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**PHS Pharmacy Officers Volunteer for the UPOC Newsletter**

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**Editor Profile**

LCDR Selena Ready is a Safety Evaluator with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). She graduated in 1999 from Mercer University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Atlanta, GA. After graduation, she worked as a clinical pharmacist at Northside Hospital in Atlanta, GA. In 2002, LCDR Ready transferred to Tuba City, AZ to work as a civil servant at the Indian Health Care Center, where she was enrolled in the IHS Loan Repayment Program. It was in Tuba City that she was first introduced to the US Public Health Service (PHS), working with great PHS pharmacists from around the country. Upon finishing her commitment in 2004 she returned to Atlanta to work as a Palliative Care and Geriatric Consultant pharmacist. However in 2008, one of the Tuba City PHS pharmacists and friends recruited her back to Arizona and into the PHS. She was commissioned in 2008 and worked as the Pharmacy Clinical Applications Coordinator (CAC), Medication Safety Officer, and the Anticoagulation and Diabetes Clinic Provider at the Winslow Indian Health Care Center in Winslow, AZ. As well, during her tour at Winslow, she held a part-time detail to IHS Headquarters as the National Pharmacist Recruiter until the position was filled by LCDR Damion Killsback in 2010. Recently, LCDR Ready transferred to the FDA in Silver Spring, MD and works in the Division of Pharmacovigilence 1. LCDR Ready is proud to represent her fellow PHS colleagues as the new editor of the UPOC Newsletter and looks forward to a long and fulfilling career in the USPHS.
APhA Seattle 2011: Setting the Vision for a Stronger Tomorrow

The American Pharmacist Association, APhA 2011, annual meeting and exposition was held in Seattle, Washington on March 25-28, 2011. At the meeting were over a hundred exhibitioners which included the United States Public Health Service. The USPHS recruitment booth was organized by the Pharmacist Advisory Committee and was held from March 26 to 28 in the exposition hall. It was operated by several PharmPac committee members and other volunteers representing the different branches of the USPHS including, CDC, BOP, IHS, and the FDA.

The booth was flooded with young PHS hopefuls and Co-step applicants most of whom had already submitted their applications which were halted by the highly speculated pause on commissioning. The most frequently asked questions pertained to application processing, job availability, and locations. Some candidates had concerns about job opportunities for their spouses in the more remote locations. Other intrigued individuals inquired about the Commission Corps benefits packages including, salary, student loan repayment, pension, etc.

This was a proud moment of visibility and recognition of the USPHS Commissioned Corps Pharmacists. The recruitment volunteers ranged in rank from Lieutenant to Captain and Rear Admiral. There was a notable degree of passion and dedication that the officers had as they remained for several hours without a meal but were focused and readily available for questions. The officers stood proudly and distinctly in their dress blues with the foremost purpose of shaping the future of the Corps.

My experience as a volunteer recruiter allowed me to reflect and appreciate the greatness of my own career as a pharmacist for the Indian Health Service. I have tremendous job satisfaction as a clinical pharmacist since I am able to provide various clinical services to an underserved population. This is a reality that most pharmacists in the private sector could only dream about. At the recruitment booth, I was able to share my passion with future applicants as well as communicate with officers who work for CDC, BOP and FDA. I learned first-hand about their practice settings, geographic locations and skill sets making this both an uplifting and enlightening experience.

The Indian Health Service Health Professions Support Branch, practicing IHS pharmacists, and USPHS representatives from many other agencies attended the meeting in an attempt to recruit new pharmacists to fill Commissioned Corps officer ranks. The USPHS Commissioned Corps has long been known to provide excellent career opportunities to practice in a setting that is all its own. As such, response at recruiting events is usually excellent and looking for career prospects and other job opportunities. For those checking out the Commissioned Corps for the first time, we offered details about locations where CO’s serve, types of positions available to pharmacists, and the history of the Commissioned Corps. For those that already knew a little about us, we were able to describe special assignments, such as deployments and TDY to help them gain a better understanding of the commitment they are considering. Overall, it was a great experience and I enjoyed meeting students from around the country.
Public Health Practice Award: Pharmaceutical Drug Disposal Campaign

I was invited to present the Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award at the University of Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. A crowd of about 150 fellow students, faculty, staff, family and friends were in attendance at the Annual Awards Ceremony.

