



Scientist Professional Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, June 1, 2010
1100 – 1300 (Eastern Time)**

Toll Free Numbers: USA 1-877-691-9937
Participant Passcode: 4549026

Participants

SciPAC Executive Subcommittee 2009/10 Voting Members

Rank	Name	Role	X, if present
CAPT	Sharon Williams-Fleetwood	CPO	X
CDR	Diana Bensyl	Chair	X
LCDR	Matthew Newland	Vice Chair/ Rules and Membership	X
CDR	Timothy Nelle	Secretary	X
LCDR	Sally Hu	Awards/COF Liaison	X
CDR	Rachel Avchen	Ex-Officio	X
CAPT	Martin Sanders	Awards Co-Chair	
CDR	Karon Abe	Career Development	excused
LCDR	Tegan Boehmer	Category Day	X
CDR	Daphne Moffett	Historian	
CDR	Boris Aponte	Mentoring	X
LCDR	Wei Guo	Policy Review	X
CAPT	Michael Murry	Recruitment, Retention & Readiness/PSYPAG Liaison	X
LCDR	Paul Seo	Recruitment, Retention and Readiness Co-Chair	excused
LCDR	Yi Zhang	Science	X
CAPT	Christine Benally	Visibility	X
LCDR	James Kenney	Visibility Co-Chair	X
CDR	Danice Eaton	Website	X
LCDR	Judy Facey	Billets and Direct Access Liaison	X
CDR	Sara Newman	COA Liaison	X
CDR	Maleeka Glover		
Dr.	Monique Mansoura	Civilian Service Liaison	

Non-voting Members

Non-voting Scientist Participants

Participant	Agency
CAPT Nelson Adekoya	CDC
CAPT Jon Daugherty	FDA
CAPT Joseph Despins	FDA
CAPT John Hayes	IHS
CAPT Thomas Hendricks	FDA
CAPT Theresa Lawrence	HHS
CAPT Mehran Massoudi	CDC
CDR William Albrecht	EPA
CDR Heidi Blanck	CDC
CDR Laura Draski	HHS
CDR Maleeka Glover	CDC
CDR Mark Methner	CDC
CDR Nisha Robbins	CDC
CDR Steven Sparenborg	NIH
CDR David Thompson	DOD
LCDR Robert Belde	DIHS
LCDR Marco Bennett	FDA
LCDR Aditya Bhagwat	DOD
LCDR Renee Calanan	CDC
LCDR Mark Clayton	EPA
LCDR Minglei Cui	FDA
LCDR Bryan Davidson	DOD
LCDR Deborah Dee	CDC
LCDR Lela Demby	BOP
LCDR Anne Dobmeyer	DOD
LCDR Laura Draski	HHS
LCDR Nicole Frazer	DOD
LCDR David Hess	DOD
LCDR Ingrid Pauli	DOD
LCDR Henraya McGruder	CDC
LCDR Matthew Murphy	CDC
LCDR Rick Schobitz	DOD
LCDR Michael Smith	FDA
LCDR David Skanchy	FDA
LCDR Sue Sloop	CDC
LCDR Scott Steffen	FDA
LCDR Robin Toblin	BOP
LCDR Jeremy Wally	FDA
LCDR Fei Xu	FDA
LT Jennifer Adjemian	BOP
LT Jennifer Bodart	DOD
LT Jessica Cole	FDA
LT James Colborn	CDC
LT Theodore Garnett	FDA
LT Jeffrey Goodie	USUHS
LT Ashleigh May	CDC

LT Mark Miller	EPA
LT Rashid Njai	CDC
LT Loren Rogers	FDA
LT Charlene Sydnor	NIH
LT Sara Vagi	CDC

