



U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee
Department of Health and Human Services

Minutes of Meeting
07 February 2008
Surgeon General's Conference Room
Parklawn Building
1300-1527

Members Present:**In Rockville:**

CDR Beth Fabian Fritsch, FDA-Rockville, MD
 CDR Scott Giberson, IHS-Rockville, MD
 CDR Josephine Lyght, HRSA-Rockville, MD

CDR Matthew Tarosky, FDA-Rockville, MD
 LT Joseph Zagame, OS-Rockville, MD

Via Telephone:

RADM Robert Pittman (CPO), IHS-Rockville, MD
 CAPT James Bresette, IHS-Rockville, MD
 CAPT Robert McClelland, IHS-Elko, NV
 CAPT Lia Prela, CMS-Baltimore, MD
 CAPT Kimberly Zietlow, IHS-Red Lake, MN
 CDR Christopher Allen, CDC-Atlanta, GA
 CDR Christine Chung, DHS-El Centro, CA
 CDR Richard DeCederfelt, NIH-Bethesda, MD
 CDR Mary Kremzner, FDA-Rockville, MD
 CDR Michael Shiber, BOP-Washington, DC
 CDR Peter Vermilyea, IHS-Winslow, AZ
 LCDR G. Brent Hobbs, IHS-Whiteriver, AZ
 LCDR Kristina Joyce (JOAG), FDA-Philadelphia,
 PA
 LCDR Jeffrey Newman, BOP-Springfield, MO
 LCDR Patrick Romero, DHS – Clearwater, FL
 LCDR James Saunders, FDA – Silver Spring, MD
 (alternate for CDR Patricia Garvey)
 LCDR Jeff Mallette (Executive Secretary), BOP-
 Pensacola, FL

Members Absent:

LCDR Violette Ganoë (Chair), BOP-Bradford, PA
 CDR Patricia Garvey, FDA-Silver Spring, MD – alternate present
 CDR Nita Sood (Ex-Officio), HRSA-Rockville, MD

Guests*:

CAPT Orville Brown III, DHS-Florence, AZ
 CAPT Lillie Golson, FDA-Rockville, MD
 CAPT William Hess, FDA-Rockville, MD
 CAPT George Lyght, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
 CAPT Robert Steyert, FDA-Central Islip, NY
 CDR Michelle Dillahunt, FDA-Rockville, MD

CDR Kenneth Hill, HRSA-Seattle, WA
 CDR Paula LaPlant, FDA-Swanton, VT
 CDR Mark McClain, FDA-Hartford, CT
 CDR Judy Rose, IHS-Anchorage, AK
 CDR Mark Strong, BOP-Leavenworth, KS
 CDR Jacqueline Thomas, CDC-Atlanta, GA
 CDR Deborah Thompson, USCG-New London, CT
 CDR Nate Yale, IHS-Gallup, NM
 LCDR Postelle Birch-Smith, FDA-Rockville, MD
 LCDR Alisea Crowley, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
 LCDR Jonathan Dando, IHS-Cherokee, NC
 LCDR Greg Davis, OS-Rockville, MD
 LCDR Oluchi Elekwachi, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
 LCDR Debra Emerson, FDA-Stoneham, MA
 LCDR Sheryl Gunther, FDA-Rockville, MD
 LCDR Jeff Haug, DIHS-Pearsall, TX
 LCDR Larry Lim, FDA-Rockville, MD
 LCDR Kristen Miller, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
 LCDR Amy Osborn, BOP-Leavenworth, KS
 LCDR Ryan Schupbach, IHS-Claremore, OK
 LCDR Melaine Shin, FDA-Rockville, MD
 LCDR Christina Thompson, FDA-Rockville, MD
 LCDR Kendra Worthy, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
 LCDR Chi-Ann (Ruby) Wu, FDA-Rockville, MD
 LT Dan Brum, FDA-Silver Spring, MD
 LT Gwendolynn Johnson, FDA-Rockville, MD
 LT Juliette Toure, CMS-Baltimore, MD
 LT Alex Townley, Lame Deer, MT
 LT Jeffrey Vang, IHS-Mount Pleasant, MI
 LT Frank Verni, FDA-Jamaica, NY
 LT Nicole Vesely, FDA-Rockville, MD

**Guests attending the meeting via call in are requested to email their rank, name, agency, and location (City and state) information to the PharmPAC executive secretary, LCDR Jeff Mallette, at jxmallette@bop.gov.

