

## CHINESE NEW YEAR



(L to R) CDR Soju Chang (PRS Chair), CDR Mei-Ying Li, CDR Christina Lee (PRS Co-chair), CAPT Astrid Szeto, LCDR Kun Shen, LT QuynhNhu Nguyen (APAOC Chair), LCDR Anna Park, LT Karen Ho, CDR Lynn Van Pelt, CDR Hawyee Yan, LCDR Chris Lim (behind), LT Ruiqing Pamboukian, CDR Paul Wong (behind), LCDR Nazmul Hassan, and CDR Alan Ou

February 3, 2011 marked the start of the Spring Festival, more commonly known as the Chinese New Year. The Year of the Rabbit is upon us bringing with it serenity and good fortune. As in the past, the Chinese Culture and Community Service Center (CCACC) hosted one of the biggest celebrations of the Chinese New Year in the metropolitan area.

The event was held from January 31 - February 13, 2011 at the Lakeforest Mall in Gaithersburg, MD. There were numerous beautiful Chinese New Year decorations and exhibits throughout the mall that kept the audience captivated from beginning to end. Live entertainment included traditional lion and dragon dances, folk dances and martial arts demonstrations.

In addition, there were workshops that included flower/bonsai arrangements, arts and crafts, painting and games.

On February 6, a group of 15 PHS officers from the Public Relation Subcommittee (PRS) of the Asian Pacific American Officer Committee (APAOC) participated in this event with the purposes of reaching out to the community and increasing awareness of USPHS to the general public. We had received a steady stream of inquiries regarding what we do, who we are, and who can join. People picked up brochures for themselves, their relatives, or their friends. It was a fun day reaching out to the public and all the while, raising the awareness of the US Public Health Service presence in the community.

## 2011 MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEMS CONFERENCE

### *PHS Front and Center!*

The 2011 Military Health Systems (MHS) Conference was held at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center, National Harbor, MD on January 24-27, 2011. This conference provided a platform for military health care professionals to come together and share knowledge, expertise and best practices. The conference focused on the MHS priorities, how to align those priorities with medical service department priorities, and how to measure success. The conference promoted professionalism across the forces, enhanced partnerships inside and outside of the federal sector, and avenues to best serve the preventive and health care needs of the military's diverse beneficiary population.

The conference was attended by all the Uniformed Services, including PHS officers detailed to the Department of Defense and the U.S. Coast Guard, with approximately 4,000 attendees.

Distinguished speakers included Tom Daschle, former U.S. Senator from South Dakota; Secretary Paul O'Neill, former Secretary of the Treasury; Dr. Donald Berwick, Administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; Dr. Carolyn Clancy, Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; Dr. Clifford Stanley, Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness; Dr. Jonathan

Woodson, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; RADM Christine Hunter, Deputy Director, TRICARE Management Activity; the Surgeons General from each of the military services; and, Chief Medical Officer and Director of Health, Safety and Work-Life of the U.S. Coast Guard, also a PHS officer, RADM Mark Tedesco.

The PHS was represented not only by officers who attended the conference, but by officers who organized track sessions and presented. RADM Thomas McGinnis, Pharmacy Officer was the Co-Champion for "Engaging Patients in Healthy Behaviors" track, which was organized by CDR Aileen Buckler, Medical Officer. This track focused on encouraging and incentivizing military patients and families to take a more active role in their health and adopting healthier lifestyles. PHS officers who presented at the MHS conference were RADM Thomas McGinnis, CAPT Robert DeMartino, CAPT Joan Hunter, CAPT Jeff Salvon-Harman, CDR Aileen Buckler, CDR Meena Vythilingam, and LCDR Christopher Hunter.

PHS officers were front and center at this monumental event, contributing in many positive ways.

## PHS MEDICAL OFFICER SELECTED FOR "BUILDING STRONGER FEMALE PHYSICIAN LEADERS IN THE MHS" AWARD



(L to R) CDR Meena Vythilingam, RADM Thomas McGinnis

CDR Meena Vythilingam, medical officer, United States Public Health Service received the "Building Stronger Female Physician Leaders in the MHS" award at the 2011 Military Health Systems Conference. This award was presented to her by RADM Thomas McGinnis, PHS Senior Advisor and Chief, Pharmaceutical Operations Directorate under TRICARE Management Activity. CDR Vythilingam is the Deputy Director for Psychological Health Strategic Operations, Force Health Protection & Readiness Programs. She has led numerous projects of national significance, requiring unusually high dedication and leadership. Some of these projects include implementing a new prospective Department of Defense mental health surveillance and assessment system, launching a web-based training program for conducting mental health assessments, and writing policy mandating training in evidence-based treatments for post-traumatic stress disorders. CDR Vythilingam exemplifies remarkable leadership with significant career accomplishments exceeding all standards, distinguishing her far above her peers. She is an excellent role model officer for the U.S. Public Health Service.