decision makers in the Department (outside the Corps) soon to discuss this particular issue.
- Q: Are these clinical positions new or existing positions? Is there going to an expansion of clinical positions (e.g., in BOP & IHS)?  
A: In the context of the 5 Pillars, the term "clinical pharmacist" refers to any pharmacist position with direct patient care or in direct support of patient care (i.e., Chief Pharmacists, Hospital or clinic leadership, etc). In sites such as these with IHS, BOP, Immigration, USCG, one should not have any difficulties justifying hiring officers.
- Q: With regard to the billet transformation, when we will be able to see the official notice in our eOPF?  
A: The billets should be in your eOPFs already. If you have a specific question, contact your Agency liaison.
- Q: When will permanent promotions be in our eOPFs?  
A: We are coordinating with the Department and trying to get through thousands of orders as quickly as possible with limited staff. It should be completed in September.

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**Communication Section** → CDR MaryJo Zunic ([MaryJo.Zunic@ihs.gov](mailto:MaryJo.Zunic@ihs.gov)) / LCDR Marisol Martinez ([marisol.martinez@amedd.army.mil](mailto:marisol.martinez@amedd.army.mil)) / LCDR Jodi Sparkman ([jodi.sparkman@ihs.gov](mailto:jodi.sparkman@ihs.gov))

- The Publication Webinar, entitled “Puzzling Publication Process Made Painless”, is scheduled for September 27, 2012, from 2 to 3pm EST, in the White Oak CSU building at FDA in Rm 2046. The presenter will be Dr. Gilbert Burckart, Associate Director of Regulatory Policy in the Office of Clinical Pharmacology at FDA. You will be able to access the presentation slides on the PharmPAC calendar and on the PharmPAC website once it is able to post new information.
- LCDR Bernardo, lead of the Call to Active Duty (CAD) workgroup, thanked members, including CDR Teresa Watkins-Lackey, LCDR Kenneth Bryan, LCDR Melissa Faneuf, and LCDR Ryan McCallum. The workgroup is responsible for reaching out to all new CAD pharmacists and sending them CAD packets. Since April 2012, 131 pharmacists have been called to duty. If you need a copy of the CAD packet, please contact LCDR Bernardo.

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**Career Development Section** → CAPT Aaron Sigler ([Aaron.Sigler@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Aaron.Sigler@fda.hhs.gov)) / CDR Jefferson Fredy ([jefferson.fredy@ihs.gov](mailto:jefferson.fredy@ihs.gov)) / LCDR Tiffanie Myers ([tmyers@bop.gov](mailto:tmyers@bop.gov))

- The section will be coordinating a CV review service to assist officers who are preparing for promotion. They will begin by sending an announcement via the listserv to recruit for senior officer volunteers to review CVs and then a call to officers who would like their CVs reviewed. The lead will be LCDR Tiffanie Myers.
- The Career Development Guide, last updated in 2005, was recently updated by the PAC. Once cleared with the CPO, this will be distributed to the pharmacy category via the Career Development portion of the PharmPAC website. This guide will be reviewed and updated annually.

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**Administration Section** → CDR Larry Lim ([Larry.Lim@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Larry.Lim@fda.hhs.gov)) / CDR Timothy Murray ([timothy.murray@ihs.gov](mailto:timothy.murray@ihs.gov)) / CDR Jinhee Lee ([Jinhee.Lee@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:Jinhee.Lee@samhsa.hhs.gov))

- Nonvoting membership applications for a 1-year term are being accepted. There are 9 openings for the following agencies (1 opening per agency). You can email questions to CDR Murray (lead). Deadline is September 14, 2012.
  1. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
  2. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – Office of the Secretary
  3. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
  4. Center of Disease Control (CDC)
  5. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – Office of the Secretary
  6. Agency Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
  7. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
  8. Department of Health and Human Services Program Support Center (PSC)
  9. St. Elizabeth Hospital
- PharmPAC Voting Member appointment letters have been signed and will be distributed soon.