Call to Order: CDR Beth Fabian Fritsch (beth.fritsch@fda.hhs.gov)

- CDR Beth Fabian Fritsch called the February 2008 Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee (PharmPAC) meeting to order

Acceptance of 06 December 2007 PharmPAC Meeting Minutes: CDR Beth Fabian Fritsch (beth.fritsch@fda.hhs.gov)

- Minutes from the 06 December 2007 PharmPAC meeting were accepted with no edits

Acceptance of 03 January 2008 PharmPAC Meeting Minutes: CDR Beth Fabian Fritsch (beth.fritsch@fda.hhs.gov)

- Minutes from the 03 January 2008 PharmPAC meeting were accepted with no edits

Presentation of Awards/Certificates: CDR Beth Fabian Fritsch (beth.fritsch@fda.hhs.gov)

- Unit Commendation
 - Career Development Section Workgroup
 - CDR Thomas Addison CAPT Annie Reiner
 - LT Daniel Brum LCDR Sheila Ryan
 - LCDR Cedric Guyton CDR James Strunk
 - CAPT Robert McClelland LCDR Vasavi Thomas
 - LCDR Keith Olin CAPT Kimberly Zietlow
 - Pharmacy Immunization Training Project
 - LCDR Ann Gorman CDR Christopher Lamer
 - CDR Paula Laplant LCDR Jeffrey Mouakket
 - Influenza Immunization at Federal Occupational Health Clinics

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|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ CAPT Edward Bashaw | LT Susan Pellock |
| ▪ CAPT James Bresette | CDR Laura Pincock |
| ▪ CDR Kimberly Deffinbaugh | LCDR Stanley Shepperson |
| ▪ CDR Michelle Dillahunt | CDR Cassandra Sherrod |
| ▪ LCDR Lori Garcia | CDR Diane Smith |
| ▪ CDR Scott Giberson | CDR Nita Sood |
| ▪ CDR Melina Griffis | LCDR Kendra Stewart |
| ▪ LCDR Steven C. Jones | CDR Brenda Stodart |
| ▪ CDR Paula Laplant | LCDR Christina Thompson |
| ▪ LCDR Diem-Kieu Ngo | LCDR Karen Williams |
| ▪ LCDR Keith Olin | LCDR Hawyee Yan |
| ▪ CDR Angela Payne | |

CPO Report → **RADM Robert Pittman**

● **9th Pharmacy Leadership Institute**

- Sponsored jointly by ASHP, Boston University, ASHP Foundation and Cardinal Health
- Held April 27 – May 2, 2008
- Application Deadline is February 8, 2008
- Information can be found on ASHP website

● **Recruitment**

- RADM Pittman has been meeting regularly with the CAM teams at OCCO and with RADM Rutstein (Physician category CPO) and RADM Halliday (Dental category CPO) on the system of how applicants are referred to the category CAMS
- Role of CAMS is to get applicant through the Commissioned Corps application system – not currently concentrating on referring applicants to agencies unless the applicant has completed the professional boarding process, the physical board, and security clearance
- CAM is contacting applicants within three days of application to obtain complete contact and agency interest information and is placing information in the Applicant Locator
- Categories are expected to go to the Applicant Locator and download the information and begin contacting applicants for referrals to agencies

● **Electronic Call to Active Duty (eCAD)**

- The electronic Call to Active Duty System is not yet operational
- Still in testing mode
- Scheduled to be demonstrated to the CPOs in late February 2008
- Scheduled to be on-line by summer 2008
- Board members will serve for a one to two week period – will have to log in once daily and board all eligible applicants in their queue – can be done anywhere day or night

● **Sizing WIPDIG for OCCFM**

- Has finalized work and provided a report to OCCO recruitment on near-term requirements for Commissioned Corps
- Has identified 3,500 possible positions to be filled by Commissioned Corps officers - current openings available to both Commissioned Corps officers and civil service
- Does not include MOUs being worked on by OCCFM for officers to work for state health departments or for colleges and universities or other non-traditional positions
- A more centralized system will be developed soon where sites can send in their vacancies, potential vacancies, and future anticipated vacancies to OCCO so preparation can begin to place officers in those openings

