

# SCIENTIST PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Office of the Surgeon General  
 United States Public Health Service  
 Minutes of 25 October 2001 Meeting Number 84

## Highlights

Check out ROA's *The Officer* magazine with CAPT Susanne Caviness -- read about her experience at the WTC.

Call for abstracts for COA. Online submission at <http://www.coausphs.org> Deadline for submission is January 18, 2002.

Please let CAPT Joseph know if you have been deployed to assist with efforts related to terrorist acts through CCRF or other means. Provide where, when, how deployed and briefly summarize duties.

CAPT Caviness needs photos for the Scientist Poster at the COA meeting. The meeting is earlier than usual this year (April 22-24), so photos are needed early in the new year.

Officers are encouraged to wear the uniform daily

## I. LOCATION/DATE/TIME

Parklawn Building, Surgeon General's Conference Room 18-57  
 1300-1600 HOURS

## II. ATTENDANCE

### A. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

CDR Angela González Willis	HRSA	(Chairperson)
CAPT John Bartko (ret)		(Treasurer)
CDR Richard Troiano	NIH	(Past Chairperson)
CAPT Bryan Jones	HRSA	
CDR Joseph Despins	EPA	
LCDR Tom Hendricks	FDA	
LCDR Daphne Moffett	ATSDR	
LCDR Doug Thoroughman	IHS	

### B. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

CAPT Lireka Joseph	FDA	(CPO)
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### C. GUESTS ATTENDING

CAPT Mark Paris	DOD	
CAPT Armen Thoumaian	CMS	
CDR Laila Ali	FDA	
CDR Francois Lalonde	NIH	
CDR Rebecca Sheets	FDA	
LCDR Darin Weber	FDA	(Webmaster)
LCDR Jon Daugherty	FDA	
LCDR Mark Seaton	FDA	
LT Joe Temenak	FDA	

### D. MEMBERS EXCUSED OR ABSENT

LCDR Nelson Adekoya	CDC	(Vice Chairperson)
LCDR Boris Aponte	SAMHSA	

Dr. Stephen S. Goldman

NIH

### III. STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS AND REPORTS

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1305 hours by CDR González Willis, followed by a violin rendition of the Star Spangled Banner by CDR Despins.

#### B. GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

CDR González Willis greeted the participants and asked them to introduce themselves. New officers and members were introduced. LCDR Tom Hendricks was nominated and agreed to serve as recording secretary. He was elected unanimously. Because LCDR Hendricks had to leave for another engagement, CDR Troiano volunteered to take notes for the meeting.

CDR González Willis discussed the role of PACs in supporting disaster response. She suggested that a potential role would be to provide home support to officers deployed through DMAT or CCRF. She asked for other suggestions or ideas. CAPT Jones pointed out the need to promote abilities of scientists whose skills may be useful in non-clinical deployments, e.g., for FEMA assessments of terrorism readiness. He proposed a tabulation of specialties/skills in the category, similar to that produced by Engineer Category. LCDR Weber reminded that PAC that we are supposed to have a CCRF Scientist training module on line by January 2002. CAPT Jones noted the potential for officers to be part of the OEP Crisis response team (Rockville is part of Region 3). Officers were encouraged to take advantage of the current situation to promote the visibility of the Corps by wearing the uniform every day.

#### C. REPORT FROM THE CHIEF PROFESSIONAL OFFICER

CAPT Joseph presented a PHS Citation to CDR Troiano for his service as PAC Chair. SciPAC Certificates for service to the Category were presented to: CAPT John Bartko, CAPT Susanne Caviness, CAPT Rickie Davis, CAPT Derek Dunn, CAPT Ron Jans, CAPT Mark Paris, CDR Laila Ali, CDR Joseph Despins, CDR Angela González Willis, CDR Rebecca Sheets, CDR Richard Troiano, LCDR Nelson Adekoya, LCDR John Mosely Hayes, LCDR Daphne Moffet, LCDR Doug Thoroughman, and LCDR Darin Weber.

CAPT Joseph provided a brief summary of the presentation of the uniform survey results at the Joint SG PAC/CPO PAC Chair meeting of October 11. There was clear endorsement by many of that group for daily uniform wear. It was pointed out that the Secretary is in strong favor of officers in uniform. Several IHS Area Directors have mandated daily uniform wear in their areas.

From this morning's CPO/PAC Chair meeting, CAPT Joseph noted that DSG Moritsugu had been detailed full time to serve as Congressional Liaison for the anthrax incident. There has also been increased visibility of SG Satcher. The designee for Assistant Secretary for Health is Dr. Eve Slater. The AMSUS meeting was cancelled because of security concerns. However, the scheduled bioterrorism session will be made available on a CD-ROM. The Air Force will host AMSUS next year due to the cancellation, which means that PHS will host in 2003. CAPT Joseph described and circulated the handout from a presentation by CAPT John Babb on recent activities of the CCRF.

A discussion of trauma acute response training followed. It was noted that officers could identify the need for this training, which is offered by the Red Cross for mental health professionals. This may be an activity on which Scientists could take the lead.

Other items noted or discussed included: need to decline SGLI dependent coverage if not desired, sign up for TSP by 10 January. CAPT Jones brought up the potential need for a waiver of the 60 day leave carryover for officers deployed in response to terrorist acts. The DoD has a 2 year moratorium already in place. The COA foundation is listed in the Capital Area CFC directory, listing #7584.

D. REPORT FROM THE TREASURER (CAPT Bartko) – CAPT Bartko reported our stable balance of \$2599.65. Signature cards have been submitted to reflect the new Executive Committee members.

