



**Scientist Professional Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, 7 June 2016
1200–1300 (EDT)**

Toll-Free Number: 1-866-782-0573
Pass code: 2214354

Chief Scientist Officer and 2015/2016 SciPAC Voting Members and Liaisons

Rank	Name	Role	Present
Voting Members, Executive Board			
CAPT	Sanders, Martin	Chief Scientist Officer	Yes
CAPT	Murphy, Matthew	Chair	Yes
CDR	Adjemian, Jennifer	Vice Chair; Rules & Membership Chair	Yes
LCDR	Bobo, Qiao	Executive Secretary	Yes
CDR	Breiding, Matthew	COF Liaison	Yes
Voting Members			
CDR	Bodart, Jennifer	Career Development Subcommittee Co-Chair	Yes
LCDR	Cole, Jessica	Mentoring Subcommittee Chair	Yes
CDR	Frasca, Dominic	Policy Review Subcommittee Chair	Yes
CDR	Goodie, Jeffrey	Science Subcommittee Chair	Yes
LCDR	Green, Seth	Category Day Subcommittee Co-Chair	Excused
CAPT	Novak, Ryan	Science Subcommittee Co-Chair	Yes
LCDR	Purfield, Anne	Recruitment, Retention & Readiness Subcommittee Chair	Yes
CAPT	Robbins, Nisha		?
CDR	Rodgers, Loren	Visibility Subcommittee Chair	Excused
CDR	Satterfield, William	Awards Subcommittee Co-Chair	?
CDR	Smith, Michael	Career Development Subcommittee Chair	Yes
CDR	Sram, Jacqueline	Website Subcommittee Chair	Yes
CDR	Thomas, Jennifer	Mentoring Subcommittee Co-Chair	Excused
CDR	Toblin, Robin	Category Day Subcommittee Chair	Yes
Dr.	Ulin, Brigitte	Civilian Representative	Yes
CDR	Wally, Jeremy	Awards Subcommittee Chair	Yes
Non-voting Liaisons			
CDR	Pauli, Ingrid	PSYPAG Liaison	Yes
CAPT	Moffett, Daphne	SciPAC Historian	No
CAPT	Elson, Diana	COA Liaison	Yes
LCDR	Shumate, Alice	JOAG Liaison	Excused
LCDR	Zhou, Eric	MOLC Liaison	Yes

Participation by Non-voting Scientist Officers

Rank	Participant	Agency	Present
CAPT	Adekoya, Nelson	CDC	Yes
CAPT	Benally, Christine J.	IHS	Yes
CAPT	Blanck, Heidi	CDC	Yes
CAPT	Hu, Sally	NIH	Yes
CAPT	Krauthamer, Victor	FDA	Yes
CAPT	Murry, Michael	BOP	Yes
CAPT	Nelle, Timothy	FDA	Yes
CAPT	Thoroughman, Doug	CDC	Yes
CDR	Bennett, Marco	FDA	Yes
CDR	Bhagwat, Aditya	DoD	Yes
CDR	Boehmer, Tegan	CDC	Yes
CDR	Carroll, Dianna D.	CDC	Yes
CDR	Chu, Dan-My T.	FDA	Yes
CDR	Clayton, Mark	DoD	Yes
CDR	France, Anne Marie	CDC	Yes
CDR	Geissler, Aimee	CDC	Yes
CDR	Harcourt, Brian	CDC	Yes
CDR	Kenney, James	FDA	Yes
CDR	Maddox, Charlene	NIH	Yes
CDR	McCollum, Andrea	CDC	Yes
CDR	Newland, Matthew	HRSA	Yes
CDR	Powell, Tracy	HHS	Yes
CDR	Sancho, Alfredo	FDA	Yes
CDR	Sauber-Schatz, Erin K.	CDC	Yes
CDR	Tate, Jacqueline	CDC	Yes
CDR	Yip, Fuyuen	CDC	Yes
CDR	Zhang, Yi	FDA	Yes
LCDR	Barbour, Kamil	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Bjork, Adam	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Blessington, Tyann	FDA	Yes
LCDR	Bonzagni, Neil	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Cunningham, Timothy	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Demissie, Zewditu	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Gaines, Joanna	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Garnett, Theodore	FDA	Yes
LCDR	Halldin, Cara	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Henderson, Tamara	FDA	Yes
LCDR	Houston, Keisha	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Irvin-Barnwell, Elizabeth	ATSDR	Yes
LCDR	Ko, Jean	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Miller, Leigh Ann	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Miller, Mark	EPA	Yes
LCDR	Odom, Erika	CDC	Yes
LCDR	O'Neill, Eduardo	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Parker, Erin	CDC	Yes