● **Pay Issues**

- Pharmacist Special Pay
 - Requested PharmPAC approval to move position paper forward
 - Presented to Surgeon General's office, OCCO and OCCFM for review – review was completed and process has begun for developing proposed regulations for CCIS document for increasing pharmacist special pay to \$15,000 annually
 - Awaiting final sign-off of concept from Surgeon General's office – approval appears promising at this time
 - One issue is determining what level of communication is needed with DOD colleagues – special pays come out of the NDAA – PHS does not want to surprise DOD with these actions, particularly with physician and dental categories having increased special pay proposals of their own with a much more significant financial impact than the pharmacy category
 - Further updates to occur at next PharmPAC meeting
- Assignment and Incentive Pay
 - Being finalized
 - One final issue to be resolved regarding length of contract between officer and work site and how contract could be severed by officer or by site and what kind notification is required – CPOs have provided comments to OSG and OCCFM – hope to have finalized agreement of what policy should include by end of February – then policy will begin

draft phase

- **Billets**

- OCCFM billet group has sent out a revised proposal on billets
- New model to test billets
- Prior system was not good for some categories during testing – seemed to lower most billets
- Expected to have new billet structure by end of calendar year 2008

- **Promotions**

- The pharmacist category promotion board will meet in February 2008
- CPO Board recommended and a new sub-category for board has been added to Recommended and Not Recommended for promotion – new sub-category is Defer – some categories liberally applied not recommend that could possibly lead to adverse action for the officer. Some categories did not use the not recommend rating. Defer is added to provide raters a third option – Defer is for an officer doing an adequate job but that is not ready for promotion.

- **Meeting with Federal Pharmacy Chiefs**

- RADM Pittman met with the other federal pharmacy chiefs and colleagues at the ASHP to discuss issues related to health systems pharmacy.

- **Loan Repayment**

- The Indian Health Service has received an additional \$5,000,000 added to their student loan repayment program by Congress for health care professionals this year.

Section Lead Comments:

Communication → CDR Richard DeCederfelt (rdecederfe@nih.gov) / LCDR Patrick Romero (Patrick.L.Romero@uscg.mil)

- **Public Health Pharmacy Workgroup; Childhood Obesity (see attachment) – LCDR Sheryl Gunther & LCDR Binh Nguyen**

- Gave a powerpoint presentation to the PharmPAC outlining the preliminary draft of the program; presentation was sent out to the field for review
- This will be the second program the PHPW will present to elementary school students
- Topic chosen due to alarming increase in childhood obesity and this is one of the Surgeon General's primary initiatives

- **Public Health Pharmacy Workgroup; Minority Outreach Program (see attachment) – LCDR Melaine Shin**

- Presented proposed position paper to the Surgeon General
 - Proposes that press release portion of Surgeon General's website be translated into languages other than English
 - Requested PharmPAC approval to move position paper forward
 - Comments included potential to use Department of State resources, and it was noted that a more direct solution to a problem should be in place before forwarding a position paper to the Surgeon General
 - CDR Fritsch noted that the proposed position paper was only made available to the PharmPAC membership on the day of the meeting, and the issue should be deferred until the membership has adequate time to review the document and submit comments

- **Public Health Pharmacy Workgroup; Officer Health Program (see attachment) – LCDR Postelle Birch-Smith**

- Expansion on PHPW presentations on injury prevention in October 2007
- Proposal is that PHPW presentations be extended throughout the corps giving all officers the opportunity to present on topics related to the Surgeon General's health priorities
- Requests support from the PharmPAC to move the presentations to all PACs and present the idea at the next PAC Chairs meeting
- Vote taken and unanimous support was given by membership to move idea forward to PAC Chairs

Administration → CDR Mary Kremzner (Mary.kremzner@fda.hhs.gov) / CAPT Kimberly Zietlow (kimberly.zietlow@ihs.gov)

- **Membership – CDR Mary Kremzner**

- LCDR Kendra Stewart approved by RADM Pittman as the PharmPAC's new liaison to American Public Health Association (APHA)
- Please note that there are still two vacant liaison positions, AMSUS and ASCP – listserv message will be sent out soliciting nominations
- LT Joe Zagame announced LCDR Gregg Davis as LT Zagame's PharmPAC member alternate for the OS position

