



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

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**06 MAY 2004**  
**Office of the Surgeon General Conference Room**  
**1300-1515**

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**Members Present:**

**In Rockville**

RADM Richard Walling (CPO)	CAPT Craig Hostetler
CAPT Raelene Skerda (Chair)	CAPT Sharon Gershon
LT Krista Scardina (Vice-chair)	CDR Jim Bresette
LCDR Patricia Garvey	LT Renu Chhabra
LCDR Laura Pincock	Mr. Jae Kim

**Via Telephone**

LT Kristen Maves	CDR Mike Foreman
LCDR Daniel Hasenfang	LCDR Michael Lee
LCDR Mike Long	LCDR Mark Strong
LT Violette Geza (Secretary)	CDR Paul Huntzinger
LCDR Burton Hill	LCDR Thomas Berry

**Members Absent**

CDR Douglas Herold	CAPT Jim Imholte
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**Guests:**

CAPT Jim Mitchell (ret.)	LCDR Jane Kreis
CDR Joseph Lloyd Johnson	LTJG Jeff Vang
CDR Robert Tosatto	LT Ted Hall
Dr. Jenny Chang	LT Robert Hayes
Dr. Rennan Bonnel	LCDR Rob Steyert
LCDR John Quinn	LCDR Nita Sood
LCDR Mary Kremzner	LCDR Catherine Vieweg
LCDR Gregg Davis	LCDR Christopher Allen
LT Ayoub Suliman	LCDR Chae Chong
LT Nhu Tran	CAPT Michael Jones
LT Oluchi Elekwachi	LT Cheryl Gunther
LT Jeff Mouakket	LCDR Gary Hobbs
LT Brian North	CAPT Don Brown
LCDR Sharon Oestereich	

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**Call to Order:** CAPT Raelene Skerda ([rskerda@bop.gov](mailto:rskerda@bop.gov))

- ◆ Meeting called to order and last month's meeting minutes accepted.

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**Section Lead Comments:**

- ◆ Administration→ LT Krista Scardina ([scardinak@cder.fda.gov](mailto:scardinak@cder.fda.gov))
  - The 4 PAC Honor award recipients have been selected and the awards will be presented at the COA meeting on Tuesday May 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - There were 35 student submissions for the USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award and 33 students were awarded. 100% of the Schools of Pharmacy had PHS representation to present the awards to the students.
  - PAC members are eligible for Special Assignment Award for 30 days of documented PAC activity. Members should submit packet to LT Scardina by COB May 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - LT Robert Hayes leads the awards initiative workgroup. The workgroup will be looking at ways to improve the process of awarding pharmacists for service performed outside of their billet or position description. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact him ([Robert.Hayes@mail.ihs.gov](mailto:Robert.Hayes@mail.ihs.gov)).
  - PharmPAC Membership packets are due by May 30<sup>th</sup>. There are 3 position openings for IHS, 1 for the Office of the Secretary, and 1 exminimus member (those OPDIVs/Agencies with less than 10 pharmacists). Packets should be sent to LCDR Gregg Davis ([davisgregg@mail.nih.gov](mailto:davisgregg@mail.nih.gov))
  - LCDR Pincock is the lead for the ongoing history project. She has compiled a survey requesting information on the type of history available for pharmacists. Please be prepared to fill out the survey in order for the PAC to gather data to support this project.
  - LCDR Davis spoke about the APhA meeting in Seattle. The Federal Pharmacy Forum was well attended. VADM Carmona spent time at the PHS breakout session. This was the first time the Federal Caucus was held giving a lot of visibility and exposure. Due to the success of the Federal Caucus and the presence of PHS support, PHS was asked to chair next year's caucus.
  - LT Jim Mitchell and CDR John Quinn are the pharmacy PHS delegates for ASHP and they discussed the upcoming ASHP meeting. The regional delegates meeting will be held in Philadelphia. The agenda is available on the ASHP website. Anyone with comments should contact LT Mitchell ([JMitchell@HRSA.GOV](mailto:JMitchell@HRSA.GOV)).
  - The deadline for the AMSUS awards (two are pharmacy specific) is June 30<sup>th</sup> and will be awarded at the annual AMSUS conference in Denver (November 14-19). Last year's recipients were both PHS officers. Visit the AMSUS website for more information ([www.amsus.org](http://www.amsus.org)).
  - AMSUS also is soliciting ideas for the PHS plenary session for topics, speakers, and ideas. Contact CDR Kathy Poneleit with suggestions ([KPoneleit@OSOPHS.DHHS.GOV](mailto:KPoneleit@OSOPHS.DHHS.GOV)).
  - JOAG will be holding a meet & greet at the COA meeting on Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in participating in JOAG can contact LCDR Pincock ([pincockl@cder.fda.gov](mailto:pincockl@cder.fda.gov))
  