The student who received the award was Mr. Brian Badgely, recognized for his excellent leadership in mobilizing pharmacists and student volunteers to organize 18 pharmaceutical drug disposal events throughout the Western New York area. Unwanted pharmaceutical drugs have shown to be a source of pollution of ground water, teenage drug abuse, poisoning in young children and misadventures in the elderly. Through his efforts, over 64,000 solid doses and 13,000 liquid milliliters of pharmaceutical controlled substance waste were collected and destroyed. The DEA informed the pharmacy school that the Western New York venue was #1 nationally in the amount of pharmaceutical waste collected and destroyed. Congratulations and thank you, Brian, for your contribution to our nation’s public health.

Gemelas Duo Presents to Oregon State Students

CDR Jim Gemelas and CAPT (ret) Michelle Gemelas presented to the Oregon State Pre-Pharmacy Society on April 6, 2011. The presentation provided an overview of the USPHS, pharmacy roles within the USPHS, and pharmacy opportunities within the IHS.

Allen and Yu visit Georgia Universities

LCDR Yon Yu visited the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy in Athens, Georgia to present the USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice award to Kyle Burcher, (Pharm.D cand. 2012) on 4/20/2011 for his contribution to public health.

CDR Chris Allen and LCDR Yon Yu held a 1 hour lunch & learn with a group of SNPhA members at the Mercer University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences on career opportunities in the PHS and CDC.

LCDR Middlekauff presents PHS Award

Stephanie Arnold, student at Palm Beach Atlantic University, Gregory School of Pharmacy received the Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award on April 12, 2011 for co-organizing the University’s Health Fair. In addition, she organized and implemented the first “HealthFUN” event with Urban Youth Impact in West Palm Beach, FL.

Meetings Section Leads

LCDR Timothy G. Langford, Pharm.D, BCPS, CDE
Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services
Chiloquin, OR 97624
Position:
Advanced Practice Pharmacist I - Assistant Chief Pharmacist
University Alma Mater:
Oregon State University/Oregon Health & Science University
Favorite movie: Return to Me

LCDR Renee Hill, Pharm.D, NCPS
Yakima Indian Health Center
Toppenish, WA 98948
Position:
Advanced Practice Clinical Pharmacist
University Alma Mater:
Howard University, College of Pharmacy
Favorite movie:
Coming to America
The Pharmacy Officer Highlight Section serves to inspire students to join the Commissioned Corps by highlighting the duties, inspirations, accomplishments and goals of current pharmacy officers. Featured in this first release of the rejuvenated UPOC newsletter is the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Pharmacy Chief Professional Officer (CPO), RADM Scott F. Giberson.

As CPO, RADM Giberson is responsible for advising the Office of the Surgeon General and the Department of Health and Human Services on the recruitment, assignment, deployment, retention, and career development of Public Health Service Pharmacists. RADM Giberson joined the USPHS in 1994 after graduating from Temple University with a B.S. in Pharmacy. He has served in roles as a Clinical Pharmacist, Chief Pharmacist, Senior Public Health Advisor, Senior Medical Program Officer, and HIV/AIDS Principal Consultant. He maintains dual licensure as a Pharmacist and Pharmacist Clinician and is a recognized leader and advocate in advanced pharmacy practice.

RADM shares his experiences and advice with us in this Officer Highlight.

What inspired you to join the Commissioned Corps?

In pharmacy school, I was able to deliver expanded clinical services for patients during a rotation with the Indian Health Service (IHS) in Gallup, New Mexico. I knew when I graduated from pharmacy school I wanted to practice in clinical pharmacy. During my rotation in Crownpoint, NM, I was also introduced to the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) which sparked my interest in joining the Commissioned Corps. I was impressed by the diversity of practice afforded by the PHS and the uniform camaraderie and responsibility of Commissioned Corps officers. I felt my most significant impact on patient care and the broader public health would be through the USPHS Commissioned Corps.

What is the biggest challenge you have encountered since joining the Corps?

The biggest challenge is not having enough hours in a day, days in a week and weeks in a year to fully embrace all the opportunities given to all of us within the PHS. In addition to ‘creating’ time to be engaged in all the opportunities, I strive to balance my work and family life. That said, I wish I could have a 15-hour work day with 15 hours of family time each day. But that just doesn’t seem to add up to 24 hours.

(Continued on page 5)

Pharmacy Officer Highlight Section Leads

CDR Catherine Chew received her Pharm.D. from the University of Maryland at Baltimore. Prior to joining the FDA, she worked at Johns Hopkins Hospital in the Pediatric Pharmacy of the Children’s Center.

