



# Scientist Professional Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 4, 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
<b>CAPT</b>	<b>Sharon Williams-Fleetwood</b>	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	X
LCDR	Tegan Boehmer	Category Day	X
<b>CDR</b>	<b>Daphne Moffett</b>	Historian	X
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	X
LCDR	Yi Zhang	Science	excused
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 Pamela Ching	CDC
CAPT Jon Daugherty	FDA
CAPT Thomas Hendricks	FDA
CAPT Kevin McGuinness	HRSA
CAPT Stacey Williams	DOD
CDR Laura Draski	HHS
CDR Mark Methner	CDC
CDR Nisha Robbins	CDC
LCDR Renee Calanan	CDC
LCDR Mark Clayton	EPA
LCDR Herbert Coard III	BOP
LCDR Minglei Cui	FDA
LCDR Anne Dobmeyer	DOD
LCDR Michael Smith	FDA
LCDR Jackie Sram	FDA
LCDR Scott Steffen	FDA
LCDR Robin Toblin	BOP
LCDR Jeremy Wally	FDA
LCDR Fei Xu	FDA
LT Jennifer Adjemian	BOP
LT Danielle Barradas	CDC
LT Theodore Garnett	FDA
LT Aimee Geissler	CDC
LT Seth Green	DOD
LT Jeffrey Goodie	USUHS
LT Sara Lowther	CDC
LT Ashleigh May	CDC
LT Andrea McCollum	CDC
LT Mark Miller	EPA
LT Rashid Njai	CDC
LT Sharyn Parks	CDC
LT Loren Rogers	FDA
LT Charlene Sydnor	NIH
LT Matthew Steele	FDA

**1) Call to Order and Welcome, CDR Diana Bensyl**

EMAIL: [timothy.nelle@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:timothy.nelle@fda.hhs.gov) for roll call

**2) Report from the CPO, CAPT Williams-Fleetwood**

- With the signing of the recent “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” legislation, the Reserve Corps will be converted to Regular Corp, as the Reserve Corps no longer exists. This has caused some unintended consequences in that CAD's of officers are normally appointed as Reserve Corps. The Department is seeking delegation authority from the President to the Secretary to allow for appointments. Officers are encouraged to read the following document on the CCMIS website: [http://dcp.psc.gov/PDF\\_docs/Regular%20Corps%20Information.pdf](http://dcp.psc.gov/PDF_docs/Regular%20Corps%20Information.pdf)

- The new COER will be officially rolled out soon. The new system will import officer information automatically from Direct Access into the COERs. All officers are encouraged to review their Direct Access information prior to July 1.
- The waiver for the upcoming COF Meeting in San Diego has been issued. The HHS rules only allows partial funding (airfare and registration) for 400 officers; hotel, per diem, and ground transportation will NOT be covered and will be the responsibility of each officer. (These rules apply only to HHS officers.)
- Congratulations to the following officers:
  - LCDR Robin Toblin, 2010 Junior Scientist Officer of the Year
  - CDR Daphne B. Moffett, 2010 Senior Scientist Officer of the Year
  - CDR Ross Spears, 2010 Scientist Officer of the Year
  - LCDR Sally Hu, 2010 Chair of the C. Everett Koop Award Committee
- CAPT Bryan Jones is retiring. He will be receiving the Distinguished Scientist Retirement Award.

### 3) Report from the Chair, CDR Diana Bensyl

- Associate Recruiter Program should resume soon. PACs will be choosing who will serve as Associate Recruiters.
- Currently, only Scientists in the DC-area are being asked to serve on the appointment boards. Once the transition is made to an electronic appointment board system, officers outside the DC-area will be invited to serve.
- Please consider nominating yourself for one of the AMSUS awards. (<http://www.amsus.org/index.php/awards>)
- As of April 2010, the Medical Affairs Branch (MAB) is now the sole source and principal Point of Contact for all officer immunization data. Future readiness assessments beginning with the next quarterly assessment on 30-JUN-2010 will be based on immunization data supplied by MAB. Self-reported data provided through the OFRD website will no longer be utilized for readiness assessment calculations.

### 4) Report for the Vice Chair, LCDR Matthew Newland

- See Rules and Membership Committee report

### 5) Subcommittee reports

#### a) Awards, CDR Sally Hu, Co-chair: CAPT Martin Sanders

- First, CDR Daphne B. Moffett has been selected as The 2010 Senior Scientist Officer of the Year Award and LCDR Robin Toblin has been selected as The 2010 Junior Scientist Officer of the Year Award.
- SciPAC award subcommittee members, CAPT Martin Sanders, CAPT Rob Lyerla, CDR Rachel Avchen and CDR David Laird, had worked very hard to review all nomination packages very carefully before making their recommendations.
- We also appreciate all nominators for taking your precious time to support our outstanding officers.
- Especially, for all nominees, we would like to thank you for your great accomplishments as scientist officers and gave review committee members a difficult task to select only one recipient for each SciPAC awards. We want to commend for your work ethics, commitment, and professionalism to the mission of the USPHS and SciPAC. We strongly believe that you are a winner and shine with or without recognition.
- Finally, we are preparing three plaques for three SciPAC Awardees who will have their achievements recognized at the 2010 USPHS Training Symposium in San Diego, CA on Category Day.