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS -SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND PROJECTS

A. AWARDS (CDR Troiano) - No report

B. CHARTER REVIEW/HANDBOOK (LCDR Weber) – Still on hold pending SG signature on model charter.

C. MENTORING (CDR Sheets) – No report

D. RECRUITMENT (LCDR Adekoya) – No report, but there was discussion of recruitment of outgoing members from other uniform services. The policy in some agencies of only hiring via Title 42 was also discussed. This policy excludes civil service as well as Commissioned Corps applicants.

E. VISIBILITY (LCDR Weber)

1. Poster (CAPT Caviness) — LCDR Weber noted that CAPT Caviness would need photos and bios by the end of January or early February for the poster this year because of the earlier date of the COA Annual Meeting.

2. Public Relations, Publishing, and Public Speaking (LCDR Weber) — CAPT Caviness could not attend the PAC meeting because she was participating in the CFC Kickoff ceremony at the Humphrey Building. She was also scheduled to participate in the Kickoff at Parklawn with SG Satcher. CAPT Caviness and CAPT Bob Davidson (HSO) raised the PHS flag at Ground Zero during the DMAT deployment at the WTC.

DC COA Dining out was held 17 November. Scientists were well represented.

3. Internet (LCDR Weber) — An article by CAPT Caviness about her experiences at the WTC with photos is posted on the web site.

4. Science Fair Judging (CDR Sheets) — LCDR Weber and LCDR Hendricks led this activity for DC COA last year. LCDR Hendricks now has lead responsibility. Activities are expected to begin in December or January.

5. Music Ensemble (CAPT Bartko, ret.) — The Commissioned Corps Ensemble brass and choral groups performed at the Dining Out. Scheduling for holiday performances is taking place.

F. CV REVIEW (CDR Troiano) – CV submissions have been received and reviewers were sought (and found). Comments to officers will be provided by the end of November.

G. SURVEY (CDR Troiano) – CDR Despina and LCDR Thoroughman were thanked for their suggested revisions to the survey. They were asked to implement the suggestions.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. PAC Goals and objectives for 2002 (CDR González Willis)

CDR González Willis pointed out that the PAC belongs to the members. She looks to them for input and suggested directions for the PAC. Her objectives for the coming year include: finalizing the Category survey report and making it available on the web site; updating the Scientist Handbook; increasing the focus on recruitment and retention—contacting every new Scientist officer with letters from the Chief Scientist and PAC Chair and an information packet; adding more officer profiles to the web site to increase visibility and highlight accomplishments of Scientist officers, especially officers in field settings; and increasing the involvement of Scientist officers in the PAC.

### 2. Selection of Subcommittee Chairpersons and members

Officers are encouraged to notify CDR González Willis of interest in assisting with any of the subcommittees below.

#### 1. Awards

CDR González Willis, Chair  
CDR Troiano

#### 2. Charter review

LCDR Weber, Chair  
CDR Troiano

#### 3. Mentoring

CDR Despins, Chair  
CAPT Sanders  
LCDR Seaton

#### 4. Recruitment

CDR Despins, Chair  
CAPT Sanders  
LCDR Daugherty  
LT Temenak

#### 5. Visibility

#### 6. Handbook

LCDR Thoroughman, Chair  
CDR Troiano  
LCDR Weber

### A. Other New Business.

#### 1. Meeting Dates for 2002

<u>Full SciPAC</u>	<u>Executive Committee</u>
January 24	November 29
March 28	February 28
June 27	May 23
September 26	July 25

#### 2. Scientist Category Day (CAPT Thoumaian)

The theme of the COA Annual meeting (Atlanta, GA April 22-24) will be *Leading the Public Health Response to Disease and Disaster: Global Vision, National Action*. Topics will include prevention, detection, vaccination, and genomic areas. Holding a PAC meeting during the conference was suggested, as many Scientists are in Atlanta and the conference coincides with the EIS conference. Invited speakers from Atlanta should be included for Category day. Plans for category day need to be finalized by January.

### D. Status of psychologists in the PHS (CAPT Sanders)

CAPT Sanders noted that he is the Scientist Category board member on the National COA Board, so he

encourages officers to contact him as needed.

As of August 2001, there were 72 Psychologist officers in the PHS, 48 in the Scientist category, 24 in the HSO category. This split divides the profession in the Corps. Some psychologists went to HSO because of the belief that the Psy. D. did not include original research. This is not the case. According to the American Psychological Association, the model is the scientist-practitioner, so Psy. D. includes a research background.

Clinical psychologists in the PHS face challenges. They are licensed independent providers—the JCAHO evaluates them like physicians, however, clinics want to put them under the supervision of psychiatrists, leading them to not be treated as independent. Clinical psychologists need to be able to write orders for tests, medications, nursing, etc. Unlike other Services, the PHS has no single chief Psychologist Officer.

We need to increase the recognition of multiple specialties and skills within psychology. The current situation has led to underutilization of psychologists by CCRF and others in the PHS.

## 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next scheduled meeting: Executive Committee - **November 29, 2001**

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

The SciPAC meeting was officially adjourned at 1530 HOURS.

