U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

SCIENTIST OFFICERS

BEST KEPT SECRETS

AMERICA'S HEALTH RESPONDERS COMMISSIONED CORPS U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Opportunities

Who Are We?

The Scientist Category in the U.S. Public Health Service is very diverse with over 46 scientific disciplines, including biochemistry, biology, biostatistics, chemistry, clinical psychology, computer science, entomology, environmental health, epidemiology, genetics, health physics, immunology, industrial hygiene, microbiology, nutrition, parasitology, pharmacology, physics, physiology, social science, and toxicology. All Scientist Officers hold a doctoral degree.

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is an elite team of more than 6,500 full-time, well-trained, highly qualified public health professionals dedicated to delivering the Nation's public health promotion and disease prevention programs and advancing public health science. Driven by a passion for public service, these men and women serve on the front lines in the Nation's fight against disease and poor health conditions. As one of America's seven uniformed services, the Commissioned Corps fills essential public health leadership and service roles within the Nation's Federal Government agencies and programs.

"Corps Scientists stand ready to serve at home and abroad. As dedicated practitioners of good science, we improve public health services for communities, lead the way toward public health discoveries and interventions, blaze investigative trails in research and are prepared to address the emerging public health needs of the future."

CAPT SHARON WILLIAMS-FLEETWOOD, Chief Scientist Officer
U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

What Do We Do?

Scientists in Public Health:

- Are involved in all levels of public health planning, preparation and response to public health crises and disasters.
- Conduct basic and applied research consistent with our scientific disciplines.
- Educate healthcare providers and healthcare consumers.
- Serve as supervisors and administrators in health care, health research and regulatory agencies.

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Did you know you can:

- Enjoy fantastic medical and dental benefits for you and your family
- Use military bases around the world
- Use the GI Bill to advance your education later on in life
- Contribute pre-tax income to the Thrift Savings Plan

Quality of Practice

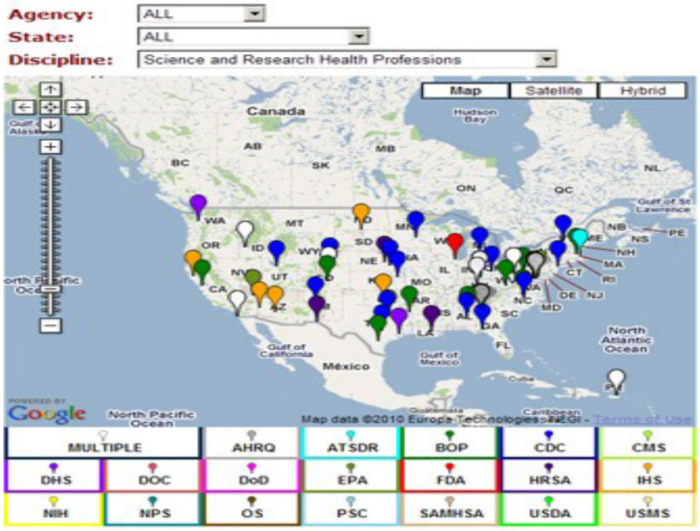
When you join the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps you become part of a diverse group of professionals who share a common goal to advance health care. Many career choices for scientists tend to lock you into one career path with limited options. Scientists employed in academia for example may teach the same courses in the same location and have the same work responsibilities for years. One of the great benefits of a career as a Scientist in the Commissioned Corps is the diversity of career opportunities. Scientist Officers may work in a wide variety of federal agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and several others. Consistent with their training, Scientist Officers may work in direct healthcare delivery or basic and applied scientific research. Over the course of a career, Scientist Officers often move into positions of higher responsibility as supervisors and managers. They also have the option of moving to work in other agencies or locations. Despite the broad range of career opportunities, however, all Scientist Officers are part of one team with many opportunities for collaboration and mutual support.

Why You Should be a Scientist Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

Where are We Located?