Rank	Participant	Agency	Present
LCDR	Parks Brown, Sharyn	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Perez, Cesar	FDA	Yes
LCDR	Perrine, Cria Gregory	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Rossiter, Lana	FDA	Yes
LCDR	Sandhu, Sukhminder	FDA	Yes
LCDR	Scheckelhoff, Mark	DHS	Yes
LCDR	Schwitters, Amee	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Spikes, Pilgrim	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Steele, Matthew	FDA	Yes
LCDR	Steffen, Scott	FDA	Yes
LCDR	Tyus, Nadra	HRSA	Yes
LCDR	Walters, Matthew	FDA	Yes
LCDR	Wilken, Jason	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Yard, Ellen	CDC	Yes
LCDR	Zucco, Julia	CMS	Yes
LT	Benbassat, Danny	SAMHSA	Yes
LT	Bowen, Virginia	CDC	Yes
LT	Brown, Jorielle	SAMHSA	Yes
LT	Francia, Charlotte	BOP	Yes
LT	Goodwin, Bradley Patrick	CDC	Yes
LT	Hickey, Andrew	OHA	Yes
LT	Hoots, Brooke	CDC	Yes
LT	Hudson, Gwendolyn	FDA	Yes
LT	Iturriaga, Luis	DHS	Yes
LT	Jarvis-Durham, Lisa	CMS	Yes
LT	Leshin, Jonathan	EPA	Yes
LT	Mathew, Shiny	FDA	Yes
LT	Mells, Jamie	CDC	Yes
LT	Mpofu (Johnson), Jonetta	CDC	Yes
LT	Rivera Rosado, Leslie	FDA	Yes
LT	Wilson-Frederick, Shondelle	HHS	Yes
LT	Wright, Marcienne	ASPR	Yes

- 1) **Call to Order and Welcome:** CDR Matthew Murphy
 - Email LCDR Qiao Bobo (Qiao.Bobo@fda.hhs.gov) for roll call on the day of the call.
 - Mute your phones when not speaking (press *6 if you do not have a mute button).
 - Do not place the conference call line on hold.

- 2) **Report from the CPO:** CAPT Martin Sanders
 - The chair of the CPO board will be RADM Randall Gardner
 - CPOs will undertake issues such as appointment standards, medical waiver policy and deployment process transparency to bring processes up to speed.
 - UC for USPHS Symposium include those who volunteered to help and speakers
 - DCCPR is shooting to release promotion results in mid-late June

- 3) **Report from the Chair:** CDR Matthew Murphy
 - SCIPAC wants to extend their appreciation for the hard work and effort of CDR Toblin, LCDR Green, and the entire Category Day Subcommittee for a successful SciPAC Category Day at the 2016 USPHS Symposium. We would also like to thank all presenters and speakers who represented SciPAC throughout the Symposium schedule.
 - The eOPF will be moving from the traditional fax line to an online scanning option this year. That is good news for those of us with 20-year old fax machines that have seen better days.
 - We would like to thank LCDR Irwin-Barnwell for her informational presentation on the new APFT guidelines and to CDR Steele for organizing the presentation.
 - During July's call, we have another special presenter: Col Currie will speak to us about COA goals and activities.