Submitted by:

RPT  
CDR Richard Troiano  
Acting Recording Secretary  
Date 11/26/2001

AGW  
CDR Angela M. González Willis  
Chairperson  
Date 11/28/01 AGW

# SCIENTIST PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Office of the Surgeon General  
United States Public Health Service

Minutes of 24 January 2002 Meeting Number 85

## I. LOCATION/DATE/TIME

Parklawn Building, Surgeon General's Conference Room 18-57  
1300-1600 HOURS

## II. ATTENDANCE

### A. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

CAPT John Bartko (ret)	(Treasurer)
CDR Pam Ching	CDC
LCDR Nelson Adekoya	CDC (Vice Chairperson)
LCDR Boris Aponte	SAMHSA
LCDR Tom Hendricks	FDA
LCDR Daphne Moffett	ATSDR
LCDR Doug Thoroughman	IHS

### B. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

CAPT Lireka Joseph	FDA	(CPO)
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### C. GUESTS ATTENDING

CAPT Mark Paris	DoD	
CAPT Armen Thoumaian	CMS	
CAPT Susanne Caviness	SAMHSA	
CDR Bo Kimsey	CDC	
LCDR Darin Weber	FDA	(Webmaster)
LCDR Jon Daugherty	FDA	
LCDR Kathleen McDuffie	CDC	
LT Joeseeph Temenak	FDA	

### D. MEMBERS EXCUSED OR ABSENT

Dr. Stephen S. Goldman	NIH
CDR Angela González Willis	HRSA (Chairperson)
CDR Richard Troiano	NIH (Past Chairperson)
CAPT Bryan Jones	HRSA
CDR Joseph Despins	EPA

## III. STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS AND REPORTS

### A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1305 hours by CAPT John Bartko (ret).

### B. GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

CDR González Willis was unable to attend the meeting. CAPT John Bartko (ret) greeted the participants and asked them to introduce themselves.

LCDR Aponte described some of SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration) responses to the September 11 terrorist attacks. SAMSHA has awarded a total of \$28 million to address the psychological effects on adults, adolescents, and children. A more in depth description of the funding is found in the Fall 2001 issue of SAMHSA News. In addition, SAMHSA sponsored a nation summit of local, state, and federal representatives of the mental health and substance abuse service community, entitled "When Terror Strikes: Responding to the Nation's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Needs on November 14 - 16, 2001 in New York City. Forty-two state governors and HHS Secretary Thompson attended this event. Further information about SAMHSA responses to the terrorist attach may be obtained at <http://www.samhsa.gov>.

CAPT John Bartko (ret) introduced the guest CAPT John Babb, Director of the Commissioned Corps Readiness Force (CCRF), USPHS Office of Emergency Preparedness. Highlights of CAPT Babb's presentation:

1. A description of all CCRF and National Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) activities for the year 2001. Some of these include the Presidential inauguration, State of the Union Address, Mescalero Indian Hospital, Devens Federal Bureau of Prison (BOP) Hospital, Tropical Storm Allison I and II, September 11 Attacks, and Anthrax Attacks).
2. Commissioned Officers worked at 5 treatment sites in New York City and averaged 500 - 525 patients/24 hours.
3. Non CDC Commissioned Officers worked a total of 13 years of overtime for the various events in 2001 (hour count for CDC Commissioned Officers was not available).
4. Active and planned CCRF and DMAT activities for 2002 were also described (Vaccination Program - Washington, DC, State of the Union Address, Support for IHS Command Center, and Winter Olympics - Salt Lake City).
5. At least 21 Scientist Officers were deployed for various events in 2001.
6. The Surgeon General agreed to extend the deadline for completing CCRF Roster Qualifications until January 1, 2003. Thereafter, all CCRF Roster Qualifications must be met for Officers to be deployed.
7. The contact information for CAPT John Babb are 301-443-3114 and [jbabb@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:jbabb@osophs.dhhs.gov). The website is <http://oep.osophs.dhhs.gov/ccrf>.

**C. REPORT FROM THE CHIEF PROFESSIONAL OFFICER**

CAPT Joseph strongly encouraged Officers to attend the Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D. Farewell Reception, Wednesday, February 6, 2002, 6:30 - 9:30 PM at the National Institutes of Health, The Natcher Conference Center, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD. The cost is \$35.00. The COA Foundation will supplement the cost of the reception for O-3 Officers and lower (reduce price by \$15.00). A reservation request

should be made to the Anchor and Caduceus Society, Attn: Surgeon General's Reception, P.O. Box 30100, Bethesda, MD 20824.

Volunteers are still needed for the Surgeon General Farewell Reception. Please contact COL Dave Litts [dlitts@osophs.dhhs.gov] if you are interested.

The following article was discussed at the CPO and PAC Chairs meeting (ROA Conference - Minuteman appreciation of CC):

***Reinforce Our First Line Of Defense***

The Washington Post Sunday, January 20, 2002  
By Jayson L. Spiegel

In its upcoming session, Congress will debate how best to restructure the five armed forces to respond to future terrorist threats. As important as this debate will be, Congress should also assess the Public Health Service (PHS) -- the uniformed corps of some 6,000 medically trained commissioned officers under the leadership of the U.S. surgeon general. The administration needs to establish a fully trained PHS reserve officer corps that can be mobilized in response to emergencies as quickly and effectively as the traditional reserves of the armed services. This would involve building on the corps' established strengths. Homeland defense has been a PHS mission since the earliest days of the republic. The corps was established in 1798 to address the health needs of America's seafaring merchant fleets. In developing a system of health care for merchant seamen, the PHS provided the country's first defense against disease reaching our shores. In those early days, ships arriving in our ports often carried infections that threatened to loose epidemics in America. The uncontrolled spread of disease was such a serious problem that the yellow fever epidemic of 1793 caused the federal government to cease operations at its headquarters in Philadelphia -- a foreshadowing of the closing of the Hart Senate Office Building last fall after a letter laden with anthrax bacteria was opened there. President George Washington moved to a house in nearby Germantown, Pa., where he met with Cabinet members, including Thomas Jefferson, Edmund Randolph and Alexander Hamilton. Today's problem is rather different, of course. Whatever the source of last fall's anthrax outbreak, the Office of Homeland Security is now all too aware of the potential for health threats to be brought deliberately to our shores by terrorists rather than unwittingly by merchant ships' crews. Aiming to hone our ability to distinguish between a naturally occurring outbreak of infectious disease and a covert bioterrorist attack, PHS officers are currently assigned to the Centers for Disease Control to oversee a disease-surveillance system that reaches local community clinics and hospitals. Other officers ensure that laboratories are ready and available across the nation to help with the identification of biological or chemical agents. In addition to maintaining a system for the emergency distribution of medical supplies, antibiotics and vaccines, active-duty PHS officers conduct bioterrorism exercises, in the hope that they can prevent the fear and chaos that will likely follow a terrorist attack. But, if we were to face a widespread attack -- whether from chemical or biological weapons, or from weapons of mass destruction -- we would need