Almost anywhere and everywhere in the U.S.A. Whether you prefer rural or urban, east or west, north or south; we have a location for you. Scientists can be employed as Commissioned Officers across the country in any of the following agencies:

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Food and Drug Administration
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Indian Health Service
- Federal Bureau of Prisons
- ICE Health Service Corps
- The Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard
- National Institutes of Health
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



Scientist Officer LCDR Alfredo Sancho supporting U.S. Air Force medical training exercise in Ecuador.

Quality of Life

Is your quality of life all that it could be? Is it important to you to have time to spend with your family and friends, doing the things you enjoy? As a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, you receive 30 days of annual leave plus 10 Federal holidays. Many duty stations operate Monday–Friday during normal business hours. This organization allows you to pursue life in literally hundreds of locations from the largest cities to the smallest communities near the oceans, the mountains, the Grand Canyon, the Gulf Coast or national parks. Be prepared to enjoy a camaraderie and sense of common purpose unlike anything you have yet experienced.

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/USPHS **800-279-1605** **WWW.USPHS.GOV**

Why You Should be a Scientist Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

Why is a career as a Corps Scientist a great choice?

The combination of rewarding professional service, pay, benefits, career opportunities, opportunity for career advancement and geographic mobility make a career as a PHS Scientist an unparalleled opportunity.

Scientist category best kept secrets!
A career as an Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service is one of the best career opportunities for a Scientist. So few people know about us, it seems almost like a national secret.

Career Opportunities

Many career choices tend to lock you into one career path. PHS Scientists have many opportunities to work in a variety of agencies and to completely change career paths. For example, an early career psychologist might chose to work in the Federal Bureau of Prisons or in the Indian Health Service. Many psychologists work in those agencies for the full course of their PHS Scientist career, advancing to higher levels of responsibility, becoming supervisors and managers. Other psychologists chose to move to other agencies. Recently, many Scientist psychologists have taken positions with the Department of Defense and are working in hospitals and clinics at Army, Navy and Air Force installations in the United States. Scientist psychologists have also worked in the Office of the Surgeon General, as disaster response coordinators, in violence prevention research at the CDC and in brain imaging research at NIH.

The other science disciplines also have a wide variety of career opportunities. We have a neurophysiologist clinical scientist working at the National Naval Medical Center in the field of traumatic brain injury. We have pharmacologists, pharmaceutical scientists, chemists, and biologists working at the FDA in a variety of fields, including generic drug reviews, new drug reviews, biologics, food and cosmetic products, veterinary medicines, risk management and surveillance, counter-terrorism and emergency response coordination, amongst others.

Join America's Public Health Team!

If you are a scientist or science student interested in joining the fight for public health, or if you have questions about what we do and how you can make a difference with the Commissioned Corps, we would like to talk to you. For more information, call us at 800-279-1605 or visit our website at www.usphs.gov.

Scientist Officer CAPT Douglas Thoroughman and the Texas Health Department staff advise interview teams on how to gather information about household preparedness and public health knowledge for a training deployment to San Saba County, Texas.

Scientist Officer LT Kenney working in the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research Quality Controlled Bacterial Endotoxin Testing Laboratory to ensure that vaccines are safe and effective before being released to the U.S. public.

U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Benefits

Commissioned Corps Officer Benefits

Commissioned Corps Officers working for the U.S. Public Health Service enjoy the same benefits as their counterparts in the armed services. Here are a few of them:

- No cost, comprehensive medical and dental care for Corps Officers; excellent health benefits for families
- Paid sick leave, maternity leave, and Federal holidays
- Clinical practice liability coverage
- Thirty days of paid vacation per year beginning the first year
- Tax-free housing and meal allowances
- Thrift Savings plan (retirement savings and investment plan similar to a 401 (k))
- Retirement plan with benefits eligibility beginning after 20 years of service
- Loan Repayment Potential—There are at least four student loan repayment or forgiveness programs for which USPHS Officers may qualify, the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program, the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, and the Income Based Repayment Plan for federal student loans.
- Veterans benefits, including the Post 9/11 GI Bill and the Montgomery GI Bill are available to provide educational benefits for Corps officers and, as appropriate, their family members.