- **Archimbault Award Criteria (see attachment) – CDR Mary Kremzner**

- Working group was formed to determine method of obtaining more qualified nominees for award – exclusion criteria makes

it hard for otherwise qualified candidates to be considered

- Working group recommendations were sent out to the field
- Members of working group and CDR Mary Kremzner, LCDR Catherine Chew, LCDR James Saunders, CDR Brenda Stodart
- Comments on proposed changes (see attachment) can be forwarded to CDR Mary Kremzner

● **Liaison Reports → CAPT Walter Holt (walter.holtjr@cdc.hhs.gov)**

American Pharmacists Association (APhA)

- Joseph Galley from NIH selected as 2008 APhA Distinguished Federal Pharmacist
- LCDR Timothy Murray from IHS (Claremore, OK internal medicine pharmacist) selected as Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management Merit award for outstanding distinctive achievement that has elevated the standards of practice
- Call for nominations for the Pinnacle Award to celebrate exceptional care - deadline for nominations is March 31, 2008. Self-nominations are permissible
- In 2008, Pharmacy Today will be adding to the journal, “Key Concepts as Relates to Patient Care”
 - January key concept was on appropriate first introductions with a patient to assist in developing a good repoire with patient
- Two free live webinar sessions remain – next one is February 13, 2008 and then after one more, the free webinars will be suspended for a period of time
- APhA Speaker of the House applications deadline is March 7, 2008 by 3:00pm via e-mail and March 13 in San Diego at the annual meeting
- APhA Annual Meeting is March 14-17 in San Diego, CA
 - Early bird registration deadline in February 13, 2008
 - Federal Pharmacy Forum events held on various days with the majority of events on Friday, March 14, 2008

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)

- Accepting proposals (presentations) for 2008 educational conference – deadline is April 25, 2008
- 2008 educational conference will be held October 15-18, 2008 in Kansas City, MO

American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)

- No new information given

American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)

- On-line registration is open for annual meeting – early bird deadline is March 31, 2008
- Requesting feedback from ASCP members to help direct future of the society
- Leadership Educational Award nomination deadline is February 15, 2008
- Calling for presentations for Senior Care Pharmacy 2008 Satellite Symposium – application deadline is April 21, 2008
- Calling for presentations at 39th Annual Senior Care Meeting, November 19-22 in New Orleans – deadline is March 17

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)

- Calling for stories related to pharmacy education and research – submit on website – may be published in their monthly newsletter

American Society of Health System-Pharmacists (ASHP)

- New quarterly periodical, “Intersections” available to ASHP members
 - Winter issue highlighted military and federal pharmacists
- Oncology Board Certification live review session in Tampa, FL May 1-3, 2008
 - Beginning July 1, 2008 CD-Roms will be available and on-line classes available
- Summer Meeting in Seattle, WA, June 8-11, 2008
- ASHP Priorities for 2008 have been listed
 - Medication Safety
 - Reimbursement Issues
 - Quality Improvement
 - Pharmacist Work Force
 - Pharmacy Technician Work Force
 - Pharmacy Residency Funding
- Free CE programs available on website
- ASHP Foundation website offers a myriad of training programs and grant offerings with deadlines
- Award for Excellence in Medication Use Safety sponsored by Cardinal Health Foundation – application period is February 15 to May 16, 2008

American Public Health Association (APHA):

- April 7 –13, 2008 – National Public Health Week – theme is “Climate Change – Our Health in the Balance” – more information can be found on their website
- 136th annual meeting and expo – October 25-29, 2008 in San Diego, CA – theme is “Public Health Without Borders”

Career Development → CDR Michael Shiber (MJShiber@bop.gov) / CDR Scott Giberson (Scott.Giberson@ihs.gov)