*SciPAC Meeting, 24 January 2002*

additional expertise. Today, there are about 2,500 reserve PHS officers who could provide such assistance -- down from some 6,000 in 1989. These men and women -- trained as physicians, dentists, environmental engineers, nurses and other health specialists -- are subject to recall and deployment by the National Command Authority, the president and the secretary of defense, in the same way that the more familiar reserves of the armed forces are mobilized. However, under the current structure, there is no provision for routine monthly or annual training to ensure that these reservists maintain a high standard of skills. Nor do they have benefits. Without adequate training, benefits and job protection, there is little reason for professionals to serve in the PHS reserve -- and less certainty that, if called upon, they would be able to perform their duties effectively. It is not only in preparation for a terrorist attack that regular training would be useful. During their training cycles, PHS reserve units could perform other public health missions, including food safety inspections, vaccination against bioterrorism agents or health education in economically disadvantaged communities. Recognizing these possibilities, Congress in 1997, 1998 and 1999 encouraged the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a more robust PHS reserve corps -- and provided money to do so. The Clinton administration failed to comply. The questions that are lingering over the handling of the recent anthrax cases are persuasive evidence that this country now needs to make use of every available asset in the war against terrorism. By establishing a fully trained PHS reserve officer corps, the Bush administration can help make sure that happens. Jayson Spiegel is executive director of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States.

CAPT Craig A. Shepherd, RS, MPH  
Director, Environmental Health Services  
Nashville Area Office, Indian Health Service  
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike  
Nashville, Tennessee 37214  
Tel. (615) 467-1535, Fax. (615) 467-1583  
e-mail address: [craig.shepherd@mail.ihs.gov](mailto:craig.shepherd@mail.ihs.gov)

LCDR Adekoya provided a brief summary of ARP. LCDR Adekoya or CAPT Caviness should be contacted for additional information concerning the associated recruiter program.

On January 31 the TSP open season closes.

**ATTENTION:** DCP will strictly enforce the licensing requirement this promotion cycle. All Officers that are required to be licensed for appointment will also need to meet the requirement of not holding a restricted license. Officers may refer to page 3 of the February 2002 Commissioned Corps Bulletin.

Heads up: A 3 year assignment will open up in Cairo, Egypt soon.

The SciPAC will put out a request for new members shortly.

D. REPORT FROM THE TREASURER (CAPT Bartko) – No report

**OLD BUSINESS -SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND PROJECTS**

A. AWARDS (CDR González Willis) - No report

B. CHARTER REVIEW/HANDBOOK (LCDR Weber) –No report

C. MENTORING (CDR Despins) – No report

D. RECRUITMENT (CDR Despins) – No report

E. VISIBILITY (LCDR Weber)

1. Poster (CAPT Caviness) — CAPT Caviness noted that she still needs photos and bios by the end of January or early February because of the earlier date of the COA Annual Meeting.

2. Public Relations, Publishing, and Public Speaking (LCDR Weber) — No report

3. Internet (LCDR Weber) – LCDR Weber reported that several Scientist Officer profiles have been posted on the Scientist Category website, <http://usphs-scientist.org>.

4. Science Fair Judging (LCDR Hendricks) — LCDR Hendricks and LCDR Rodrigue (HSO) lead this activity for DC COA this year. LCDR Hendricks now has lead responsibility. The Northern Virginia Regional Science & Engineering Fair and the Fairfax County Regional Science & Engineering Fair will be held on March 9, 2002. Please contact LCDR Hendricks at 301-827-6962 or [thendric@cvm.fda.gov](mailto:thendric@cvm.fda.gov) to sign up for Science Fair Judging in the DC/MD/VA area.

5. Music Ensemble (CAPT Bartko, ret.) — The Commissioned Corps Choral Group will perform at the Surgeon General Farewell Reception.

6. Handbook (LCDR Thoroughman) – No report

F. CV REVIEW (CDR Troiano)- No report

G. SURVEY (CDR Troiano) - No report

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

Scientist Category Day (CAPT Thoumaian)

The theme of the COA Annual meeting (Atlanta, GA April 22-24) will be *Leading the Public Health Response to Disease and Disaster: Global Vision, National Action.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next scheduled meeting: Executive Committee -**February 28, 2002**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The SciPAC meeting was officially adjourned at 1510 HOURS.