1) Call to Order and Welcome, CDR Diana Bensyl

EMAIL: timothy.nelle@fda.hhs.gov for roll call

2) Report from the CPO, CAPT Williams-Fleetwood

- Thanks to everyone for making our Category Day at the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium an exceptional, well attended event. In addition to outstanding presentations demonstrating our Scientist's contributions to national and international public health, our guest speaker Dr. Novotny (Retired RADM USPHS officer) presented an interesting environmental case for banning cigarette butt waste. VADM Regina Benjamin attended, shared a few inspiring words, presented Scientist awards, and joined the category for a group photo. We also had a great Meet and Greet/Career Counseling session on the morning of May 25 which allowed officers to mingle, as well as discuss their specific issues/questions on deployments, promotion benchmarks and awards. Again, thanks to all that participated.
- Promotion results should be available soon.
- The Corps is awaiting delegation authority for CADs. At this time, the top priority will be given to officers that were extended employment offers for appointment and calls-to-active duty in the Reserve Corps with an appointment date subsequent to March 23 and those selected as 2010 COSTEPs. More details will be provided when available.
- In the June newsletter, the 'Message from the CPO' will include mention of the need for the category to do some strategic thinking about our strengths and weaknesses, short and long term goals, and steps necessary to meet those goals. Please start thinking about our category's strategic directions and look for opportunities to provide input as we move forward.

3) Report from the Chair, CDR Diana Bensyl

- Category Day was a big success. VADM Benjamin gave us her priorities as Surgeon General. They included childhood obesity and prevention. She hopes to spend more time with each category at next year's COF meeting.
- Calls to active duty (CAD) should resume soon. Currently, the priority is to process CADs that occurred prior to March 23. Next will be CADs after that date. Leadership requests that new offers not be made until the new process for bringing on officers has been approved by DHHS.

4) Report from the Vice Chair, LCDR Matthew Newland

- 2010 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium, San Diego
 - This was the best USPHS conference and Category Day I've attended with nearly 1000 officers in attendance.
 - The ASH (Dr. Howard Koh) and the SG (VADM Regina Benjamin) were both in attendance, gave presentations, and held a town-hall style meeting with participants.
 - The SG also recognized all category awardees on Category Day.
 - Category Day included outstanding presentations from Scientists as well as a panel of Senior Scientists for professional development.
 - Monday morning's informal "Meet and Greet" was also successful. Junior officers were strongly encouraged to attend future sessions on subjects such as promotion benchmarks, awards, and deployment.

5) Subcommittee reports

- a) **Awards** (CDR Sally Hu, Chair; CAPT Martin Sanders, Co-chair)

- We assisted our CSO in presenting plaques to our three awardees at the annual COF meeting at San Diego last week.
 - We provided the biographies and pictures of 2010 SciPAC awardees to the Website committee for posting on our website and to the Visibility committee for inclusion in upcoming newsletters.
- b) **Career Development** (CDR Karon Abe)
- CAPT Benally will be holding a discussion about the new COER at the conclusion of today's call.
- c) **Category Day** (LCDR Tegan Boehmer, Chair; LCDR Matt Murphy, Co-Chair)
- Category Day was a great success! Thanks to all the subcommittee members who contributed to planning and execution of the event.
 - The agenda included excellent presentations by current scientist officers and our guest speaker, Dr. Novotny. We will try to post the presentations on the SciPAC website.
 - Despite HHS travel restrictions, approximately 40 Scientist officers attended all or part of Category Day.
 - SciPAC Social event was also well attended and we were pleased to have several local students join us to learn more about the Scientist Category.
 - The subcommittee asked Category Day participants for feedback and suggestions to make improvements to next year's event. The results of the evaluation will be shared with the CPO and SciPAC leadership.
- d) **Mentoring** (CDR Boris Aponte, Chair; CDR Mark Methner, Co-Chair)
- One new mentor assignment was made last month.
- e) **Policy Review** (LCDR Wei Guo, Chair; LCDR Ryan Novak, Co-Chair)
- Currently have 4 documents under review. Three of them are related to leave (absence, annual leave and sick leave) and the other is for flag officer position management.
 - We have 30 official members in the subcommittee, and reviewed 12 policies since the beginning of this term.
- f) **Recruitment, Retention, and Readiness** (CAPT Michael Murry, Chair; LCDR Paul Seo, Co-Chair)
- As of the start of June 2010, our category had a total of 297 scientist officers on board
 - 31 Officers are listed as exempt
 - 16 Officers listed as "not qualified" (O-4 = 2, O-5 = 5, and O-6 = 9)
 - Not including exempt officers our category is 93.98% qualified.
- g) **Rules and Membership** (LCDR Matthew Newland)
- The committee is now reviewing applicants for SciPAC voting membership for 2010.
 - There are only 4 positions available this year and 15 applicants.
 - Next year (2011), 10 additional positions will be available and those who are not selected are encouraged to apply again.
 - After the new voting members are selected, SciPAC will hold elections in July for the Executive Board, including Vice Chair, Secretary, and COF Liaison.
- h) **Science** (LCDR Yi Zhang)
- Compiling the lists of SciPAC CPOs and Chairs which will be posted on the SciPAC website.
- i) **Visibility** (CAPT Christine Benally, Chair; LCDR James Kenney, Co-Chair)
- Please submit your photos from the COF meeting to the CAPT Benally by June 3, close of business.
 - Thanks to the Visibility Subcommittee and those who submitted material for the third newsletter which will be released by mid-June.
 - On May 11, SciPAC officers had a Chinese Medicine booth at the Asian and Pacific Islander American Organization Entertainment Luncheon that was held at the Tower Building in Rockville, Maryland. This event had great food and entertainment by an Indian Classical Odissi Dance Group, RADM (Ret.) Kenneth Moritsuge was the Keynote speaker. This was the first