- **Clinical Subgroup – CDR Scott Giberson**

- Clinical Survey - CDR Nate Yale
 - Survey going well – about 210 responses with 150 completing the full survey - vast amount of information collected
 - Large response from IHS, a decent response from BOP and FDA, and a smattering of response from other agencies
 - One-third of respondents did not include demographics; one-third did not indicate they were BLS certified (probably a data entry error in most cases)
 - When completed, should raise awareness of clinical pharmacy opportunities for those within the PHS and recruits
- Clinical Subgroup Webpage – CDR Scott Giberson
 - Ryan Nguyen heading up workgroup
 - Teleconferences in December and January developing components to be included on webpage
 - Further update at the March PharmPAC meeting
- National Clinical Pharmacists Specialty Committee (NCPS) for the Indian Health Service
 - In existence for 10 years
 - Certifying body in IHS that certifies pharmacists in clinical functions that have met a national criteria set by committee
 - Approximately 200 pharmacists have been credentialed – 104 of these are currently in the IHS – this represents over one-quarter of IHS pharmacists
 - Covers eight areas of clinical pharmacy practice
- IHS/BOP Initiative – looking to expand the NCPS concept into the BOP

- **Readiness Update – CDR Scott Giberson**

- Between December 17 and December 31, 2007, the percentage of PHS pharmacy officers that were basic ready increased from 85.4% to 87.9%
- The pharmacy category remains 6th among all categories, but the percentage is increasing
- With the percentage remaining above 80% and increasing, there are no recommendations for this topic at this time

- **Publications Workgroup – CDR Louis Flowers**

- Manuscript “United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Pharmacists – Making a Difference in Advancing the Health and Safety of the Nation” to AJHP – reply was that the recognition of the vital role played by Public Health Service pharmacists has been reflected in the many articles and news pieces published by AJHP on the topic. The manuscript was turned down for publication. Manuscript will be submitted to another journal
- CDR Judy L. Rose published “Improved and Expanded Pharmacy Care in Rural Alaska through Telepharmacy and Alternative Methods Demonstration Project”. Published in International Journal of Circumpolar Health. Article is posted on PharmPAC website in Administration section
- Workgroup is collaborating with Georgetown University and the University of Maryland to write a pharmacy public health continuing education article focusing on drug use and public policy
- Workgroup is collaborating with member of the clinical subgroup, CDR Nate Yale, to publish article about the contributions of clinical pharmacists in the primary care setting
- CDR Mark McClain and CDR Louis Flowers will present “Field Pharmacy Practice” at the COF Symposium category day

- **Immunization Update – CDR Michael Shiber**

- Recently received approval from APhA to post APhA’s pharmacist immunization certification program self-study portion on OFRD Training Blackboard – will be on blackboard as a pdf adobe acrobat file
- Hope to meet soon with Surgeon General to reaffirm commitment to pharmacist immunization initiative with ultimate goal of meeting with RADM Vanderwagon at ASPR
- IHS – five planned funded APhA certification trainings in 2008 for 20 pharmacists at each training at the Oklahoma City IHS office; available to PHS pharmacists from all agencies; TDY costs are at pharmacists’ expense – listserv message has been sent out – dentists are going to be able to obtain dental CE for this program as well, a first for APhA
- CDR Sam Foster is offering pharmacist immunization training in Minnesota
- Friday, June 13, 2008 - PharmPAC-sponsored APhA Immunization program the day following the COA meeting in Tucson, AZ at the same location – have some funding and COA support – will be provided at limited or no cost to pharmacists
- BOP – providing additional funding for APhA certification training to pharmacists after BEMR Rx training
- Goal is to have 100% of PHS pharmacists immunization certified; approximately 50% of PHS pharmacists are currently certified; over 70% of BOP pharmacists are certified

Recruitment (see attachment) → CAPT James Bresette (James.Bresette@ihs.gov) / CDR Peter Vermilyea (peter.vermilyea@wihcc.org)