Submitted by:

MTH  
LCDR Tom Hendricks  
Recording Secretary  
Date 1/29/2002

AGW  
CDR Angela M. González Willis  
Chairperson  
Date 2/12/02

SCIENTIST PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Office of the Surgeon General  
United States Public Health Service

Minutes of 21 March 2002 Meeting Number 86

**I. LOCATION/DATE/TIME**

Parklawn Building, Surgeon General's Conference Room 18-57  
1300-1600 HOURS

**II. ATTENDANCE**

**A. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

CDR	Angela González Willis	HRSA (Chairperson)
LCDR	Nelson Adekoya	CDC (Vice Chairperson)
CAPT	John Bartko (ret)	(Treasurer)
LCDR	Tom Hendricks	FDA (Recording Secretary)
CDR	Pam Ching	CDC
CDR	Richard Troiano	NIH (Past Chairperson)
LCDR	Boris Aponte	SAMHSA
LCDR	Daphne Moffett	ATSDR
LCDR	Doug Thoroughman	IHS
Dr.	Stephen S. Goldman	NIH

**B. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING**

CAPT	Lireka Joseph	FDA (CPO)
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**C. GUESTS ATTENDING**

CAPT	Mark Paris	DoD
CAPT	Gil Sanders	HRSA
CAPT	Armen Thoumaian	CMS
CDR	Kevin McGuinness	
CDR	Ralph O'Connor	ATSDR
CDR	Doris Ravenell-Brown	FDA
LCDR	Jon Daugherty	FDA
LT	Joseph Temenak	FDA

**D. MEMBERS EXCUSED OR ABSENT**

CAPT	Bryan Jones	HRSA
CDR	Joseph Despina	EPA

### III. STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS AND REPORTS

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

CDR Angela González Willis called the meeting to order at 1305 hours.

#### B. GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

1. The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has made available at <http://sgreports.nlm.nih.gov/NN/> all reports issued by the US Public Health Service Surgeon General. This new site, which makes some 70 digitized reports public, results from collaboration between the NLM and the Office of the Surgeon General.

2. The Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) Awards The Acting Surgeon General requests that each Commissioned Corp category nominate at least one member for an AMSUS Award.

#### 3. Environmental Scan

Our CPO would like to be notified about any policies, practices, etc. that a Scientist Officer may hear about that might affect Scientist Category, Commissioned Corp or DHHS.

#### 4. Request for new SciPAC members

A request for new members will be in the April Bulletin. Scientist Officer candidates need their supervisors concurrence.

5. Scientist Officers should provide a list of all associations, and organizations that they are members of to the CPO.

#### 6. Appointment Standards Taskforce

CDR González Willis is the SciPAC representative to this taskforce, which will meet April 9, and 10, 2002. Please send to CDR González Willis any comments, ideas, suggestions, etc. that you wish to make on this process.

7. DC-COA provided \$750.00 to DMAT 1 for 2002. DC-COA has pledged to provide \$500.00 a year on going support to DMAT 1.

8. "Disney's Armed Forces Salute" has been extended to PHS Commissioned Corps Officers. This promotion ends April 30, 2002. The offer is open to all active-duty PHS commissioned officers and includes a free 7-day admission to any of the Disney theme parks in Florida and California, a 50 percent discount for up to five family members, and a limited number of discounted room rates at Disney resorts. Officers making reservations or calling to purchase tickets should identify themselves as "Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officers" and

be prepared to show their PHS identification cards when picking up tickets or entering the parks.

Additional information and details may be found on the Disney Web site—  
<http://disney.go.com/disneyhand/relief/salute.html>.

### **C. REPORT FROM THE CHIEF PROFESSIONAL OFFICER**

1. The Acting Surgeon General has the following interests: Health for Aging Populations, Correctional Health - Physical and Mental, Organ Donation, Osteoporosis, Mental Health and Bioterrorism, Health Information Technology, Diabetes/Obesity Relationship, Workforce Health - Protection of Needs and Mix, Immunization, Youth Violence, and Racial/Ethnic Disparities.
2. CDR Troiano is the category contact for Scientist CCRF training. Please send your ideas to CDR Troiano.

### **D. REPORT FROM THE TREASURER (CAPT Bartko)**

No activity to report. The treasury has a balance of \$2,599.65.

### **E. CHAIR'S REVIEW OF 2000-2001 PAC YEAR**

The 2000-2001 PAC year for SciPAC was a year of transition that included successes as well as frustration. CAPT Lireka Joseph came on board as the new CPO in September with the beginning of the new PAC year. With the expected arrival of the new CPO, CAPT Dunn opted not to fully staff the PAC with new members to allow CAPT Joseph to make some selections. Only two new members were added in September 2000. However, the member selection process takes time, and with other demands on the new CPO, accelerated member selection did not occur. The reduced number of new members, combined with the loss from the Commissioned Corps of a PAC member and executive board member, led to there being only 9 SciPAC members for 2000-2001.

As PAC chair, my goals for 2000-2001 were to continue previously introduced activities of improved communications with the Category, recognition of outstanding officers through the Scientist of the Year awards, and the CV review for promotion-eligible officers. I also hoped to revitalize the member alternates and mentoring programs, to finalize the revision of the Charter and Standard Operating Procedures to comply with new OSG policies, and to update the Scientist Handbook. Success in achieving these PAC goals was mixed.