CDR Chew is a team leader in FDA’s Division of Drug Information, which responds to inquiries from industry, healthcare professionals, and consumers from within the US and internationally. As the administrator of the FDA Drug Info listserv and Twitter, and as a writer and voice/face for audio and video podcasts, CDR Chew proactively disseminates the latest drug information from FDA. She serves on DDI’s Social Media team, lectures at various pharmacy conferences and universities, precepts fellows, students and residents, and is the Director of the FDA Regulatory Pharmaceutical Fellowship. (continued on page 5)
What is one piece of advice you would give to pharmacy students who are about to graduate?

Be passionate in what you do, maintain balance in your life (as this will help you succeed) and begin to build sincere relationships in every facet of life (work, home, friends, etc.).

What is your vision for the future of the Corps?

The USPHS Commissioned Corps would be the Nation’s most essential, visible and known ‘agent’ for public health. We serve in medically underserved areas and for vulnerable populations, in public health clinics, in academic settings, and in the face of disaster domestically or abroad, to reduce health disparities, assure health equity, prevent disease, and protect the health of our Nation. The Corps is a flexible, responsive cadre of officers embracing its diverse skill-sets with an ethos to serve and a collective expertise committed to assigned missions in public health, direct patient care, health research, health administration, and health promotion and disease prevention services. Along with our core values of leadership, service, integrity and excellence, we are committed to protect, promote and advance the health and safety of individuals, communities, Tribes, and the Nation.

What is your most rewarding USPHS professional experience?

I’ve been afforded many opportunities across my career, so to name one is a challenge. From serving medically underserved populations through direct patient care or serving as a team lead for international missions, it has been an incredible ride. On an individual level, I enjoy inspiring others to go above and beyond the call. To subsequently see their success is professionally and personally rewarding.

(From Newsletter Staff: Thank you, RADM Scott Giberson, for being an effective and dynamic Pharmacy CPO. We appreciate your hard work and representation of USPHS Pharmacists.)

Pharmacy Officer Highlight: RADM Scott Giberson (continued from pg 4)

Pharmacy Officer Highlight Section Leads

LCDR Courtney Suggs, born and raised in Cary, North Carolina, received a B.S. in Biology from Meredith College in Raleigh, NC. and a Pharm.D from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After graduation in 2004, she joined the USPHS and moved to Arizona where she completed a primary care pharmacy residency and served as a staff pharmacist at the Whiteriver Indian Health Service Hospital. After completing two years in AZ she transferred to the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, OK. At the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, she served as the pharmacy-based anticoagulation clinic manager and as residency program director. During that tour, she completed her MPH in Health Policy and Administration at the University of Oklahoma. In March 2011, she transferred to the FDA and joined the Pediatric and Maternal Health Staff as a Regulatory Project Manager.

LT Monica Reed began her career as a Commissioned Corps Pharmacy Officer in June 2010. She serves as a pharmacist stationed at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in the Division of Formulary and Benefit Operations. LT Reed holds a BS in Interdisciplinary Biology and Psychology from Loyola College in Maryland. After receiving her undergraduate degree LT Reed went on to receive a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from The University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. Her favorite movie is a classic from her childhood, “The Goonies.”
Now more than ever before as pharmacists we have choices. Academia, community, and clinical are just the tip of the iceberg! Pharmacists can tailor their career path to suit their professional goals by choosing from a diverse range of practice settings.

What does this mean for you as a student? You are faced with the daunting task of deciding what direction to go...I know you thought you had already made it over that hurdle when you decided to become a pharmacist. Well, you are almost to the finish line but you have a few more decisions to make.

In your quest to find the most rewarding career path you must acquire all the knowledge you can on the opportunities that await you, allowing you to make an informed confident decision. Through this section of the newsletter it is our goal to serve as your information outlet; a connection providing you with a network of United States Public Health Service commissioned corps pharmacy officers. These officers will provide you with a lifeline to your professional future, answering your questions concerning the many different roles of a pharmacist throughout the different agencies within PHS.

Students often have the same questions regarding Public Health Service. Therefore, we want to use this platform to expose those questions and to help unearth some of the mystery of being a pharmacist in the USPHS Commissioned Corps.

“No longer will we be the best kept secret of pharmacy but pharmacy’s most renowned treasure...”

If you have questions you would like to ask feel free to contact or submit your question(s) to either LT Tiffanie Myers or LT Ashlee Januszewicz.

“...we want to use this platform to expose those questions and to help unearth some of the mystery of being a pharmacist in the USPHS Commissioned Corps.”

“...we want to use this platform to expose those questions and to help unearth some of the mystery of being a pharmacist in the USPHS Commissioned Corps.”