- 4) **Report from Vice Chair:** CDR Jennifer Adjemian
 - No updates to report

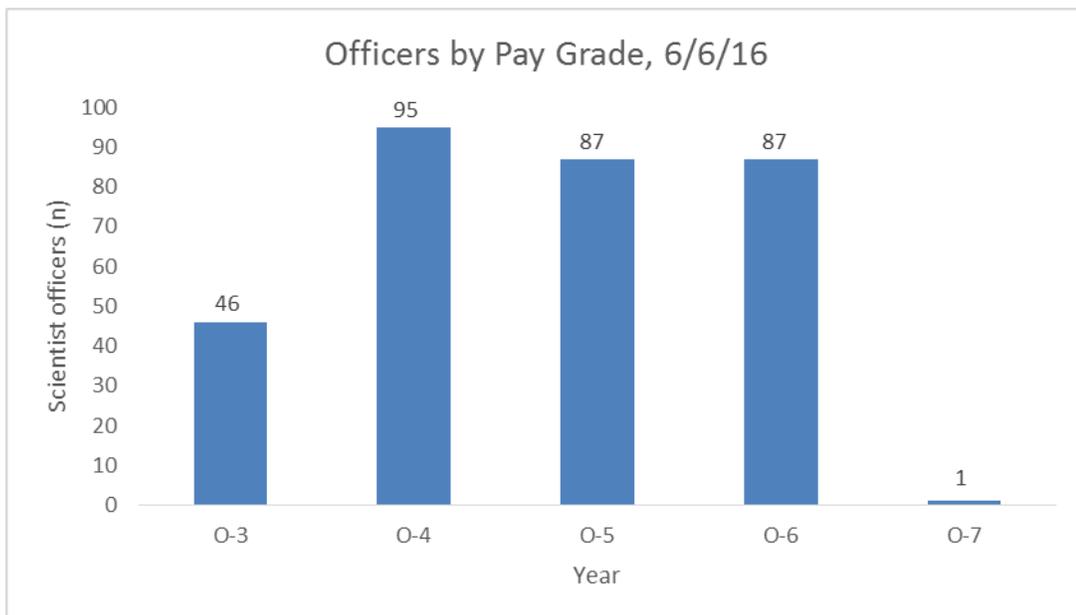
- 5) **Executive Secretary Report:** LCDR Qiao Bobo
 - We had 83 Scientist Officers attend last month's SciPAC meeting. The attendance is low possibly because of the EIS conference during that time.
 - If you have any information on events or relevant messages that you wish to distribute to the SciPAC listserv, please email it to me along with any important details to include in the body of the email (qiao.bobo@fda.hhs.gov).
 - For today's call, please remember to email me your attendance using the subject line: "SciPAC Monthly Meeting Attendance".
 - If you are providing a report on today's call, please also remember to email me a copy for the meeting minutes.
 - Lastly, we have a conference line that is available to reserve for SciPAC-related meetings. If interested, please email me with your requested dates and times.

- 6) **COF Liaison Report:** CDR Matt Breiding
 - Our SciPAC balance is \$1005.16.

- 7) **Subcommittee Reports**
 - a) **Awards:** CDR Jeremy Wally; Co-Chair: CDR Tony Satterfield
 - The SciPAC Awards Subcommittee has provided the bios and photos for all of the award winners to the SciPAC Website Subcommittee for posting on the SciPAC website.