We maintained good communications with the Category through our listserv and the excellent web site maintained by LCDR Darin Weber at our new domain, <http://usphs-scientist.org>. Moving to a private web hosting service allowed SciPAC to avoid web site access problems that occurred when NIH had a security breach. We maintained the Scientist of the Year Awards, and improved the process by clarifying

the criteria for the awards. The awards nomination packages were used as the basis for the first Scientist Officer profiles on the web site. In fall of 2000, the CV review process was strained by a high demand for reviews and a low response from potential reviewers leading to each CV being reviewed by only one officer. However, in 2001, a generous response from past and current PAC members and guests allowed sixteen promotion-eligible Scientist officers to have their CV reviewed by two officers. This service continued to be highly valued by those officers who took advantage of it. The PAC's involvement in recruitment has grown with several officers making presentations at colleges and through LCDR Nelson Adekoya's communication with Scientist Officer applicants regarding potential positions. LCDR Adekoya and CAPT Caviness were selected to represent the category in DCP's newly revitalized Associate Recruiter Program. Other highlights included several outstanding and highly visible performances by the Scientist sponsored Commissioned Corps brass, choral and chamber Ensembles under the direction of CAPT John Bartko and an excellent Scientist Category Day organized by CAPT Mark Paris at the Annual COA meeting. PAC meetings have had increased attendance via teleconference from officers all around the country, who has contributed their experience, expertise, and energy. Unfortunately, the revitalization of the member alternates and mentoring programs did not make any progress. The Charter and SOP process was not completed due to delays in the OSG. That process is now ready for completion. With the revised charter and SOP, the revision of the Scientist Handbook is long overdue and ready to proceed.

An unexpected, but highly visible major accomplishment was the Commissioned Corps Uniform Survey. In January 2001, the Scientist Category was asked by DSG Moritusugu to take the lead on this project. With input from other CPOs and PAC Chairs, CAPT Joseph and I designed and analyzed the survey that was hosted on the DCP web site. Survey results were presented to DSG Moritsugu and VADM Satcher in separate briefings as well as to a joint meeting of the SG PAC and CPO/PAC Chairs. With the end of VADM Satcher's term, it is not clear how the information from the survey will be used.

SciPAC is a team that needs widespread participation to be effective. The combination of reduced membership, all new leadership, and the intensive Uniform Survey effort led to some planned efforts not being completed in 2000-2001. I learned (or was reminded) that follow-through can be difficult to achieve, personally and organizationally. A balance of support and encouragement from the PAC Chair with independent leadership and initiative from subcommittee chairs and members is needed to accomplish the many tasks of the PAC. Increased numbers of active members and guests, as we are now experiencing, along with committed subcommittee leadership can lead to greater accomplishments. SciPAC needs to maintain the level of communication and support of the Category that we have achieved, clean up the loose ends of Charter and Handbook Revision, and move on to revitalizing the member alternate and mentorship programs. We also need to tackle the larger issues of the impending retirement of a large proportion of the category and the need to rationalize the assignment of Psychologists to categories in DCP. I look

forward to contributing to the ongoing valuable service that SciPAC provides Scientist Officers and the Commissioned Corps.

Respectfully submitted,

CDR Richard Troiano  
Past Chairperson

## **OLD BUSINESS -SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND PROJECTS**

### **A. AWARDS (CDR González Willis)**

The Winners of the SciPAC Awards have been notified. These awards will be given out during COA meeting in Atlanta.

### **B. CHARTER REVIEW/HANDBOOK (LCDR Weber)**

The SciPAC charter is ready to be sent forward.

### **C. RECRUITMENT (CDR Despins)**

1. Emory University: LCDR Nelson Adekoya was invited to the Career Action Day at the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University on February 21, 2002. CAPT Lireka Joseph and the ARP provided brochures which were distributed to more than 120 students. Several people requested information about the Corps, and this was an opportunity to educate these students. Participants were directed to the DCP website to learn more about the Corps. LCDR Adekoya has been invited to participate in the 2003 Career Day.

2. ARP: The ARP program is progressing well. Captain Terry Golden, Chief, Recruitment and Assignment Branch, attended the last meeting of the ARP group and provided information on the New Applicator Tool. The tool is meant to introduce applicants to the expectations of a Commissioned Officer including factors that may prevent an applicant from further consideration: weight height requirements, medical conditions, etc. ARP reps, CPO, Liaisons, and PAC have access to this tool, and they can access and use it to provide feedback to the applicant.

LCDR Adekoya forwarded several documents relating to ARP to CAPT Joseph, CDR Gonzalez-Willis, CDR Troiano, and LCDR Hendricks to determine if it will be appropriate to place these documents on our list serve given the increasing role that the categories will continue to play in recruitment. It is necessary for officers who wanted to be a member of the ARP to read the draft policy, complete the application forms, submit references letter, and most importantly, understand their expectations. Further questions on the ARP may be directed to LCDR Adekoya at 770-488-4642.

3. The OSG has signed the JOAG Policy and Procedures. So, the group is now official. Members of the group took a picture with RADM David Satcher at his send-off party, and this was printed in the current issue of the CC Bulletin. OSG has received application from six senior officers who are interested in serving as advisors to this group. Screening of the officers will begin soon, and JOAG will have an opportunity to talk to these individuals. However, selection for the position will be made by OSG.

4. Recruitment Slides: Although the draft of the slides is complete, the package needs to be polished. Because of LCDR Adekoya work schedule, he will need some officers to volunteer and work on this package. LCDR Adekoya had a meeting last month with CAPT Joseph, CDR Troiano, and CDR Gonzalez-Willis, regarding possible sections to be cut in the slides.

5. LCDR Adekoya will make a presentation at the Plenary Session, COA Conference, Atlanta, GA.

#### D. VISIBILITY (LCDR Weber)

##### 1. Music Ensemble (CAPT Bartko, ret.)

Certain members of the music ensemble will receive a unit commendation through the work of the CPO PAC Meeting Group.

Some members of the music ensemble will perform at COA in Atlanta.

##### 2. CV REVIEW (CDR Troiano)

A partial copy of the CV Review Report is reported below (Please go to Scientist website for full report).

In October 2001, SciPAC offered to review the CV of Commissioned Officers in the Scientist Category who were eligible for promotion in promotion year 2002 (July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003). CV submissions were received from 16 officers: 3 Captains (up for P-grade promotions), 5 Commanders, 5 Lieutenant Commanders, and 3 Lieutenants. These submissions came from a pool of 70 Scientist officers who were eligible for temporary promotions plus 34 eligible for permanent promotion alone.