- **Website Update – CDR Mark McClain**

- CDR Mark McClain and CDR Elizabeth Girard provided a template to better organize ONLY for the Recruitment Section of

the website – similar to Physician PAC website – easier to navigate and read

- Requesting to have IT personnel look into helping organize the subsections to start making the template functional
 - Plans:
 - Immediate is to organize page
 - Interim is to make it look more professional
 - Final is to have everything finalized after HHS Macro (Contractor) version
 - Pharmacist in Action Photos posted on January 31, 2008
 - Thank you to LCDR Chris Jones for filling in while LCDR Dev Patel was away
 - Will look to add more photos to website
- **University Points of Contact (UPOC) – CDR Peter Vermilyea**
 - Updating the new contact, LCDR Brent Hobbs, for UPOC. He is working with CDR Fritsch to develop a stepwise process as to how this subsection runs. Future e-mails on UPOC should be directed to LCDR Hobbs and CDR Vermilyea
 - **Student Programs – LCDR Larry Lim (larry.lim@fda.hhs.gov)**
 - February message for student listserv – will send out more information on agencies with website links to the agencies and will re-send information on the COSTEP programs since there is no longer a deadline for COSTEP applications
 - JOAG has a summer mentorship for COSTEPS. Coordinate with JOAG to help our COSTEPS and therefore do not need to re-create a program
 - Trying to develop a preceptor listing under this section, but will need to rotate annually. Going to contact IHS, FDA, NIH, BOP and Coast Guard to get a more comprehensive list
 - **Pharmacy's Best Kept Secret (PBKS) – CDR Peter Vermilyea**
 - 2008 version should be posted in the near future. Having problems with 508 compliance and new document
 - E-mail with new document will be sent out on the pharmacists listserv
 - **Web Accessible Collaboration System (WACS) – LCDR Devvrat Patel**
 - Comprehensive description of the five currently reports up and running
 - Need to eventually find a new site to host the WACS database so we have full access to update the site. Name of domain will have to be changed and is still being determined
 - Considering adding link from PharmPAC website to WACS
 - End goal is to be able to generate reports on how many officer visited how many schools; quantification of UPOC activities
 - **Associate Recruiter Program (ARP) – CDR Peter Vermilyea**
 - ARs – be sure to submit Activity Reports (PHS-7052) to ARP@hhs.gov as soon as possible after recruiting event. Many ARs will need to meet their annual 2 event requirement by March 31, 2008. There is no electronic update training available at this time. Question from CDR Christine Chung on method and timing turning in PHS-7052 – form says report after two activities and website instructions say one activity per form. Also, question on the time frame of the two activities per year. Issues to be clarified
 - Training is planned for Associate Recruiters at the COF Symposium in Tucson, AZ, June 2008. More information forthcoming
 - Associate Recruiter Leads training and brainstorming will be held in Rockville, MD, February 28th and 29th
 - Forwarding of potential applicant phone calls from the Call Center to Associate Recruiter Leads and Associate Recruiters is on hold at this time
 - There were 10 major conference booths funded by transformation for FY08. The two pharmacy events funded through transformation are ASHP and APhA. There are little funds for other venues. If any money becomes available it will be for registration fees, and not for travel, meals, lodging, etc.
 - CDR Steven Blackwell who has worked with the AR and recruitment program will be retiring March 1, 2008
 - LCDR Thomas Pryor is the National Associate Recruiter Program Coordinator and LCDR Chris Dunbar is assisting with supply request and shipments as well as other assigned duties
 - Two methods for applicants to enter system from www.usphs.gov. The 800 number - a call center staffed by three people led by LCDR Thomas Pryor and the “apply now” link. It is unclear how this information will get to the CAM team. Internal process is still being worked on. System to begin referring these applicants to ARs has been delayed and will not happen anytime soon

2008 COF Scientific Symposium Update → CDR Beth Fabian Fritsch (beth.fritsch@fda.hhs.gov)

- Call for abstracts and speakers period has closed. Category day agendas will be appearing online in mid-February
- Hotel reservations and meeting registration are now available on the website www.phscofevents.org
 - Rooms at the Riverpark Inn are SOLD OUT but rooms are available at the Hotel Arizona (one block from Convention Center)
- Junior Officers (defined as officer O3 and below) may apply for scholarships to apply to the cost of attending the symposium
 - Must be a member of COA
 - Certify in writing that agency turned officer down for funding

- Information can be found at the symposium website
- Student scholarships are available for full-time students. Information can be found at the symposium website
- CDR Michael Shiber stated there will be a free immunization clinic held the Friday of the symposium. Those interested should e-mail LCDR Keith Olin

JOAG Report → LCDR Kristina Joyce (Kristina.Joyce@fda.hhs.gov)