**b) Career Development**, CDR Karon Abe

- If you are planning on attending the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in San Diego, please plan on attending an informal Scientist Meet and Greet/Career Counseling session on Monday, May 24 from 8:00 am – 9:30 am in the Nautilus 5 room.

**c) Category Day**, LCDR Tegan Boehmer, Co-Chair: LCDR Matt Murphy

- HHS memo for travel to USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium released.
  - HHS only allows partial funding (airfare and registration) for 400 officers; hotel, per diem, and ground transportation will NOT be covered and will be the responsibility of each officer.
  - Impact on agenda: Of 11 speakers/panelists on agenda, 8 have confirmed attendance and 3 will not be able to attend. We will be reaching out to registered scientists to fill the gaps in the agenda.
  - Unsure of impact on Symposium attendance: I will receive list of registered scientists later today and will have better idea then.
- If you are interested in sharing a hotel room with another Scientist officer to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses, please email LCDR Tegan Boehmer ([tboehmer@cdc.gov](mailto:tboehmer@cdc.gov)) with the following information: dates you will be attending and details of your existing hotel reservation if you have one (the hotel name and nightly rate).
- SciPAC Social Event will be held following Category Day on Tuesday, May 25 at 7pm at Café Coyote. See list serve for flyer announcement. Please RSVP by May 20 to LT Kanta Sircar ([ksircar@cdc.gov](mailto:ksircar@cdc.gov)) if you plan to attend.
- Reminders:
  - Category Competition based on proportion of category in attendance at USPHS Symposium. Scientists will be competing with Dentist, EHO, and Engineer categories in the mid-size group. The winning category will receive recognition at conference and from Surgeon General, including a cup for our CPO and \$100 toward category day expenses.

**d) Mentoring**, CDR Boris Aponte; Co-Chair: CDR Mark Methner

- There were no new activities to report.

**e) Policy Review**, LCDR Wei Guo, Co-Chair: LCDR Ryan Novak

- The Policy subcommittee reviewed two policies to review in April:
  - CCPM Pamphlet No. 58: Supervisor's Guide -A Reference for Managing Commissioned Corps Personnel 2010
  - Proposed Commissioned Corps Issuance (CCI) CC23.5.8 titled "Blanket Executive Agency Details"

**f) Recruitment, Retention, and Readiness**, CAPT Michael Murry, Co-Chair LCDR Paul Seo

\*\*\*UPDATE: Due to a new format in readiness data supplied by OCCO, there was a discrepancy in readiness numbers as reported on the SciPAC call. The below reflects the most up-to-date numbers\*\*\*

- For the beginning of May 2010, our category had a total of 298 scientist officers on board According to data submitted to us, 31 Officers are listed as exempt 15 Officers listed as “not qualified” (2 O-4s, 4 O-5s, and 9 O-6s)
  - Not including exempt officers our category is 94.38% qualified! Nice job all.
- With regards to recruitment, the PHS temporarily does not have the legal authority to call officers to active duty. OCCO is working on resolving this problem. We should continue to recruit, just with awareness that the officers cannot be called to active duty until this glitch is resolved. We

have been in contact with one prospective Scientist officer caught in limbo as his call to active duty was canceled at the last minute.

- A Recruitment Information session was presented in April by JOAG. This session covered recruitment issues such as the dual application process, student loan repayment, and the new Associate Recruitment Program. One issue of note is that PHS officers should not recruit current active duty military officers. If a military officer asks about career opportunities in the Commissioned Corps, we can answer their questions, but we shouldn't initiate contact.

g) **Rules and Membership**, LCDR Matthew Newland

- We are now recognizing retiring Scientists in the following ways.
  - A Letter of Appreciation will be sent to all retiring Scientists (20-30 years of service).
  - A Distinguished Scientist Retirement Award is awarded at the CSO's discretion for those Scientists who have demonstrated exceptional service throughout their careers. This is a non-competitive award.
- A call for new membership will be announced via the listserv this month.

h) **Science**, LCDR Yi Zhang

- Working on the paper for Public Health Report.
- Compiling the lists of SciPAC CPOs and Chairs in the SciPAC History.

i) **Visibility**, CAPT Christine Benally, Co-Chair LCDR James Kenney

- The next issue of the Scientist Officer Newsletter will be released in June.
- Visibility Volunteer Opportunity at the Tower Building in Rockville MD:
  - The Asian and Pacific Islander American Organization is sponsoring an Entertainment Luncheon at the Tower Building in Rockville, Maryland. This event is a good opportunity for our SciPAC to increase the visibility of the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service. The SciPAC Visibility Subcommittee secured a table and we need volunteers who are knowledgeable about Chinese Medicine to work the table and distribute USPHS related materials. Event details are as follows:

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Tower Building, Plaza Level, Suite 100, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Rockville, MD

Uniform: Khaki

Keynote speaker: RADM (Ret.) Kenneth Moritsugu.