Each CV was reviewed for consistency with recommendations in the Scientist Handbook, including format, appearance, clarity, and appropriate content. Current and former SciPAC members and guests were asked to serve as CV reviewers. Twelve officers agreed to serve as reviewers. This generous response and the relatively lower number of review requests allowed each CV to be reviewed by 2 reviewers. Having two reviewers provides broader perspective in

the comments, which was appreciated by officers receiving reviews. If a junior officer reviewed a CV, it was also reviewed by a senior officer. An effort was made to assign a Captain to review the CV of officers eligible for promotion to O-6. This approach led to each reviewer having two or three CVs to review.

#### **Feedback on CV Reviews**

In early January 2002, an e-mail was sent to officers who had submitted a CV for review, seeking their feedback on the process. Thirteen (81%) officers replied. Their responses and comments are summarized in a report on the website.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

Scientist Category Day (CAPT Thoumaian)

CAPT Thoumaian presented an overview of the activities and presentations for Scientist Category Day at the COA conference in Atlanta and provided the following copy of the current agenda.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, Scientist Topics

All presentations are in the Savannah 3 Room unless otherwise noted

#### **GENOME RESEARCH: NEW DISCOVERIES AND GLOBAL APPLICATIONS**

Moderator: CAPT Armen H. Thoumaian, Health Program Evaluation Officer, Quality Measurement & Health Assessment Group, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

**8:30-9:00 AM** INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME BY CHIEF SCIENTIST OFFICER CAPT Lireka Joseph, Chief Scientist Officer, USPHS

**9:00-10:00 AM** THE ROLE OF GENOMICS AND BIOINFORMATICS IN BIOLOGICAL DISCOVERY:

Speaker: Andreas D. Baxevanis, Ph.D., Associate Director for Intramural Research; Director, Computational Genomics, National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health

**10:00-11:00 AM** GENOME SEQUENCING OF BACILLUS ANTHRACIS AND OTHER BIOWARFARE PATHOGENS

Speaker: Timothy D. Read, Ph.D., Assistant Investigator, The Institute for Genomic Research

**11:00AM-12Noon** THE SYSTEMIC AUTONFLAMMATORY  
DISEASES: WINDOW ON THE MOLECULAR REGULATION OF  
INFLAMMATION

Speaker: Ivona Aksentijevich, M.D., Staff Scientist, Genetics and Genomics Branch,  
NIAMS, National Institutes of Health

**12Noon-2:00 PM** SCIENTIST PROFESSIONAL SPECIALTY  
LUNCHEON Georgia Hall 6

**2:00-2:45 PM** APPLICATION OF GENOMICS AND  
BIOINFORMATICS TO THE DETECTION OF BIOLOGICAL WARFARE  
AGENTS

Speaker: Joan S. Gebhardt, Ph.D., Head, Molecular Diagnostics, Biological Defense  
Research Directorate, Naval Medical Research Center

**2:45-3:30 PM** A NEW CANCER GENOME ANATOMY  
PROJECT (CGAP) INTERNET RESOURCE FOR THE RESEARCH  
COMMUNITY

Speaker: Lynette H. Grouse, Ph.D., Scientific Projects Manager, Office of Cancer  
Genomics, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health

**3:30-5:00 PM** RISK COMMUNICATION - AN OVERLOOKED  
ROLE FOR PHS OFFICERS IN EMERGENCIES?

Speaker: CDR Ralph O'Conner, Division of Health Education and Promotion at  
ATSDR

**5:00-6:00 PM** MEET THE CHIEF SCIENTIST OFFICER AND  
FELLOW SCIENTIST OFFICERS, Pool Area of Hotel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next scheduled meeting: Executive Committee - May 23, 2002

The next scheduled meeting: Full SciPAC - June 27, 2002

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The SciPAC meeting was officially adjourned at 1517 HOURS.

Submitted by:

MTH	AGW
LCDR Tom Hendricks	CDR Angela M. González Willis
Recording Secretary	Chairperson
Date 4/2/2002	Date

SCIENTIST PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Office of the Surgeon General  
United States Public Health Service

Minutes of 27 June 2002 Meeting Number 87

**I. LOCATION/DATE/TIME**

Parklawn Building, Surgeon General's Conference Room 18-57  
1300-1600 HOURS

**II. ATTENDANCE**

**A. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

CDR	Angela González Willis	HRSA (Chairperson)
LCDR	Nelson Adekoya	CDC (Vice Chairperson)
LCDR	Tom Hendricks	FDA (Recording Secretary)
CDR	Pam Ching	CDC
LCDR	Boris Aponte	SAMHSA
LCDR	Daphne Moffett	ATSDR
LCDR	Doug Thoroughman	IHS

**B. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING**

CAPT	Lireka Joseph	FDA (CPO)
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**C. GUESTS ATTENDING**

CAPT	Gil Sanders	HRSA
CDR	Doris Ravenell-Brown	FDA
LCDR	Jon Daugherty	FDA
LCDR	Omar Hottenstein	

**D. MEMBERS EXCUSED OR ABSENT**

CAPT	John Bartko (ret)	(Treasurer)
CDR	Joseph Despins	EPA
CAPT	Bryan Jones	HRSA
CDR	Richard Troiano	NIH (Past Chairperson)
Dr.	Stephen S. Goldman	NIH

### III. STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS AND REPORTS

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

CDR Angela González Willis called the meeting to order at 1330 hours because of difficulties with the telephone conference call set up.