year SciPAC participated in this event and I strongly suggest our continued participation in this successful visibility event.

- On May 26, SciPAC officers had a PHS general information booth at the Asian and Pacific Islander American Organization Asian Food Fair that was held at the National Institute of Health Campus in Bethesda, Maryland. Typical of this event - Scientist working on the NIH campus showed an interest in learning about the PHS mission and career opportunities; and there was great food and a Filipino dance group providing entertainment. As usual, this was a successful visibility event.

j) **Website** (CDR Danice Eaton)

- Nothing new to report

6) **Liaison Reports**

a) **Billet Transformation Review** (LCDR Judy Facey)

- PHS is poised to launch the Commissioned Corps Billet Collection System (BCS) Transformation initiative. This initiative will start the process to create new billets for all non-flag positions encumbered by Commissioned Corps Officers. Scientists will start the process in August. Please take so time to view the tutorials below.
 - Billets Transformation: http://dcp.psc.gov/Billets_Tutorial.aspx
 - FAQs at <http://usphs.gov/transformation/billet.aspx>.

b) **COF Liaison** (LCDR Sally Hu)

- As of May 31, 2010, our current balance is \$2511.42. We have an inventory of 137 coins and 58 T-shirts.

c) **COA** (CDR Sara Newman)

- COA has launched a survey to assess the information seeking practices, sources of information, preferred methods of access, and unmet informational needs of the PHS officers involved with deployments. The survey will be available to complete through June 30, 2010 and can be accessed by going to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SS9KGZK>
- To enhance our ability to more effectively, consistently, and accurately educate the public about the work of the PHS Commissioned Corps, the COA Board of Directors created a media kit to be used by officers via their COA Branches for the purpose of preparing written media pieces about the PHS. Information about this media kit will be introduced at the COF Symposium in San Diego during the Association General Meeting at noon on Wednesday, May 26. A link to the entire media kit is available: <http://www.coausphs.org/wwebranches.cfm>. This kit provides a tremendous opportunity for PHS officers take control in educating and informing the general public about our mission and our good works.

d) **JOAG** (LCDR Robin Toblin)

- JOAG had a successful symposium selling out of nearly all of their products, hosting an informative meeting with RADM David Rutstein and CAPT Dan Beck, and enjoying a very fun social event.
- There will be no meeting in June because of the COF symposium.
- The spring edition of the JOAG Journal is out and is a great way to learn more about JOAG and the great things individual JOAG officers are doing.
http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/joag/index_files/JOAG_Journal.htm

e) **PSYPAG** (CAPT Michael Murry)

- There will be a PsyPAG meeting on June 2 and we will have a report next month.

7) **Closing Remarks** (CDR Diana Bensyl)

NOTE: Next meeting: July 6, 2010; 1100-1300