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**Recruitment Section** → CDR Kristen Maves ([klmaves@scf.cc](mailto:klmaves@scf.cc)) / CDR Aaron Middlekauff ([Aaron.p.middlekauff@uscg.mil](mailto:Aaron.p.middlekauff@uscg.mil)) / LCDR Brittany Keener ([blkeener@anthc.org](mailto:blkeener@anthc.org))

- There are openings for a couple schools in the University Point of Contact (UPOC) program. If you are interested in finding out more about the UPOC program and becoming a UPOC, please email CDR Middlekauff.
- The section is coordinating with DCCPR on the ASHP Recruitment Booth at the Mid-Year Meeting. More information to come about opportunities to assist with recruitment at the booth.
- Thanks go to the 48 officers who presented Excellence in Public Health Awards to students across the country. Thank you letters, signed off by RADM Giberson, will be distributed soon.
- UPOC Award has been submitted recently. These awards captured the nominee's last 3 years of activity. We will provide an update once the awards are approved.
- Q: Regarding the APhA Regional Meeting, are you looking for officers to assist with recruitment?  
A: Although the APhA Regional conference planners have offered a complementary booth to PHS in the past, they are no longer able to provide one for this year. With the fiscal constraints, the category has had to limit funding for recruitment booths to large national conferences like ASHP Mid-Year and will not likely be able to provide presence at regional meetings.

**Readiness Section** → CDR Daniel Brum ([dan.brum@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:dan.brum@fda.hhs.gov)) / LCDR Troy Bernardo ([tbernardo@bop.gov](mailto:tbernardo@bop.gov)) / LCDR Khang Ngo ([Khang.Ngo.USPHS@hotmail.com](mailto:Khang.Ngo.USPHS@hotmail.com))

- Note that the ODU announcement has been officially released. The ODU will replace the BDU. You have 12 months from the date of the release to transition to the ODU. LCDR Kyle Lyons, DCCPR Uniform Policy Coordinator, will be presenting at the next meeting. Send questions to members of the readiness section to be addressed during the presentation. Please review the Personnel Operations Memorandum (POM) for the new ODU on the CCMIS website: [http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/POM12\\_009.pdf](http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/POM12_009.pdf).

**Chair Report** → CDR Peter Diak ([Peter.Diak@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Peter.Diak@fda.hhs.gov))

- Congratulations to RADM Giberson for his promotion to permanent Flag Rank for his role as the Director of the Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel and Readiness.
- Congratulations to RADM Bina for his new promotion to Flag rank for his role as Chief Pharmacist at the Bureau of Prisons (BOP). This is an important promotion for BOP and the entire pharmacy category because it recognizes the scope and impact the BOP has in regards to public health and the importance of correctional public health. It also recognizes how BOP pharmacists play a vital role in team medicine and public health.
- Congratulations to LCDR Marisol Martinez for being selected as Chair-elect, whose term as Chair will begin November 2013.
- Call for Executive Secretary – Please send self-nominations to CDR Mike Crockett. It is a great way to get involved in the PAC. Historically, it has been a way to gain one of the highly competitive PharmPAC voting member positions.

- COA Category Day Planners – Leads for 2013 COA Category Day will be LCDR Khang Ngo and CDR John Bearden. CDR Andy Meagher has been selected as the alternate and will be the category day lead in 2014.
- Ambulatory Care Board Certification – No updates on when this exam will be added to the list of eligible certifications for pharmacist special pays.
- Facebook (FB) Pharmacy Category Page – CDR Diem Ngo (lead), will be seeking new members and new ideas for the FB page. Be aware that this is a public site. The FB Administrators will be censoring the posts.
- APFT initiative –75% of pharmacists currently have APFTs on record. We are trying to raise that to 100%.
- Contact CDR Ruby Wu ([Chi-Ann.Wu@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Chi-Ann.Wu@fda.hhs.gov)) if you are interested in participating in the Pharmacy Mentoring Network, as a mentor or mentee.
- Reminder that the AMSUS meeting is in November in Phoenix, AZ. The 2013 meeting will be held in Seattle, WA. PHS will be the lead in organizing that meeting.

**Chair-Elect Report** → CDR Michael Crockett ([mcrockett@bop.gov](mailto:mcrockett@bop.gov))

- CDR Crockett encourages officers to get involved in the PAC. Contact CDR Crockett if you are interested to serve as Executive Secretary or in other capacities with the PharmPAC.