- b) Career Development:** CDR Michael Smith; Co-Chairs: CDR Jennifer Bodart, LCDR Zewditu Demissie
- OBC:
 - Four scientists are scheduled to attend OBC in June:
 - LT Alaine Knipes, (CDC, Atlanta, GA)
 - LT Iman Martin, (CDC, Baltimore, MD)
 - LT Julie O'Donnell, (CDC, Rockville, MD)
 - LT Colleen Scott, (CDC, Atlanta, GA)
 - The Career Development subcommittee is in need of volunteers to attend the OBC open house and graduation events. Interested DC area officers can contact LCDR Lana Rossiter for additional information (лана.rossiter@fda.hhs.gov).
 - Training workgroup:
 - There will be a presentation on the new APFT from LCDR Elizabeth Irvin-Barnwell, Community Studies Team Lead, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry after the SciPAC call today.
- c) Category Day:** CDR Robin Toblin; Co-Chair: LCDR Seth Green
- Category Day was a great success. We had over 40 officers attend and anecdotal evidence suggests that people had a great time and found the day useful.
 - People seemed to appreciate the variety of new offerings such as mentoring, networking, and a state-of-the science talk
 - Mini golf competition was also fierce with LCDR Alice Shumate emerging as the winner
 - Please fill out our survey by 15 July 2016 to help us evaluate this year's category day and improve next year's: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FR8C5DG>
 - Next year's conference will be in Chattanooga, TN from 5-8 June 2017
- d) Mentoring:** LCDR Jessica Cole; Co-Chair: CDR Jennie Thomas
- One new match was made in May and there is still one pending mentee with unique circumstances that we hope to match soon. If you are looking for a mentor or interested in becoming a mentor please email CDR Thomas (fsu8@cdc.gov) or LCDR Cole (Jessica.Cole@fda.hhs.gov). As a reminder, existing mentoring agreements expire annually and should be renewed to ensure the mentors receive a letter of appreciation. You can find the renewal form on the mentoring page <http://usphs-scientist.org/subcommittees/mentoring/> of the SciPAC website. Also on the website are the Mentoring Guidebook, a reference guide, and application forms.
 - The promotion panels are completed for all recently promoted O5 officers with a total of 22 interviewed officers and 3 written responses. The group is currently evaluating the results and will generate a white paper to summarize the data. On first glance, early promotion preparation seems to be strongly associated with success, while other indicators were variable. Once the data are analyzed and shared with leadership the information will be provided to mentors to assist them in counseling mentees. The information will also be shared with the SciPAC at-large community. Target for completion is the end of the operational year.
 - Two mentoring events were held at Category Day in Oklahoma City and were a success. The Tuesday 0700 session was sparsely attended but mentees expressed interest in continuing the event next year. The Category Day round top discussions were well attended but the survey results are not available yet to evaluate the event's success. Ad-hoc feedback indicated the event was well received.

- e) **Policy Review:** CDR Dominic Frasca; Co-Chair: CDR Adrienne Goodrich-Doctor
 - o During the July 2016 SCIPAC call, COA's COL Jim Currie will give a short presentation on policy initiatives facing the Corps.
- f) **Recruitment, Retention & Readiness (RRR):** LCDR Anne Purfield; Co-Chair: CDR Anne Marie France
 - o Total Number of Officers in Corps: 6558
 - o Number of Scientist Officers: 316 (4.8%)
 - o Separations, year to date: 9
 - O-3 2
 - O-4 1
 - O-5 1
 - O-6 4
 - O-7 1
 - Grand Total 9
 - o New CAD, year to date: 5



- o Scientist officers meeting basic readiness standards: 220 (68%); 108 not qualified and not exempt
- o Range for all categories: 58% (vet) to 77% (dentists)
Data sources: DCCPR Readiness Report sent May 2016, Blue Book 6/6/16

Updates

- o Recruitment
 - LT Danny Benbassat continues to work with DCCPR, Agency Liaisons, and boarded applicants to assist applicants in finding positions. He has created a Google Groups forum where potential employers can review applicant information, including CVs. On a monthly basis, he checks in with each of the boarded applicants. Two boarded applicants need to find positions by the end of June.
 - 11 Scientist officers have participated in the last three OBC courses this year. Eight of 11 entered Corps through EIS; 2 through open enrollment period and one converted from a civil servant position.

	OBC 86	OBC 87	OBC 88	Total
EIS	2	5	1	8
Open Enrollment	1	1		2
Federal Conversion		1		1
Total	3	7	1	11

- Retention
 - LTs Sharoda Dasgupta and Hilda Razzaghi are creating a resource to help incoming EIS Scientist officers decide whether they want to join Corps and to assist Scientist officers at the end of the 2-year EIS fellowship determine if they want to retain their Commission.
 - Data from the State of the Scientists survey and probability modeling were presented at COA Symposium. CDR Anne Marie France and LCDR Alice Shumate will continue to perform analyses on the survey data and refine the model as more data become available.
- Healthy Scientists
 - The Healthy Scientists bulletin was released last month.