Entertainment: NRITYA LAYA Indian Classical Odissi Dance Group.

Luncheon: Potluck featuring authentic Asian cuisine (donations are welcome).

This also is a chance to network with your fellow USPHS officers and enjoy delicious Asian foods. Members who volunteer will receive a Certificate of Appreciation. Please contact LCDR James Kenney at 301-594-6243 / james.kenney@fda.hhs.gov or CAPT Christine Benally at 240-453-6089 Christine.benally@hhs.gov by COB Wednesday, May 7, 2009 if you are interested in volunteering.

j) **Website**, CDR Danice Eaton

- Work continues on converting our website from the Frontpage platform to a WordPress platform. This would enable multiple people to make updates to the site, and also will move the site away from Frontpage, which is slowly becoming obsolete. The site may take on a slightly new look with this conversion. Once we have a good template, we will send to the SciPAC officers for review and approval before converting the entire site.

## 6) Liaison Reports

### a) **Billet Transformation Review**, LCDR Judy Facey

- Nothing new to report.

### b) **COF Liaison**, LCDR Sally Hu

- Our current balance as of April 30, 2010 is \$2424.28. We have an inventory of 163 coins and 61 T-shirts.

### c) **COA**, CDR Sara Newman

- In a unanimous decision handed down on May 3rd, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld the fact the PHS Commissioned Corps officers are protected against claims arising out of actions committed within the scope of their official duties. This decision overturns decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that such immunity had limits. Had the Court upheld the Ninth Circuit's opinion, which would have effectively overturned the liability protection provided in 42USC§233(a), PHS Commissioned Corps officers might have been forced to seek malpractice insurance to guard against civil suits - even for program administrators far removed from the clinical point of action.

### d) **JOAG**, LCDR Robin Toblin

- JOAG Q&A session on the new COER: Wednesday, May 5 at 1200 EST with CAPT Carlos Plasencia, Director of the Program Evaluation and Oversight Division (PEOD) in OCCFM. Call-in Number: 1-219-509-8111; Participant Passcode: 864814
- Journeyman Speaker Series: Friday, May 14 at 1300 EDT and will be a panel of senior officers focusing on 'Balancing OPDIV Billeted Position and Officership'. Our Senior Scientist of the Year, CDR Daphne Moffett, will be one of the panelists. Call-in number: 1-219-509-8111; Participant Access Code: 864814
- JOAG Meet and Greet/In-Person Meeting: Sunday, May 23 at the COF Symposium from 6:00-8:00 PDT
- JOAG Social: Wednesday, May 26, at the COF Symposium at the hotel lounge, Quinn's, at 8:00 PDT

### e) **PSYPAG**, CAPT Michael Murry (as delivered by LCDR Robin Toblin)

- Summary of the April 7, 2010 PsyPAG meeting.
  - Special guest was RADM Milner, CPO for the HSO category. He discussed proposals for assignment incentive pay and special pay for psychologist officers. The pay proposals have some support and are being studied, but the proposals are not on the fast track. Special pay seems to be more likely approved for psychologists doing clinical work than for those in non-clinical billets.
  - There was discussion of the inability to complete new calls to active duty and OCCO's efforts to resolve the dilemma. Almost 40 prospective new officers were stuck and unable to begin active duty, including one former Navy psychologist who was without income or health insurance.
  - There was discussion of new appointment standards being reviewed that would allow non-licensed officers to complete their postdoc year while in PHS. However, since all officers will be regular officers, any new appointment standards will have to take that into consideration, as no limited tours of duty will be allowed.
  - The Psychologist of the Year was announced. CDR Dennis Slate, an HSO officer, was recognized.

- LCDR Vincent Barnes was the invited speaker. He talked about his experiences working in the Indian Health Service and offered observations and suggestions for working in the IHS.

7) **Other:** OCCO Representative: CDR Elvira Hall-Robinson:

- OCCFM will be presenting an information session on the new COER at the 2010 COF conference.

8) **Closing Remarks,** CDR Diana Bensyl

**NOTE: Next meeting: June 1, 2010; 1100-1300**