**Old/New Business** → CDR Peter Diak ([Peter.Diak@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Peter.Diak@fda.hhs.gov))

- Action items for all PHS pharmacists:
  1. Purchase/Prepare your new ODU for deployment. Be sure to tune into the October PharmPAC meeting, which will feature a presentation and Q&A session about the new ODUs by LCDR Kyle Lyons, DCCPR Uniform Policy Coordinator.
  2. Complete the APFT (only 25% of pharmacists are left to switch from the President's Challenge to the APFT! – Great job).
  3. Sign up for Million Hearts CE (Free) at <http://millionhearts.hhs.gov/resources/teamuppressuredown.html#PhEducation>.
  4. Report out on any direct or indirect impact from the *Pharmacy Report to the Surgeon General* to RADM Giberson and/or LT Tsai ([Yiyiing.Tsai@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Yiyiing.Tsai@fda.hhs.gov)) as soon as possible.

**The meeting was adjourned @ 1505.**

**Next Meeting Date: 04 October 2012, from 1400 to 1530 EST, White Oak Conference Room Bldg 22, Room 1201; Agenda and call-in information will be distributed prior to the meeting.**

**Useful Links and Contact Info:**

- ♦ Emails: [PharmPAC@list.nih.gov](mailto:PharmPAC@list.nih.gov)  
[PHS-Pharmacists@list.nih.gov](mailto:PHS-Pharmacists@list.nih.gov)

[PHS-RX-JOBS@list.nih.gov](mailto:PHS-RX-JOBS@list.nih.gov)  
[PHS-Rx-Students@list.nih.gov](mailto:PHS-Rx-Students@list.nih.gov)

- ◆ Listservs: PHS Pharmacists <https://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-pharmacists.html>  
PHS Rx Students <https://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-rx-students.html>  
OFRD <https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=ofrd>  
RPh Job Vacancies <https://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-rx-jobs.html>  
CCMIS <http://ccmis.usphs.gov/ccmis>  
CC Vacancies <https://list.nih.gov/archives/ccvacancies-l.html>  
PHS Immunizing Pharmacists <https://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-immunizing-pharm.html>  
JOAG <https://list.nih.gov/archives/joag.html>
  
- ◆ Websites: PharmPAC <http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy>  
CCMIS <http://dcp.psc.gov>  
USPHS <http://www.usphs.gov>  
OFRD <http://oep.osophs.dhhs.gov/ccrf>  
Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/USPHSPharmacists>  
JOAG <http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/joag/>

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--Respectfully Submitted,

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Juliette Touré / 19 September 2012\_\_\_\_  
CDR Juliette Touré, Executive Secretary Date

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CDR Peter Diak, Chair / Date

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RADM Scott Giberson, CPO / Date

**Attachments:**

1. **JOAG Liaison Report**
2. **BOP Liaison Report**
3. **CMS Liaison Report**
4. **FDA Liaison Report**
5. **NIH Liaison Report**
6. **Recruitment Report**
7. **CPO Update**

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

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DATE: September 2012  
TO: Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee  
FROM: LCDR Liatte Krueger  
SUBJECT: JOAG Liaison Report – INFORMATION

- **Mark your calendars** for the next Journeyman Speaker Series.
  - On Friday, **September 14, 2012** at 1300 EDT, LCDR Cody Thornton and LCDR LaKeisha Jones will be presenting on the topic: Overview of Aide De Camp. Call-in information will be provided via JOAG listserv prior to the presentation.
  - For future ideas on JSS themes and topics, e-mail LCDR May ([amay@cdc.gov](mailto:amay@cdc.gov))
- JOAG is working with COTA to discuss how JO's can provide feedback and further develop the Officer Basic Course and other curriculum being considered for Corps officers.
- The October Career Fair list was recently made available via the JOAG listserv and JOAG website – JOAG is also working on updating the Career Fair Resources Guide with assistance from DCCPR.
- From the JOAG DCCPR Readiness & Response Program Liaison: In the coming weeks, CPOs and PAC Chairs will receive a list of officers who were not basic ready following the 30 June readiness run.
- Take a JO to Work Day (JO shadowing program pilot) has been launched at FDA White Oak Campus. Details on the program will be highlighted in an upcoming JOAG Journal. We will keep the PACs informed of the "Take a JO to Work Day" program as it continues to be piloted and eventually goes live in other duty stations. It will be crucial to have PAC input and buy-in/support.
- For more information on how you can get involved in JOAG and for meeting time information, visit the JOAG Website at <http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/JOAG>
- Miss a meeting? JOAG digitally records each meeting, including the Journeyman Speakers Series. For an mp3 copy of the recording, email LCDR Hiren Patel, [hiren.patel@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:hiren.patel@fda.hhs.gov).

