

January 2009 PharmPAC Meeting
Recruitment Section

Exec Section

- HHS Referral Bonus Award Program proposed comments for response to include PHS officers and a justification were provided to the PAC to approve.

Website Update

- Nothing significant or new to report

UPOC Update

Given by CDR Brent Hobbs

- CDR Hobbs is continuing to work along with volunteers on the University Points of contact "Dear Dean" letters. Letters should issue soon.

Student Programs Update

Given by LCDR Kavita Dada & LCDR Christine Oliver

- The student monthly message was sent the first week of December. It was regarding Student Programs. The monthly message for January will be concerning the agencies and programs served by PHS. Both messages are provided below for FYI.
- Update the Student Program pdf to include the CDC information and change the contact information to LCDR Christine Oliver and LCDR Kavita Dada.

PBKS Update

Given by LCDR Peter Vermilyea

- CAPT Patrick Marshall and LCDR Peter Vermilyea are working to revise the 2009 PBKS version for posting to the website.

PHSpharmacist.org Update

- Nothing significant or new to report

Associate Recruiter Program Update

***Given by: CAPT Mike Forman; CAPT Raelene Skerda;
LCDR LCDR Christine Bina; LCDR Violette Ganoe;
& LT Susan Polifko***

- 43rd American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition – Dec. 7-11, 2008 in Orlando, Florida. The federal forum focus this year was on the treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Both IHS and OCCO have booths in the exhibit hall to recruit pharmacist and pharmacy residents for USPHS.
 - There was a great response to the call for volunteer to staff the booth. We had a total of 10 volunteers staffing the PHS booth at the meeting.
 - Meeting time slots that needed to be filled were:
 - Monday: 1100 – 1500 h
 - Tuesday: 1100 – 1500 h
 - Wednesday: 1100 – 1400 h

- Thanks to CDR Fritsch for successfully organizing the volunteers and schedule on such short notice. Also special thanks to all the volunteers who stepped up to promote the USPHS with limited notice.
- Conclusion to the APhA-ASP meetings:
 - Thank you letters were sent to RADM Pittman for signature.
 - 26 officers participated in 8 regions.
 - 5 of 8 regions received a booth and all regions received recruiting supplies.
 - 1 region, officers did not show up and left the region with only 1 recruiter.
 - **Please Note:** If officers are unable to attend, they should contact the AR Lead coordinating the meeting so alternates can be notified.
 - Overall, there was positive feedback from all officers. Many students are interested in a career with USPHS Commissioned Corps!
- CAPT Forman will obtain an updated list of all AR's that are eligible for the Recruitment Service Ribbon (RSR). Once an updated list is completed it will be posted to the PAC website and distributed via the PHS list serve. Any discrepancies should be reported by the individual AR's. Please stay tuned for the date you will need to report discrepancies, if any are found. The results of who will receive a RSR should be out by OCCO in April 2009.
- Associate Recruiter Program Reorganization:
 - The AR program is being reorganized. The current ARP will be discontinued effective the end of the current operational year, March 2009.
 - All current AR's will need to reapply into the program.
 - AR Leads will also need to reapply as a category lead.
 - All categories will be limited to 2 AR Leads.

December 2008 – Student Monthly Message: Student Programs

Are you interested in getting a taste of what we do at the Public Health Service? A great opportunity to see other aspects of pharmacy is to do a pharmacy rotation at one of our agencies.

Currently IHS, FDA, SAMHSA and BOP among others agencies offer extern rotations to pharmacy students. PHS programs currently have a total of 52 extern agreements with 50 schools of pharmacy. Students interested in externship assignments should contact their school externship/rotation coordinator. If the school does not have an agreement with the desired program, have the rotation coordinator contact the appropriate program manager. Click here for a listing of the programs available:

<http://www.hhs.gov/pharmacy/contacts.html>

Additionally, the PHS offers excellent opportunities for pharmacy students for paid employment for periods of 31 to 120 days throughout the academic year through the Junior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (COSTEP). Junior COSTEP allows students to serve in assignments at any time during the year; however, the majority of students are hired for the summer months. For additional information, please refer to the following website: <http://www.usphs.gov/student/>

Both programs offer excellent benefits and are highly competitive. To apply, go to the website: www.usphs.gov/applynow/eCAD.aspx. The same application forms are used for general duty and COSTEP applicants. Be certain to indicate on the PHS-50 form, item #6, which program/type of duty to which you are applying.

While there is no application deadline for Junior and Senior COSTEP this year, most applicants should be encouraged to submit their application by December 31, 2008. Application forms are available at <http://www.usphs.gov/>

You are embarking into the profession of pharmacy, where there are endless opportunities.

The Mission of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service

"Protecting, promoting and advancing the health and safety of the nation."