- ◆ Recruitment→ CDR James Bresette ([jbresett@hqe.ihs.gov](mailto:jbresett@hqe.ihs.gov))
  - Recruitment efforts continue to take advantage of the Secretary's transformation initiative calling for 275 new officers to Indian Health Service.
  - Have been meeting bi-weekly with ADM Knous and his staff and CAPT Furman with OCCFM. Meetings focused on improving the SCOSTEP program to allow for more recruitment. Despite confusion on the December 31<sup>st</sup> application deadline, there were still able to place all senior-COSTEP applicants.
  - Currently looking at the policies including salary requirements for SCOSTEP at the O-1 level that will closely match the thirty thousand-dollar accession bonus.
  - The USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Awards were all presented by a PHS officer at pharmacy schools thanks to the joint efforts of the awards branch of the Administrative section, led by LT Scardina, along with the POC program led by LCDR Fritsch.

- As part of the recruitment section reorganization, CDR Jane Kreis will serve as the executive officer for the POC program.
  - CDR Kreis indicated that they had difficulties with locating POCs to present student awards in Florida and Washington State. Current primary POCs will be contacted via email to verify their willingness to continue and inquire about their level of involvement/activity.
  - CAPT Skerda has a temporary website to collect information to be inserted on an Activities calendar for recruitment events. The site can be found at <http://www.geocities.com/raelenews/arpform.htm> to submit upcoming event.
- ◆ Career Development → CAPT Jim Imholte ([jimholte@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:jimholte@osophs.dhhs.gov))
- CAPT Skerda discussed the Pharmacy benchmark Advisory Workgroup. The group has met and reviewed over last year's benchmarks and are recommending some changes. The changes will be sent out to the listserv to allow everyone comment on them. The goal is to have the benchmarks set for the coming promotion year.
  - LCDR Hasenfang discussed the CV Development Committee. The committee is trying to come up with a standard CV in electronic format. A listserv message will be sent requesting comments and ideas about CV writing. The deadline for comments is May 28<sup>th</sup>. Comments can be sent by email to LCDR Hasenfang ([DannyLee@mac.com](mailto:DannyLee@mac.com) or [Daniel.Hasenfang@dhs.gov](mailto:Daniel.Hasenfang@dhs.gov)).
  - CDR Tosatto discussed the special pay report. The report was submitted to the PAC and RADM Walling at the end of March and passed on to the Surgeon General. No comments have been received back to the PAC as of yet. The report reviewed past legislation authorizing special pay and the subsequent amendments changing special pay. The results were positive with increased number of applications and calls to active duty and decreased separation. The overall number of active duty pharmacists has also increased. The recommendation was to extend the accession bonus for 5 more years (current sunset is 30 September 2004). The report also recommended having a flat rate of \$12,000 for the variable special pay.
  - CDR Tosatto recognized the special pay committee members for their hard work: LCDR Beth Fritsch, LCDR Marci Kiester, LCDR Bradley Bishop, LCDR Dev Patel, LT Julie Wilkinson, and CAPT Richard Lawson. CAPT Bill Hess and CAPT Robert Pittman also contributed with the history and background information of the initiative.
  - Dr. Bonnel and Dr. Chang discussed the civil service committee. A draft pharmacist survey was submitted for comments. The survey is designed to look at civilian pharmacist needs. Comments are due to Dr. Bonnel ([BonnelR@cder.fda.gov](mailto:BonnelR@cder.fda.gov)) 14 May 2004. The groups still needs funding to distributed the survey through a web-based program that will collect and analyze the data.
- ◆ Communication → LCDR Mike Long ([mzlong@bop.gov](mailto:mzlong@bop.gov))
- There has been a positive response from the student list-serv. There were 70 new sign-ups and a current total of 422 students (up from 352 in 12/03).
  - Dr. Bonnel sent a list of civilian pharmacist to be added to Commissioned Corps pharmacist list on the website.
  - The names of student recipients of the PHS Excellence Award have been listed on the website.
  - LCDR Dev Patel and his group is working on improving the PAC website and creating a list of capability requirements such as space and technical support features. They are still looking at different options for covering the cost of a website server.
  - The PLANT workgroup is reviewing the online profiles and will be adding 3 new profiles soon.
  - CDR Lloyd Johnson discussed the Public Health Workgroup initiatives. They have put together proposal letters to partner with pharmacy organizations in order to promote pharmacists' volunteerism in the area of public health. The goal is to