**NEXT JOAG MEETING:**     **Journeyman Speaker Series: September 14, 2012; 1300 - 1400 EST.**  
                                      **General Member Meeting: October 12, 2012; 1300 - 1500 EST.**

Call-in information will be provided via JOAG listserv prior to the meeting.



## **Bureau of Prison Report to PharmPac September 2012**

Submitted by LCDR Kellie Guedry BOP PharmPac Liaison

- Congratulations to BOP Pharmacist, LT Gregory Reeson, who recently obtained Honor Graduate Status from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.
- BOP Regional Pharmacist Consultants and Chief of Central Processing Pharmacy Services will be meeting in September to discuss issues relevant to the Regional Medical Asset Support Teams (MAST), further team medicine, credentialing, etc.
- Several BOP Health Professionals from the Regions and Central Office (to include pharmacists) will be participating in Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Training in BOP Central Office the week of September 10th. The intent is to develop teams with the hands-on skills to execute field-based projects that support BOP Health Services Division (HSD) initiatives, identify and disseminate best practices in correctional health care, and achieve the goals and objectives in the HSD Integrated Strategic Plan.
- LCDR Tami Rodriguez has agreed to draft an article related to the role of the pharmacist in Diabetes Disease State Management within the correctional environment.
- CAPT Chris Bina will be presenting in October 2012 at the National Commission on Correctional Health Care and the clinical role and opportunity for pharmacists. The 2011 Report to the U.S. Surgeon General, "Improving Patient and Health System Outcomes through Advanced Pharmacy Practice" will be highlighted.



September 2012  
**CMS Agency Report to PharmPAC**  
Submitted by CDR Matthew D. Febbo

**HHS partners with pharmacies to educate Medicare beneficiaries about new health benefits:**

Today, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced partnerships with several pharmacies to help customers learn about new Medicare benefits available to them under the Affordable Care Act – the health care law. These partnerships – with CVS Caremark, Walgreens, Thrifty White, Walmart, and Sam’s Club – will provide Medicare beneficiaries a range of educational materials on newly available preventive services, as well as [savings on prescription drug spending](#) in the “donut hole” coverage gap. At a CVS in Jacksonville, Secretary Sebelius discussed the new preventive services and received a free blood pressure reading at the CVS MinuteClinic.

<http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/Current-Partnership-Opportunities/index.html>

**NEW HEALTH CARE STANDARDS TO SAVE UP TO \$6 BILLION:**

Today, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced a final rule that will save time and money for physicians and other health care providers by establishing a unique health plan identifier (HPID). The rule is one of a series of changes required by the Affordable Care Act to cut red tape in the health care system and will save up to \$6 billion over ten years.

<http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=4444&intNumPerPage=10&checkDate=&checkKey=&srchType=1&numDays=3500&sr>

**HHS ANNOUNCES NEXT STEPS TO PROMOTE USE OF ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS:**

Today, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the next steps in the Obama administration’s work to help doctors and hospitals use electronic health records.

<http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=4441&intNumPerPage=10&checkDate=&checkKey=&srchType=1&numDays=3500&sr>

## FDA AGENCY REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2012

Submitted by CDR Janelle Derbis, PharmD, Office of the Commissioner, Office of Special Health Issues

Here is a summary of recent product safety, product approvals and announcements to keep you informed about FDA issues. A brief summary of each issue and a web link to detailed information on the FDA website is included.

### PRODUCT SAFETY:

[FDA Investigates Multistate Outbreak of Salmonella Braenderup Infections Associated with Mangoes](#) (Aug 30) FDA is advising consumers not to eat Daniella mangoes distributed by Splendid Products of Burlingame, California because they may be contaminated with Salmonella.