#### B. GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

1. Environmental Scan

**Our CPO would like to be notified about any policies, practices, etc. that a Scientist Officer may hear that might affect Scientist Category, Commissioned Corp or DHHS.**

2. Acting Surgeon General meets with Surgeon General nominee  
Acting Surgeon General Kenneth Moritsugu has met with Surgeon General nominee Richard Carmona. Dr. Carmona is highly interested in Commission Corp Officer participation in the CCRF. He also is a strong proponent of a vibrant Ready Reserve Corps.

3. Healthy Life Style Survey

Please fill out the Healthy Life Style Survey. This Survey is a collaboration between the Therapists and the Scientist Category in that our own CDR Bo Kimsey was instrumental in developing the survey.

#### C. REPORT FROM THE CHIEF PROFESSIONAL OFFICER

1. 53 General Duty Scientist Officer Applications

Thirty-eight percent have been broaded, 32% have been medically cleared, and 10% have been broaded and medically cleared.

All of these potential Scientist Officers are in need of jobs.

2. 9 individuals have applied to become SciPAC members

Three applicants are CDRs, four are LCDRs, one is a LT and one is a Civilian..

3. ROA (Reserve Officer Association) <http://www.roa.org/>

Our CPO asks Commissioned Corp Officers to support ROA. ROA actively supports the USPHS Commissioned Corp.

4. Lifestyle HHS Secretary

The Secretary is very interested in overweight prevention, and Officers becoming fully qualified for CCRF deployment.

5. Offer of facilities to new Surgeon General

Our CPO CAPT Joseph has offered the CDRH Television facility to the Office of Surgeon General for Dr Richard Carmona to present his first All Hands Meeting.

6. Leadership training opportunity for O-5 and over

The 102nd Interagency Institute for Federal Health Care Executives will be held September 16-27, 2002. It is one of the best courses available to COs and has been highly praised by all officers who have taken it. This two-week course has been offered semi-annually over the past 50 years. It is conducted under the sponsorship of five federal health services: Army, Navy, Air Force, VA, and PHS. Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for the seasoned, practicing federal health care executive to examine some of the current issues in health care policy and management and to explore their potential impact on the federal health care system. It is also a way to build lasting human networks within the federal health care sector and to build inter-service and national perspectives on health care issues and trends. It is being held at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. The cost of training is \$1597 per student/per agency and will cover tuition, books, and program material. Travel expenses and per diem are additional.

If you are interested in attending this program, please contact your Agency. They will be responsible for submitting your name and paying for your expenses. The deadline for receipt of nominations from your Agency is July 19th. Nominations will be reviewed and final selection of participants will be announced in August via email. Approved training forms must be received prior to training date. If you desire further information about this program, please contact CAPT Vivian Chen (301-443-6739).

7. Calendar for CCRF Training Summer 2002 (<http://oep.osophs.dhhs.gov/ccrf>)

July 16 - 20, Liaison Training, Parklawn Building

August 12 - 16, Liaison Training, Parklawn Building

August 12 - 16, Emergency Coordinator Augmentee, Noble Training Center)

8. COER

90% of Officers have satisfactory down loaded their COER.

**D. REPORT FROM THE TREASURER (CAPT Bartko)**

No activity to report. The treasury has a balance of \$2,385.11

**OLD BUSINESS -SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND PROJECTS**

RECRUITMENT (CDR Despins)

ARP Update

Captain Susanne Caviness and LCDR Nelson Adekoya, Scientist Category Leads on ARP, met on Monday, June 24 and discussed the procedures to implement the ARP in the category. These steps are summarized below:

1. Applicants will complete the enrollment form and forward to LCDR Nelson Adekoya
2. Applicants will inform those completing their recommendation letters (supervisors, etc.) to forward same to LCDR Nelson Adekoya
3. LCDR Nelson Adekoya will enter applicants' information in the database
4. Category Leads will review applicant's package (enrollment form, letters of recommendation) and decide the suitability of applicant in the program
5. Category Leads' recommendation will be communicated to the CPO
6. If applicant is accepted into the program, CPO will issue a Certificate, and forward a copy of the acceptance letter to the officer's OPF
7. CPO will forward the original letter and the Certificate to LCDR Nelson Adekoya
8. LCDR Nelson Adekoya will forward the original letter of acceptance, certificate, policy and procedures, CD-ROMs, and recruitment brochures to the applicant
9. Participants will forward a list of their activities to LCDR Nelson Adekoya who will keep a log, and update SciPAC on a continuously. LCDR Nelson Adekoya will update Captain Caviness of activities so we can determine when an officer is due for recognition

#### Where Do You Get The Forms?

LCDR Darin Weber will put the enrollment form and the recommendation letter form on our website. The site will have additional information on how to contact LCDR Nelson Adekoya, if there are questions.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

##### 1. Letter to Senior Officers

LCDR Nelson Adekoya thanked the CPO for formatting a memo to be sent to senior officers to invite them to participate in SciPAC meetings. However, because only one general meeting (September 26, 2002) is left this year, LCDR Nelson Adekoya will hold the letter until the next SciPAC Chair is elected and the meeting dates for the next fiscal year are available.

##### 2. General discussion about the promotion process

A frank discussion took place between the various Officers present. The CPO and PAC Chair took notes and agreed to discuss some of the concerns of the Officers with the taskforce that is looking at promotion issues.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

The SciPAC meeting was officially adjourned at 1537 HOURS.

Submitted by:

MTH	AGW
LCDR Tom Hendricks	CDR Angela M. González Willis
Recording Secretary	Chairperson
Date 7/3/2002	Date