Student Affairs Section Leads

LT Tiffanie L. Myers is a Senior Assistant Pharmacist at the Federal Transfer Center in Oklahoma City for the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). She graduated from the University Of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College Of Pharmacy in 2004. After graduation, LT Myers took her first job as a pharmacist at an independent pharmacy in the U.S. Virgin Islands. She returned to Oklahoma and worked retail pharmacy. After four years of working retail pharmacy she felt unsatisfied and disappointed in her chosen career path. She was invited to go on a tour of a prison pharmacy and, ironically, behind those prison walls, a land of opportunity awaited her as a pharmacist. She applied for a job with the BOP and the USPHS the same day she toured the facility. Currently, she is a part of an elite group of health care professionals that promote the health and safety of our nation, where opportunities for professional training and advancement are limitless. She has a job she enjoys and the sign-on bonus helped pay down her student loans! LT Myers is a proud USPHS pharmacist.
Recruitment Helpful Hints: Be Prepared – Take Time to Observe the Proper Uniform Regulations

You’ve signed up to assist at the local University’s career day booth. You’ve printed out several materials from the PharmPAC’s Recruitment Section website. You’ve studied up on the latest Pharmacy’s Best Kept Secret document. You’re now prepared to go out and represent the USPHS and share your passion for your job with others. But wait…you’ve spent so much time preparing for the event, you forgot to take that one final review of your uniform to ensure every detail (from the placement of your insignia and devices to the accessories you carry) fits with the uniform standards of the Corps.

...But wait...you’ve spent so much time preparing for the event, you forgot to take that one final review of your uniform....

One of the most important aspects of representing the USPHS at various recruitment fairs, awards ceremonies, and other occasions is proper wear of the uniform. However, with all of the complaints voiced to our section regarding lack of attention to uniform regulations at recruitment activities, we have to ask, “Are we too complacent about the importance of uniforms at these events?” If we approach this topic from a preparedness viewpoint, I think most of us understand the importance of being prepared in the workplace.

Common Uniform Pitfalls

Mismatched components.
The garrison cap and belt material should match that of the uniform. Use the large metal insignia on jacket and raincoat and use the miniature device on the garrison cap and collar.

Gig lines not aligned properly.
The shirt border, trouser zipper line, and curved buckle edge must fall in a straight line.

Improper placement of insignia.
“Dragging anchor” is a term that describes how USPHS insignia must have anchor pointing forward and not dragging backwards. You may also hear the phrases “rank on your right” and “ribbons over your heart” to help describe placement of these. Also be aware the name tag is placed over the right breast (parallel to ribbons).

Not cleaning and caring for your uniform.
The uniform should be worn neatly, free of wrinkles and stains. Shoes and belt buckle polished. As the uniform gets older, it might be difficult to keep up with this standard and you should consider replacing components that become frayed, worn, or discolored.

Accessories do not fit uniform regulations.
Coat, gloves, handbags, and umbrellas must all be black and fit uniform specifications.

(Continued on page 8)

Student Affairs Section Leads

LT Ashlee Janusziewicz is a Regulatory Health Education Specialist for the Division of Training and Development, Office of Executive Programs, Food and Drug Administration in Silver Spring, MD. In this position, LT Janusziewicz is a member of the continuing education team and is primarily responsible for managing advanced training programs for FDA staff.

LT Janusziewicz graduated from Wilkes University – Nesbitt College of Pharmacy with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2008. She is a licensed pharmacist in the state of Pennsylvania.

Favorite Movie: I have so many, but always love the classic, Father of the Bride.
Grooming needs improvement.

Although you aren’t likely to see an officer in blatant violation of grooming standards, many of us are guilty when it comes to adhering to them completely. Both male and female officers should ensure their hair and jewelry are kept within the allowances established.

Now that you’re aware of some common mistakes with regard to wearing the uniform, here are some tips that can help you correct them.

1. Get feedback from a fellow officer.
2. If several officers are attending the same event, consider setting up a quick uniform inspection station beforehand.
3. Utilize the excellent resources available online for this topic listed on page 9 in the Useful Info and Resource Links Section.

Thank you to all pharmacy officers who take the time to recruit! We have heard lots of positive comments. If you have any ideas for this section please contact us.