[CareFusion Alaris Pump Module Model 8100: Class I Recall - Motor Stalls During Infusion](#) (Aug 24) Motor stalls could result in a termination of infusion.

[Reumofan Plus: Recall - Undeclared Drug Ingredient](#) (Aug 21) FDA has received dozens of additional adverse event reports, including death and stroke, associated with the use of Reumofan Plus since the agency issued its first warning about the product.

[Hospira Propofol Injectable Emulsion: Recall - Glass Vial Defect](#) (Aug 16) Risks associated with this defect could include tissue necrosis in one or more organs that could result in stroke, myocardial infarction, respiratory failure, and loss of renal and hepatic function.

[Hospira Hydromorphone Hydrochloride Injection 2 MG/ML, 1 mL fill in 2.5 mL Carpuject: Recall- May Contain More Than The Intended Fill Volume](#) (Aug 16) Opioid pain medications such as hydromorphone have life-threatening consequences if overdosed.

[Codeine use in certain children: Safety Communication - Use after tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy may lead to rare, but life-threatening adverse events or death](#) (Aug 15) The FDA is reviewing reports of children who developed serious adverse effects or died after taking codeine for pain relief after tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy for obstructive sleep apnea syndrome.

[Covidien Shiley Adult Tracheostomy Tubes: Class I Recall - Reports Of Volume Leakage And/or Disconnection Between The Inner And Outer Cannulae](#) (Aug 15) Covidien is recalling certain cuffed Shiley tracheostomy tubes due to consumer complaints related to reports of volume leakage and/or disconnection between the inner and outer cannulae, which were observed during mechanical ventilation of patients.

[July 2012 Monthly Safety Labeling Changes](#) (Aug 10) The monthly safety labeling changes includes 41 products with revisions to Prescribing Information.

For more product safety information, please visit our [MedWatch](#) website.

## **PRODUCT APPROVALS:**

[FDA approves new treatment for a type of late stage prostate cancer](#) (Aug 31) FDA approved Xtandi (enzalutamide) to treat men with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer that has spread or recurred, even with medical or surgical therapy to minimize testosterone.

[FDA approves Linzess to treat certain cases of irritable bowel syndrome and constipation](#) (Aug 30) FDA approved Linzess (linaclotide) to treat chronic idiopathic constipation and to treat irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C) in adults.

[FDA approves new treatment for severe neutropenia in certain cancer patients](#) (Aug 29) FDA approved Sicor Biotech's tbo-filgrastim to reduce the time certain patients receiving cancer chemotherapy experience severe neutropenia.

[FDA approves new combination pill for HIV treatment for some patients](#) (Aug 27) FDA approved Stribild (elvitegravir, cobicistat, emtricitabine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), a new once-a-day combination pill to treat HIV-1 infection in adults who have never been treated for HIV infection.

[FDA approves first generic Actos to treat type 2 diabetes](#) (Aug 17) FDA approved the first generic version of Actos (pioglitazone hydrochloride) tablets.

[FDA approves vaccine formulation for 2012-2013 influenza season](#) (Aug 13) FDA announced that it has approved the 2012-2013 influenza vaccine formulation for all six manufacturers licensed to produce and distribute the vaccines in the United States.

[FDA approves Lucentis to treat diabetic macular edema](#) (Aug 10) FDA approved Lucentis (ranibizumab injection) for the treatment of diabetic macular edema, a sight-threatening eye disease that occurs in people with diabetes.

[FDA approves Marqibo to treat rare type of leukemia](#) (Aug 9) FDA approved Marqibo (vincristine sulfate liposome injection) to treat adults with a rare type of leukemia called Philadelphia chromosome negative acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

[FDA approves first generic versions of Singulair to treat asthma, allergies](#) (Aug 3) FDA approved the first generic versions of Singulair (montelukast sodium) for use in adults and children to control asthma symptoms and to help relieve symptoms of indoor and outdoor allergies.