- JOAG Winter Newsletter came out in mid-January and can be accessed on JOAG website and www.joag.org - anyone interested in contributing to future newsletter can contact Lori Hall
- COSTEP Connection – looking for officers to act as information resource for COSTEPS this summer – not a substitute for preceptor. Information can be found in newsletter or contact LTJG Darrin Smith at darin.smith@phs.dhs.gov by February 15, 2008
- Next regular JOAG meeting
Friday, February 8, 2008 at 1300 – 1500 hours
Call-in Number: 888-322-1791
Passcode: 83301

Agency Reports – CDR Beth Fabian Fritsch (beth.fritsch@fda.hhs.gov)

- **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** – CDR Richard DeCederfelt
 - Robert DeChristoforo was named as chief of pharmacy department thus ending a period of a year without a chief pharmacist
 - Annual Continuing Education Symposium series hosted at NIH - - Saturday, April 12, 2008 – 4 hour program with four speakers – topics: anti-viral therapy update, treatment of multi-drug resistant gram-negative organisms, perspectives on prescription drug promotion, pharmacists role in SIDS risk reduction – enroll through the NIH website
- **Food and Drug Administration (FDA) (see attachment)** – CDR Matthew Tarosky
 - Patient Safety News
 - To subscribe, please visit: <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/psn/maillinglist.cfm>
 - On January 7, FDA issued an alert to health care professionals highlighting the possibility of severe and sometimes incapacitating bone, joint or muscle pain in patients taking bisphosphonates. See: <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/bisphosphonates/default.htm>
 - On January 25, FDA issued an early communication about the ongoing review of Vytorin (ezetimibe/simvastatin) based on preliminary results from the recently completed ENHANCE study (the Effect of Combination Ezetimibe and High-Dose Simvastatin vs. Simvastatin Alone on the Atherosclerotic Process in Patients with Heterozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia). See: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2008/NEW01784.html>
 - On January 31, FDA issued an alert to health care professionals about the risk of suicidal thoughts and behavior with antiepileptic medications. See: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEW01786.html>
 - Public Health Advisory
 - On January 17, FDA issued a public health advisory to parents and caregivers recommending that over-the-counter (OTC) cough and cold products should not be used to treat infants and children less than two years of age because serious and potentially life-threatening side effects can occur from such use
 - On February 1, FDA issued a public health advisory to health care providers, patients, and caregivers about neuropsychiatric symptoms (i.e., behavior changes, agitation, depressed mood, suicidal ideation, and actual suicidal behavior) associated with Pfizer's anti-smoking drug Chantix (varenicline). This advisory follows a November 20th FDA communication that these adverse events were being evaluated. FDA is collaborating with Pfizer to develop a Medication Guide. See: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2008/NEW01788.html>
 - News
 - FDA may establish staff positions overseas to perform inspections and foster relationships with foreign government counterparts and industry – potential locations are China, India, Latin America, Middle East, European Union
 - Product Approvals
 - On December 27, 2007, FDA approved Voluven to treat blood volume loss during and after surgery. Significant blood losses can cause a rapid drop in the volume of red blood cells and plasma circulating through the body. This can lead to shock, which is potentially fatal. Blood volume expanders are commonly administered to quickly restore some of the lost volume so remaining red blood cells can continue to deliver needed oxygen to the body's tissues
 - On January 18, 2008, FDA approved etravirine (Intelence) tablets for the treatment of HIV infection in adults who have failed treatment with other antiretrovirals. Etravirine is a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI) approved to be used in combination with other anti-HIV medications
- **Bureau of Prisons (BOP)** – LCDR Jeffrey Newman
 - BOP Pharmacists Meeting
 - Pharmacist Recruitment Workgroup (“Chain Gang”) reorganized and reenergized – lead is CDR Patrick Marshall
- **Indian Health Service (IHS)** – CDR Scott Giberson
 - Several TDY opportunities available at IHS locations
 - Announcement for IHS Principal Pharmacist Consultant (i.e. – Chief Pharmacist) with closing date of February 21, 2008
- **DHS** - United States Coast Guard (USCG) – LCDR Patrick Romero (USCG) & CDR Christine Chung (Immigration)
 - USCG – welcome aboard LCDR James Czarzasty as new pharmacist at the United States Coast Guard Academy
 - Immigration – e-mail sent to Immigration pharmacist to sign up for the pharmacists listserv since they are no longer on the