g) Rules and Membership: CDR Jennifer Adjemian; Co-Chair: CDR Sara Vagi

- This past month the Rules and Membership subcommittee accepted nominations for SciPAC voting membership, the deadline for which was 3 June 2016. Again, this is to serve a three year term as a SciPAC voting member beginning on September 1st, the start of the new SciPAC calendar year. Thank you to everyone who submitted a nomination package. We received 29 nominations for 6 available positions. Over the next several weeks we will review all complete nomination packages received, and a list of finalists will be generated and submitted to the CPO, and ultimately to the OSG for final approval. Only once approval is obtained by the OSG will all nominees be notified of their status.

h) Science: CDR Jeffrey Goodie; Co-Chair: CAPT Ryan Novak

- Journal Club Team (LCDRs Tyus and Wilken)
 - The next call will be 28 June 2016 Journal Club call will address the review article titled “The Course of Mental Health Disorders After a Disaster: Predictors and Comorbidity.”
 - Our Subject Matter Expert will be LCDR Luz Rivera from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
 - An announcement of this presentation and a PDF of the article will be distributed before the presentation.
 - Details: To Join the Journal Club call, go to: <https://fda.webex.com/fda/j.php?MTID=mec394b0ca5d8fa1d0e03b26b2db5e4eb>
 - Toll-Free-Number: 1-855-828-1770 Participant Passcode: 815 438 176
 - POC: Please contact LCDRs Cesar Perez (cesar.perez@fda.hhs.gov), Nadra Tyus (ntyus@hrsa.gov), or Jason Wilken (Jason.Wilken@cdph.ca.gov) if you have any questions about the SciPAC Journal Club.
- NPS team
 - The draft of the National Prevention Strategy commentary for American Journal of Public Health has been drafted and is being sent to leadership for approval.
 - The article is titled: “Improving Health through the National Prevention Strategy: Contributions of U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Scientist Officers”

- Biography and Publications Team
 - Send Completed 2014 and 2015 work by emailing any publications, books or book chapters, government reports and presentations (from any venue including conferences, media, meetings, etc.) to scipac.bibliography@gmail.com with “2014-15 bibliography submission” in the subject line.
 - 2010-2013 bibliographies at <http://usphs-scientist.org/bibliography/>
 - Working on making corrections
 - Email: scipac.bibliography@gmail.com with “Bibliography edit requested” in the subject line.
 - Working to enter information for the 2014 bibliography
 - Fewer entries than expected submitted

i) Visibility: CDR Loren Rodgers; Co-Chairs: LCDR Kamil Barbour and LCDR John Pesce

- The Scientist Newsletter Team is pleased to share the spring edition of The Scientist Officer! This was just distributed to all Scientists about one hour ago. The Scientist Officer Newsletter is looking for submissions in the form of an articles (e.g., symposium articles), announcements, family or social events, and/or photos to The Scientist Officer Newsletter for the Summer Issue. The Submission deadline for the summer 2016 issue is June 21.
- For PHS Officers interested in presenting in one of the oldest and most prestigious Uniformed Service conferences in the United States, The 2016 AMSUS Annual Continuing Education Meeting will be held at the Gaylord Hotel, National Harbor, MD, 29 November – 2 December 2016. The deadline for Poster Submission is Friday, 8 July 2016, 11:59pm ET. A final reminder email was sent out on 3 June 2016, which contains more information about the process.
- There will be scientist social in DC at Matchbox in Rockville on 9 June 2016. LCDR Neil Bonzagni is the POC for this event.
- Scientists from Atlanta met for a social on 11 May 2016, which was trivia night at the Mellow Mushroom. I am happy to report that we finished first in the trivia competition.

j) Website: CDR Jacqueline Sram; Co-Chair: LCDR Jason Wilken

- Congratulations to Scientist officers graduating from OBC 86. Their photo has been added to the Website, <https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/scientist/obc-graduates.aspx>.
- We have posted four of the Category Day presentation files received. Please visit the site to obtain copies, <https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/scientist/2016categoryday.aspx>.
- We posted the SciPAC May meeting minutes but that will be published on the production site in the next week.
- All links on the website have now been fixed. We ask that any Scientist officer who finds a mistake, formatting error, or broken link, to please inform CDR Jacqueline Sram (Jacqueline.Sram@fda.hhs.gov) or LCDR Jason Wilken (jason.wilken@cdph.ca.gov).
- The new website is current and we are setting up the bios for our Senior Scientist and Mentor of the Year awardees. We encourage all the subcommittees to submit their information for posting. Be aware that postings will now take 2-3 weeks. In addition to reviewing and editing documents to make them section 508 compliant, the actual push into the production site is performed by a separate group in the OSG/Division for Systems Integration (DSI). Please contact CDR Sram or LCDR Wilken if you have any questions.