[FDA approves Zaltrap for metastatic colorectal cancer](#) (Aug 3) FDA approved Zaltrap (ziv-aflibercept) for use in combination with a FOLFIRI (folinic acid, fluorouracil and irinotecan) chemotherapy regimen to treat adults with colorectal cancer.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

[Tattoo Inks Pose Health Risks](#) (Aug 30) FDA is particularly concerned about a family of bacteria called nontuberculous *Mycobacteria* that has been found in a recent outbreak of illnesses linked to contaminated tattoo inks.

[Request for \(Grant\) Applications \(RFA\): Extended-Release and Long-Acting Opioid Analgesics Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy \(REMS\)](#) The REMS Program Companies would like to make your organization aware of grant funds available to support accredited independent continuing education for the ER / LA class-wide opioid analgesics REMS.

[Unique Device Identification](#) FDA has released a proposed rule that most medical devices distributed in the U.S. carry a unique device identifier, or UDI. A UDI system has the potential to improve the quality of information in medical device adverse event reports, which will help the FDA identify product problems more quickly, better target recalls and improve patient safety.

## **RESOURCES:**

[Using Medicines Safely After Natural Disasters](#) (Aug 29) Many Gulf Coast residents are coping with floods and power outages in the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac---problems that could affect their medicines. Get our tips for using medicines after a natural disaster.

[Food safety guides for groups most vulnerable to foodborne illness now available](#) (Aug 1) The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service and FDA have partnered to create six booklets with food safety advice for populations that are most susceptible to foodborne illness.

[For Health Professionals](#) - Additional information for Health Professionals may be found on FDA's Health Professional website.

### [Consumer Updates](#)

Timely and easy-to-read articles covering all FDA activities and regulated products

**September 2012 NIH Agency Report**  
**Submitted by CDR David Diwa**



*Turning Discovery into Health*

**Wednesday, August 29, 2012: Aspirin-clopidogrel no better than aspirin alone for patients with lacunar stroke**

Aspirin combined with the antiplatelet drug clopidogrel is no better than aspirin alone for stroke prevention in people with a history of lacunar strokes, and the combination carries a greater risk of gastrointestinal bleeding, according to results of a trial funded by the National Institutes of Health. Lacunar strokes occur due to chronic high blood pressure and typically produce small lesions deep within the brain. The SPS3 trial is funded by National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), part of the National Institutes of Health and led by Oscar R. Benavente, M.D., research director of the Stroke and Cerebrovascular Health program at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, British Columbia.

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/aug2012/ninds-29.htm>

**Monday, August 27, 2012 - Compounds activate key cancer enzyme to interfere with tumor formation**

Scientists have known for decades that cancer cells use more glucose than healthy cells, feeding the growth of some types of tumors. A team that includes researchers from the National Institutes of Health's new National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) has identified compounds that delay the formation of tumors in mice, by targeting a key enzyme that governs how cancer cells use glucose and its metabolites. The study, published August 26 in the advance online publication of Nature Chemical Biology, was led by researchers from the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge. Researchers from the Structural Genomics Consortium at the University of Toronto and Harvard Medical School, Boston, also joined NCATS scientists to author the paper.

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/aug2012/ncats-27.htm>

**Wednesday July 25, 2012 - AIDS 2012: XIX International AIDS Conference, Washington, DC.**

A vaginal ring containing the antiretroviral drug dapivirine is going to be tested in 5 African countries. The investigators plan to enroll 3476 subjects in A Study to Prevent Infection With a Ring for Extended Use (ASPIRE). Dapivirine has been shown to decrease risk for transmission by 39%, session moderator Carl Dieffenbach, PhD, director of the AIDS division at the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told *Medscape Medical News*. The ASPIRE trial is being funded by NIH. The dapivirine ring is supplied by Janssen R&D Ireland.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/768130?sssdmh=dm1.812207&src=confwrap>

# Recruitment Section

## September-2012

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### Exec

CDR Thomas Hinchliffe, CDR Kristen Maves, and CDR Aaron Middlekauff; LCDR Brittany Keener

- Need UPOC's for several universities. If interested please e-mail CDR Aaron Middlekauff at [aaron.p.middlekauff@uscg.mil](mailto:aaron.p.middlekauff@uscg.mil)
- Have tentatively procured DCCPR funding for the ASHP Midyear conference - further details will be forthcoming.
- Actively engaged with CDR Pryor and the CAD teleconferences to enhance the matching portion charged to our section.
- Thank you letters for the 48 officers who presented Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Awards to students across the country have been submitted to RADM Giberson for signature and should be dispersed soon.
- The UPOC USPHS award has been submitted.