Recruitment Helpful Hints Section Leads

**LCDR Lori Hall**

began her career with US Public Health Service in 2002, shortly after earning her Pharm.D from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She began as a Senior Staff Pharmacist with the Indian Health Service in Parker, Arizona, where she served Native American Indian Tribes residing along the Colorado River. She established this service unit’s first pharmacist-managed anticoagulation clinic. In 2005, she transferred to the CDC in Atlanta, GA. LCDR Hall worked with other CDC pharmacists to establish the CDC Pharmacy Student Experience Program in 2008. For many years, she participated with JOAG’s Communications and Publications Committee, and brings to this workgroup her previous experience as editor of “The JOAG Journal”. She was also active with the former Associate Recruiter Program and currently serves as a UPOC for her alma mater, UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, and the nearby Mercer University School of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

**LT Honeylit Cueco**

was commissioned in June 2010 following her graduation from Mercer University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Atlanta, Georgia. Her first duty station is with the IHS at Chinle Indian Hospital in Chinle, Arizona. Currently, she is a Senior Assistant Pharmacist, working in the ambulatory clinic and inpatient pharmacy. Her favorite movie is Babette’s Feast.
Useful Info and Resource Links

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Accredited Colleges of Pharmacy  
http://www.acpe-accredit.org/students/programs.asp

Best Kept Secrets  

Facebook  
www.facebook.com/USPHSPharmacists

IHS Residency Information  
http://www.ihs.gov/medicalprograms/pharmacy/resident/

Uniform Help Desk Email  
www.phsccuniform@hhs.gov

Uniform Information  

UPOC for each university  

USPHS PharmPAC Website  
http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy/

USPHS Pharmacist Listservs  

USPHS  
http://usphs.gov

Resource Links Section Leads

**CDR G. "Brent" Hobbs** is stationed at Whiteriver, AZ IHS Hospital and works as a clinical pharmacist.

Hobbies: Time with family, Being Outdoors, Reading, and Learning.

Sports: Tennis and Swimming

Family: I am married and have 4 children 10, 8, 6, 4 years old.

Alma Mater: University of Colorado School of Pharmacy

**LT Josh Wireman** received his Pharm.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. He joined the PHS Commissioned Corps in 2008. LT Wireman currently works for Southcentral Foundation’s Rural Anchorage Service Unit in Anchorage, AK and is responsible for serving over 30 remote villages, many of which are accessible by only boat or airplane. Prior to working at Southcentral Foundation LT Wireman served at the Winslow Indian Health Care Center in Winslow, AZ.

Favorite Movie: Old School
United States Public Health Service
Protecting, Promoting, and Advancing the health and safety of our Nation.

CORE VALUES

Leadership
Provides vision and purpose in public health through inspiration, dedication, and loyalty.

Service
Demonstrates a commitment to public health through compassionate actions and stewardship of time, resources, and talents

Integrity
Exemplifies uncompromising ethical conduct and maintains the highest standards of responsibility and accountability

Excellence
Exhibits superior performance and continues improvement in knowledge and expertise

We want your submission of articles and pictures! Please send to LCDR Selena Ready and she will forward them to the appropriate section leads!

Getting the Word Out About the Newsletter

Wouldn't it be awesome if we could hear, “I have heard of USPHS pharmacists and their work. Can you explain how I could become part of such a great pharmacy public health force?” Well, we want to make that happen!

The purpose of our section development is to market our UPOC Newsletter to the student pharmacists, pharmacy school staff and faculty, which will help them understand what USPHS Pharmacy represents. Thus, we plan to collaborate with other PHS Officer volunteers, the UPOC Workgroup, who will assist us in advertising and distributing the newsletter. We developed a “form” e-mail for the UPOC volunteers to distribute to UPOCs and a letter to the University contact, which will get the word out, so that the USPHS pharmacy’s best kept secret is no longer a secret! We look forward to great success in achieving our marketing goals!

Newsletter Marketing Section Leads

LCDR Jerry Zee, Pharm.D
Service Unit: Department of Justice
Metropolitan Correctional Center of New York, New York, NY
Position: Senior Pharmacist
University Alma Mater: Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Favorite Movie: Lord of the Rings

LCDR Victoria Ferretti-Aceto, Pharm.D, RPh
Service Unit: FDA, Silver Spring, MD, Division of Advisory Committee and Consultant Management, OEP, CDER
Position: Public Health Analyst
University Alma Mater: Howard University
Favorite Movie: Men in Black

CDR Christina Thompson, Pharm.D
Service Unit: FDA, Silver Spring, MD
Division of Advisory Committee and Consultant Management, OEP, CDER
Position: Public Health Analyst
University Alma Mater: University of Oklahoma
Favorite Movie: Transformers