



CHIEF THERAPIST OFFICER, USPHS

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To: USPHS Therapist Category Members

From: Chief Therapist Officer

Subject: Vision and Goals

I am honored and humbled that the Acting Surgeon General has appointed me to serve as the next Chief Professional Officer of our category. I pledge to serve our category and our Corps by fulfilling these new responsibilities to the best of my ability in the coming months and years.

I want to honor our past, first by thanking CAPT Charles McGarvey for his leadership for the past 4 years and for over 30 years of service to our country in uniform. Under his tenure as CPO, our category has led the Corps in many areas including healthy lifestyles and readiness when these issues became of great importance to the Corps. Charlie also has very generously mentored me during the transition of CPO duties. Additionally, I have benefited from the leadership of all the Chief Therapist Officers during my career. They include CAPTs Charlotte Richards, Michael Huylebroeck, Gene Diullo, Robert, Mansell, and William Fromherz. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the contributions of CAPT David Nestor, the TPAC Chair who served doubly as acting CPO when the position was vacant between the terms of Gene Diullo and Mike Huylebroeck. My sense of officership has come principally from our category and these leaders.

One of my primary responsibilities as CPO will be to support the agenda of the Office of the Surgeon General through my participation on the CPO Board. I am in the process of meeting with representatives from our national associations (AOTA, ASHA, and APTA) so I can network with key contacts to best represent all our disciplines to OSG. I will advocate for our category to increase opportunities for therapists during the Transformation of the Corps. This includes expanding our disciplines, training opportunities, billets, career development and other areas. The Transformation has already placed unprecedented demands on the smaller categories to assign representatives to all the work groups and advisory committees and your efforts on our behalf have been noticed and appreciated. Maintaining and enhancing response readiness will continue to be a priority for the Corps and the Department. I am very proud of the dedicated effort put forth by all officers to meet to the recently revised readiness standards. We likely will

need to continue to adapt to changing needs in the future. I look to our category to continue to lead the Corps in this effort and I will continue to educate our leaders about the contributions therapists can make to emergency preparedness and response.

I am looking forward to working closely with CDR O'Neill-Manrique and subsequent Chairs to advance TPAC goals and agendas. The TPAC provides a strong foundation for category and officer growth. I enthusiastically support the category providing career and professional development opportunities for therapists and will encourage additional activities in this area. The TPAC Professional Development Committee includes a mentoring program for newly commissioned officers, and promotion preparation and career pathway guidance for all officers, and we can create even more opportunities for training and officer development. In the future we may need to reassess our TPAC organization and function for consistency with the Transformed Corps, but the needs of our therapist officers will always be of paramount importance.

These aren't just my goals for the future but our shared pathway for the continued and future success of the Category and the Corps. With a category of about 130 officers as of this date, the involvement of many of you is needed for our continued success both as individuals and as a category. I thank all of you who have contributed to category efforts in the past and will continue to contribute into the future. These activities not only develop your leadership skills, but our support of the Corps strengthens it, and a strong Corps is better able to support our initiatives as a category. As I begin my term as your new CPO, I am proud to serve a category that embodies our new core values of leadership, service, integrity, and excellence so well. I look forward to working with you to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of the nation.