HRSA listserv – transition to DHS is on-going with additional trainings required

- **Heath Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** – CDR Josephine Lyght
 - Brown bag on awards on Wednesday, February 13, 2008
- **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**- CAPT Lia Prela
 - No report given
- **Ex-Minimus Agencies** – CDR Chris Allen – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - CDR Allen had to leave the PharmPAC meeting early but did submit a written report (please see attachment)
- **Office of the Secretary (OS)**
 - No Report

PAC Chair Report→ **CDR Beth Fabian Fritsch** (beth.fritsch@fda.hhs.gov)

- There is no new update regarding the new revised COER. The new COER was to be discussed at the January SGPAC meeting but was postponed. Hopefully, will get answers next week at the PAC Chair's meeting on what comments were implemented and if further drafts will be offered for comment. Thank you to those officers that assisted on short notice to review the COER. It was a productive meeting with many good comments.
- Update from the PAC Chair's Meeting
 - Due to increased death rates in current DOD operations the Commissioned Corps SGLI agency contributions will increase
 - The new two week BOTC course has been fully funded for 2008
 - Ongoing OFRD missions – state of the union, mental health team deployment to Rosebud reservation, and deployment of PHS team to FEMA assisting with trailer formaldehyde issues
- The PAC members have commented on the implementation of the Recruitment Service Ribbon. As a reminder to members, comments for the proposed issuances on daily uniform wear are due COB today (Thursday)
- PharmPAC immunization initiative will be meeting with RADM Williams on March 7, 2008 to further discuss our efforts
- Would like to have a meeting with the section leads to do some updating and if any sections need help from one another. Potential dates are February 21 or 22 tentatively, so please e-mail LCDR Ganoë if you have a date preference
- APhA Meeting – will have a recruiting booth at the APhA Annual Meeting in March in San Diego – please contact CAPT Raelene Skerda if interested in participating – a listserv message has been sent
- APhA Delegates for PHS for APhA meeting are CDR Mark Strong (BOP), and LCDR Kelly Valente (CMS) – alternates are LCDR Forest Ford (IHS) and LT Sarah Freeman (IHS)

Old/New Business:

- LCDR Patrick Romero – thank you to those individuals for providing update with point of contact information on PharmPAC website
- CDR Mike Shiber – PHPWG – LCDR Gunther presentation – request presentation be posted on website

The meeting was adjourned @1527 by motion from LT Joseph Zagame and CDR Scott Giberson

Next Meeting Date:

06 March 2008, from 1300 to 1600 EST, Surgeon General's Conference Room; Agenda and call-in information will be distributed prior to the meeting

Useful Links and Contact Info:

- ◆ Emails: PharmPAC@list.nih.gov
PHS-Pharmacists@list.nih.gov
PHS-RX-JOBS@list.nih.gov
PHS-Rx-Students@list.nih.gov
- ◆ Listservs: PHS Pharmacists <https://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-pharmacists.html>
 PHS Rx Students <https://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-rx-students.html>
 OFRD <https://list.nih.gov/archives/ccrf.html>
 RPh Job Vacancies <https://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-rx-jobs.html>

- CCMIS <https://list.nih.gov/archives/ccinformation-1.html>
- CC Vacancies <https://list.nih.gov/archives/ccvacancies-1.html>
- PHS Immunizing Pharmacists <https://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-immunizing-pharm.html>

- ◆ Websites: PharmPAC <http://hhs.gov/pharmacy>
- CCMIS <http://dcp.psc.gov>
- USPHS <http://www.usphs.gov>
- OFRD <http://oep.osophs.dhhs.gov/ccrf>

--Respectfully Submitted,

LCDR Jeff Mallette, Executive Secretary / Date

LCDR Violette Ganoë, Chair / Date

RADM Robert E. Pittman, CPO / Date

Attachments:

1. **Childhood Obesity PowerPoint Presentation**
2. **Officer Health Program Position Paper**
3. **Minority Outreach Program Position Paper**
4. **Archimbault Award Criteria**
5. **Recruitment Section Report**
6. **FDA Agency Report**
7. **CDC Agency Report**