encourage volunteerism by highlighting the wide spectrum of pharmacist efforts from substance abuse treatment and mental health to disaster relief and emergency preparedness. PharmPAC liaisons for ASHP and APHA will also serve as contacts for the initiative to get support.

- LT Renu Chhabra stated that the agenda is set for the upcoming COA meeting. There will be 8 paper presentations on Monday 17 May 2004 Pharmacy category day will be Tuesday 18 May 2004 with 7 lectures from 0830 to 1700. The PharmPAC will be holding a meet & greet at 1715. The uniform of the day is Summer Dress Blue or Service Dress Blue. The closing dinner uniform is Dinner Dress Blue.

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**CPO Report: RADM Richard Walling**

- ◆ The Assistant Secretary of Health, VADM Christine Beato, and Surgeon General, VADM Richard Carmona, will be in attendance at the upcoming COA meeting.
- ◆ The CPOs of all the categories will be available at the COA meeting on Sunday 16 May 2004 to answer questions.
- ◆ LCDR Mozzachio still remains in Iraq. We have been reassured of the safety precautions around her. With the current dangerous situation in Iraq, she was given the choice to come back but she has declined. She continues to help develop a regulatory system to bring safe and effective drugs into Iraq.
- ◆ The recent indication of the Secretary that drug importation would be allowed under specific regulations was discussed, with the understanding that the FDA will be tasked to ensure patient safety and medications efficacy.
- ◆ RADM Walling announced that CAPT Hostetler has been chosen to receive the US Public Health Service George F. Archambault Career Achievement in Pharmacy Award. CAPT Hostetler will resign his PAC membership effective as of the end of May. He stated it was a privilege working on the PAC. CAPT Hostetler has agreed to another tour of duty in Afghanistan.

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**PAC Chair Report: CAPT Raelene Skerda ([rskerda@bop.gov](mailto:rskerda@bop.gov))**

- ◆ CAPT Skerda stressed the upcoming PAC membership vacancies and encouraged the agencies in which the vacancies exist to self nominate.
- ◆ CAPT Skerda will be present at the COA meeting, along with CAPT Jim Imholte and RADM Walling at the PAC gathering, to discuss any issues.

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**Next Meeting Dates:**

**03 June 2004 @1300 EDT Parklawn Building**

**Agenda and call in information will be distributed prior to the meeting.**

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**Useful Links and Contact Info:**

- ◆ Emails: [PharmPAC@list.nih.gov](mailto:PharmPAC@list.nih.gov)  
[PHS-Pharmacists@nih.gov](mailto:PHS-Pharmacists@nih.gov)  
[RX-Vacancies@list.nih.gov](mailto:RX-Vacancies@list.nih.gov)  
[Rx-Students@list.nih.gov](mailto:Rx-Students@list.nih.gov)
- ◆ Listservs: PHS Pharmacists <http://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-pharmacist.html>  
PHS Rx Students <http://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-rx-students.html>  
CCRF Pharmacists <http://list.nih.gov/archives/ccrf-pharm.html>  
RPh Job Vacancies <http://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-rx-jobs.html>
- ◆ Websites: PharmPAC <http://hhs.gov/pharmacy/>  
DCP <http://dep.psc.gov>  
USPHS CC <http://www.usphs.gov>  
CCRF <http://oep.osophs.dhhs.gov/ccrf/>

--Respectfully Submitted,

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LT Violette Geza, Executive Secretary                      Date

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CAPT Raelene Skerda, Chair                                      Date

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RADM Richard Walling, CPO                                      Date