### Website

CDR Shayne Blackmon, LCDR Roberta Szydlo

- No current updates to report

### University Points of Contact (UPOC)

CDR Aaron Middlekauff

- Activity Reports are to now be submitted to: <https://sites.google.com/a/phspharmacist.org/pharmpac-tools/current-officers/upoc-activity-report>.

### Ready Reserve Corps

CDR Jefferson Fredy

- Policies for the development and implementation of the Ready Reserve is ongoing. Interested individuals can find more information here: <http://usphs.gov/aboutus/readyreserve.aspx>

### Student Programs

LCDR Misu Ahn, LCDR Lisa Kubaska

- No current updates to report

### Pharmacy's Best Kept Secrets (PBKS)

- If anyone needs the 2012 updated document for recruitment please contact CDR Kristen Maves, CDR Aaron Middlekauff, or LCDR Brittany Keener

### PHS Vacancies Document Workgroup

- No current updates to report

### Policy

- No current updates to report

### Associate Recruiter Program (ARP)

- No current updates to report. LCDR Felicia Watts ([felicia.watts@hhs.gov](mailto:felicia.watts@hhs.gov) - 240-453-6070) is the contact to request recruitment supplies.



**U.S. Public Health Service**  
**Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee**  
**Chief Professional Officer, Pharmacy Update**

**September 2012**

**Commissioned Corps**

- The Commissioned Corps budget was submitted and approved for FY13 through the Service and Supply Board. The FY12 budget was maintained (this is a good thing) and the additional funds requested for another 2-3 years of Direct Access implementation were also added to this fund. Our FY13 and 14 budget submissions are critical and will sustain DCCPR and Corps HQ at current levels. We are at very reduced staffing; however, we should be able to maintain a residential OBC – a deliverable that is agreed upon between the Corps and with the Agencies that supply the budget. We will continue to graduate prepared and ‘ready’ newly commissioned officers. We feel this is a decisive step in the career of a Commissioned Corps officer.
- **Application Processes.** I would like to continue to reiterate facts with regards to calls-to-active duty:
  - First and foremost, our Corps is changing for the better. We have placed more value on our commission and are taking better care of our customers.
  - We have no shortage of Corps applicants, especially in pharmacy. Most students and schools are aware of the pride we have in PHS Pharmacy and the type of career diversity it affords us.
  - All of the pharmacist candidates are on either Senate List #13 or #14. We have over 250 pharmacists on those lists. However, after October 9, we will no longer need Senate confirmation for any calls-to-active duty. This regulation was passed and signed on August 10, 2012 by President Obama.
  - **If candidates are willing to go to the locations of most need including clinical positions within IHS, BOP and Immigration, we will be able to get through the applicant pool more efficiently and look toward new applicants.**
  - If you have detailed questions, your Commissioned Corps liaisons, Professional Advisory Committees, and DCCPR Assignments Team should be able to provide additional information and answer your questions.
- As we move forward, please be aware we will be within a system that *incentivizes* officers to look for positions that are deemed by the agencies to fit in one of the 5 pillars and more specifically, those that are clinically related to serve those in need.
- **Policy** - You may already be aware that we are increasing our emphasis on prideful wear of the uniform. The existing policy on uniform wear is being enforced. This emphasis has resulted in an increase in esprit-de-Corps and many positive comments from multiple stakeholders. Good job.

**COSTEP**

- It is customary to release COSTEP information in September; however, there is a need to clear support for this program from the Department prior to releasing the program announcement. We expect information to be passed down from the Department’s senior leadership soon. We will inform you of their decision.

**Promotions**

- Congratulations to our newest flag officer (and one of only two 0-7’s in PHS Pharmacy), RADM Chris Bina! RADM Bina, in his position as Chief Pharmacist at the Bureau of Prisons, is a very deserving

officer and representative of the type of leadership we need in the Corps. Please congratulate him when you get the opportunity.