Student loan repayment:

By the time many graduate students complete a doctoral degree and look for a first job, they have a six figure student loan debt going back to undergraduate studies. Student loan repayment and forgiveness programs are available to many PHS Scientists. This can make a huge difference in the standard of living in those early career years when many young professionals are saddled with large student loan debt and relatively small starting salaries.

Scientist Officer CAPT William Murphy conducting tests on hearing protection devices at the US Army Aberdeen Proving Ground EAR laboratory. (US Army Photo by Ron Carty)

Additional Uniformed Service Benefits

The Commissioned Corps offers you and your family many other exceptional benefits including:

- Paid moving expenses when you join the Corps, relocate with the Corps, and retire from the Corps.
- Access to military base lodging, recreational facilities and space-available flights on military aircraft.
- Shopping privileges at military base grocery and department stores.

U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Next Steps

Scientist Officer Qualifications

- All Commissioned Corps Officers must meet several basic qualifications: You must be a U.S. citizen, be less than 44 years of age and pass a physical health examination. For those candidates with qualifying prior military service, the age limit may be higher than age 44. To be a Scientist Officer, you also need the following:
- A doctorate degree (Ph.D., D.P.H., D.Sc., or Ed.D. or other qualifying doctorate degree) that required successful completion of independent, scientific, data-driven original research in the specialty field. This research generally takes the form of a doctoral dissertation and can involve a variety of scientific research designs, including meta-analyses.
- For qualifying doctoral degrees with a licensure requirement, a current, unrestricted, and valid license in any of the 50 States; Washington, DC; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; the U.S. Virgin Islands; or Guam.

Scientist Student Opportunities

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps offers two excellent opportunities for students to serve their country while completing their education. If you are interested in a public health career, we encourage you to apply to the Junior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (JRCOSTEP) and the Senior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (SRCOSTEP). Both programs offer excellent benefits and are highly competitive.

If you have questions about COSTEP, please visit our website at http://www.usphs.gov/student/COSTEP.aspx.

Scientist Officers at the Officer Basic Training Course with the Director of Office of Force Readiness and Deployment

Who Do I Contact?

AGENCY	RECRUITER	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE	EMAIL
Federal Bureau of Prisons	CDR Robert L. Krick	719-784-9100 ext 4946	http://www.bop.gov/	rkrick@bop.gov
Department of Defense/TMA	CDR Nicole Frazer	703-578-8539	http://www.defense.gov/ http://www.defense.gov/	Nicole.frazer@tma.osd.mil
Behavioral Health in Primary Care/DoD	CDR Christopher L. Hunter	703-681-0079	http://www.tricare.mil/ http://www.defense.gov/	Christopher.Hunter@tma.osd.mil
Food and Drug Administration	CAPT Michael A. McLaughlin	301-796-8158	www.fda.gov	Michael.McLaughlin@fda.hhs.gov
Food and Drug Administration	LCDR Dominic Frasca	301-796-8246	www.fda.gov	Dominic.Frasca@fda.hhs.gov
Food and Drug Administration	LCDR Mike Smith	301-796-1569	www.fda.gov	michael.smith2@fda.hhs.gov
National Naval Medical Center	LCDR Alexander Balbir	301-272-0158	http://www.bethesda.med.navy.mil/	Alexander.Balbir@med.navy.mil
Naval Medical Research Center	LT Todd Myers	301-319-3113	http://www.med.navy.mil	Todd.Myers@med.navy.mil
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	LCDR Sharyn Parks Brown	770-488-4058	http://www.cdc.gov/	svp2@cdc.gov
U. S. Army	LCDR Mark D. Clayton	301-619-3698	http://cdmrp.army.mil/	mark.clayton2@us.army.mil

For further information about a career as a Scientist in the U.S. Public Health Service visit www.usphs.gov and http://usphs-scientist.org/