8) Liaison Reports

- COA: CAPT Diana Elson

- COL Jim Currie is invited to present to SciPAC during the 5 July 2016 meeting; he will discuss the COA legislative and policy agenda
- JOAG: LCDR Alice Shumate
 - JOAG General Meeting at USPHS Symposium was very well attended, and included remarks from the Surgeon General, RADM Trent-Adams, and the CPOs, including CAPT Sanders. We really appreciated their interest in and enthusiasm for junior officers.
 - Thanks also to everyone who stopped by and/or helped with our career enhancement booth and uniform inspection booth, bought JOAG merchandise, and to those who participated in the JOAG morning walk at Symposium.
 - The Office of the Surgeon General recently surveyed junior officers on their concerns about the Corps and suggestions for improvements or changes they'd like to see. Thanks to everyone who participated; JOAG has received results from the OSG and is looking at what we can do to help address gaps and concerns.
 - Our next Journeyman Speaker Series event will be 8 July 2016 at 1300 Eastern. It will be the first in a series of 3 JSS presentations on PHS deployment teams. July's presentation is: PHS Tier I & II Deployment Teams: Highlighting Roles of Each & Opportunities for Junior Officers to Get Involved Part I: NIST-B, APHT-2, and CAP-3. Conference Dial in: 1-302-202-1106; Conference Passcode: 825385.
- PSYPAG: CDR Ingrid B. Pauli
 - Last meeting was held on 1 June 2016.
 - Guest Speaker was CDR Jose Gomez, who spoke about his role as the only PHS psychologist assigned to the Coast Guard. His position is a non-clinical one, that includes providing quality oversight of the Behavioral Health services provided "in the field."
 - Only 6 psychologists at Category Day this year. Low turnout may have been a combination of factors, to include, location not being a hub for PHS officers, lack of funding by Agencies, and the absence of CEs for psychologists.
 - PsyPAG Strategic Survey, a few themes:
 - Respondents were overwhelmingly supportive of all psychologists being moved to one category (either Scientist or HSO), and supportive of the forming of a separate Mental Health category.
 - 35% of respondents indicated that they were American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) certified. This certification is not a requirement, but a mark of excellence. Only <5% of psychologists nationally are ABPP certified. The fact that 35% of our respondents are ABPP certified is a testament to the professionalism of our Officers.
 - 85% of respondents said that they learned about the PHS from a colleague
 - PsyPAG Newsletter - 2nd issue will be distributed at the end of June or the beginning of July.
 - PsyPAG motto - we have gathered submissions for the PsyPAG motto and will be sending out a Survey Monkey this month for members to vote.
 - PsyPAG Facebook page is now active. Search USPHS PsyPAG to join.
 - PsyPAG website is now operational. Check us out: <https://ccmis.usphs.gov/osg/hso/pags-psypag.aspx>.

9) Other Business, Questions, Comments

- Minority Officers Liaison Council (MOLC): LCDR Eric Zhou

- The 2016 Minority Officers Liaison Council (MOLC) held its monthly meeting on 24 May 2016. The meeting was very brief due to the seminar, the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care (the National CLAS Standards) presentation with intro by VADM Vivek Murthy, Surgeon General and Dr. J. Nadine Gracia, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health and the Director for the Office of Minority Health. The MOLC leadership congratulated on all team members on the success of holding the 2016 MOLC Awards Ceremony and the MOLC booth during the 2016 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium.

10) LCDR Elizabeth Irvin-Barnwell, APFT Presentation (Slides Distributed via SciPAC listserv)

11) Closing Remarks: CDR Matthew Murphy

- Our next SciPAC call will be 5 July 2016.

NOTE: Next meeting **Tuesday, 5 July 2016 @ 1200–1300 EDT**