#### **Readiness and Response Program (DCCPR)**

- The Corps recently responded to Hurricane Isaac.
- Please continue to support the PharmPAC APFT Initiative. Although not mandated just yet, please proceed to complete and document the APFT as your physical fitness requirement.

#### **OBC**

- The next OBC Pinning is on September 14, and the OBC Graduation is on September 21. The OBC schedule is on the CCMIS website at: <http://dcp.psc.gov/CCMIS/COTA/obcdates.aspx>.

#### **COERs**

- No new information at this time. Begin document gathering, etc., for the Fall COER release.

#### **NEW Deployment Uniforms (ODU)**

- The new deployment uniform has been released. Please refer to the personnel policy memorandum at [http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/PPM12\\_002.pdf](http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/PPM12_002.pdf). A very simple “How To Order” guide is also posted here: [http://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/PDF\\_docs/Directions%20%20Guidance%20for%20Ordering%20ODU%20online\\_31Aug12%20\(3\).pdf](http://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/PDF_docs/Directions%20%20Guidance%20for%20Ordering%20ODU%20online_31Aug12%20(3).pdf).
- You will have plenty of time to transition to the new ODU. All officers will be required to purchase and prepare the ODU by September 1, 2013. The BDU is allowable until September 1, 2013.

#### **Meetings**

- **Join us for the Joint Forces Pharmacy Seminar (JFPS) 2012**, October 28 – November 1, 2012, at the Hilton Bayfront Hotel and the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, California.

#### **CPO Initiatives Update**

- There have been multiple activities done in concert with PHS Pharmacy leadership with regards to the *Pharmacy Report to the Surgeon General* – as noted, it has grown in visibility. (Special thanks to a group of senior pharmacists in the PHS who have assisted to meet most of these requests).
- Currently we are working on a briefing document that summarizes the impact of the *Report* to the Surgeon General. **If you have any positive and tangible impact seen as a result of the *Report to the Surgeon General*, please contact myself or LT Tsai as soon as possible.**
- CPO was selected to present the William A. Zellmer Lecture at ASHP during Policy Week in September.
- CPO is tentatively scheduled to present to 12 Ministries of Health about Pharmacy Practice at a roundtable discussion in Amsterdam in October 2012 during the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) annual meeting.
- Additional activities include:
  - Million Hearts Campaign – **please complete the CE** (even if you have enough CE for licensure) as a part of the Department’s Initiative at: <http://millionhearts.hhs.gov/resources/teamuppressuredown.html#PhEducation>.
  - Script Your Future.
  - Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on the pharmacist’ role on the medical team drafted for approval by the Surgeon General.
  - Specific project collaborations within federal agencies – CMS, FDA and CDC.
  - Organizations (APhA, ASHP, NASPA, JCPP, AACCP) addressing mission/vision statements.

- State pharmacy associations reviewing their collaborative practice agreements/nomenclature.
- Academia – focus groups on adjusting curriculum and relating it to the Report.
- Comments on Community Pharmacy Practice Standards.
- As always, please consider utilizing the PharmPAC leadership (CDR Diak or CDR Crockett) and LT Yiyang 'CoCo' Tsai ([Yiyang.Tsai@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Yiyang.Tsai@fda.hhs.gov)) for any CPO business related issues.

**Summary of Actionable Items (This is why you joined the Corps...to do more):**

1. Purchase/Prepare your new ODU for deployment. Be sure to tune into the October PharmPAC meeting, which will feature a presentation and Q&A session about the new ODUs by LCDR Kyle Lyons, DCCPR Uniform Policy Coordinator.
2. Complete the APFT (only 25% of pharmacists are left to switch from the President's Challenge to the APFT! – Great job).
3. Sign up for Million Hearts CE (Free) at <http://millionhearts.hhs.gov/resources/teamuppressuredown.html#PhEducation>.
4. Report out on any direct or indirect impact from the *Pharmacy Report to the Surgeon General* to RADM Giberson and/or LT Tsai ([Yiyang.Tsai@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Yiyang.Tsai@fda.hhs.gov)) as soon as possible.

**Thank you for all your hard work and efforts! You are transforming our category and the profession!**

**RADM Giberson**