January 2008 – Student Monthly Message: Agencies and Programs

PHS Pharmacists serve in many areas including the Agencies of Health and Human Services, Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and Department of Commerce. The many career options include :

- 1 Indian Health Services
- 2 Bureau of Prisons
- 3 Food and Drug Administration
- 4 National Institutes of Health
- 5 Health Resources and Services Administration
- 6 Immigration and Naturalization Service
- 7 Environmental Protection Agency
- 8 United States Coast Guard
- 9 Agency for Healthcare and Quality Policy and Research
- 10 Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- 11 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

12 Program Support Center
13 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
14 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Agencies with Pharmacists:

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Many new pharmacy graduates begin their PHS careers in the Indian Health Service (IHS). Today, there are approximately 560 pharmacists in the IHS and of this number 405 are in the PHS Commissioned Corps. Clinical pharmacy services are provided to 1.3 million American Indians and Alaska Natives living on or near reservations located in 34 states. The largest number of facilities are in the southwest. Pharmacists provide health care working as team members and play an important role in the provision of pharmaceutical care for patients. The majority of IHS facilities use pharmacy automation and are computerized and have private consultation rooms.

- At inpatient facilities, services provided include pharmacokinetics, physician rounding, unit dose and IV additive services.
- At ambulatory facilities, pharmacists provide primary care, review the patient's health record for appropriateness of drug therapy, make interventions with providers, and counsel all patients on their medications. Many sites have pharmacist-run clinics such as anticoagulation, asthma, lipid, hypertension, and immunization.

Many pharmacists choose to remain in the IHS for their entire career. However, there is the opportunity for pharmacists to move between agencies.

For more information: click here [Indian Health Service Pharmacy Home Page](#).

BUREAU OF PRISONS

More than 100 pharmacists currently work in the BOP. Practice settings range from ambulatory care sites to 500-bed tertiary care hospitals. Both urban and rural sites throughout the U.S. are available, with BOP opening 24 new prisons in the next 3 years. A wide range of professional opportunities exist for new as well as experienced pharmacists. Determining drug selection criteria, performing pharmacy interventions, and providing patient interaction and education are important responsibilities. Every BOP pharmacy is computerized. Every pharmacist can make a critical impact on the quality of health care in each facility.

For more information: click here [Federal Bureau of Prisons Pharmacy Home Page](#).

**IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
DIVISION OF IMMIGRATION HEALTH SERVICES**

Although smaller than other sister agencies, with only 10 practicing pharmacists and 4 more in administrative or technical positions, the Division of Immigration Health Service (DIHS) is on the cutting edge of pharmacy technology. Many facets of telemedicine are being implemented in our clinics in the areas of teleradiology, telepharmacy and telemetal health. All pharmacies are computerized and DIHS is currently implementing a remote drug distribution system with teleconsultation for the patients. All of the clinical work is done in a correctional setting, providing health care to detainees of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Most of the DIHS facilities are around the perimeter of the country, but both urban and rural sites are available. You can tour the DIHS website to learn about locations available and scope of work. DIHS serves patients from many different countries, with very diverse cultures and languages. If necessary, because of the language diversity, instantaneous translation is available for pharmacy video conferencing consultation. DIHS is a very progressive organization with tremendous growth potential. If you want to be an important part of an integrated health services team, consider a career with DIHS.

For more information and a current list of vacancy announcements, click here: [DIHS Home Page](#).

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

The FDA employs over 300 pharmacists to ensure the safety of drugs and related products. Locations range from FDA headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, to one of 150 cities nationwide with FDA operations. While the FDA hires a few new graduates most positions are filled by pharmacists with at least two years experience in clinical practice. FDA pharmacists may work:

- in pharmacology, toxicology, radiopharmacology, and pharmacokinetics;

- on new drug applications and adverse reaction reports;
- as field inspectors and consumer safety officers; or on expert advisory committees and review panels

For more information: Click here [FDA](#)

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Most NIH pharmacists work at the Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, a 450-bed research hospital and laboratory complex. Pharmacists and pharmacy residents team with physicians to design, implement, and evaluate over 1,200 investigational drug regimens each year. Their needs include:

- staff pharmacists with 1 year of hospital experience;
- specialized pharmacists with a postgraduate degree and 1 year of clinical work in their specialty;
- trained radiopharmacists, to work in nuclear medicine.

Also, the NIH's Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease and of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, as well as its National Cancer Institute, employ pharmacists in clinical and administrative posts.

For more information: click here [NIH Clinical Center Pharmacy Home Page.](#)

OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

For more information: click here [Office of the Surgeon General.](#)

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

The **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** directs national health programs that improve the Nation's health by assuring equitable access to comprehensive, quality health care for all. HRSA works to improve and extend life for people living with HIV/AIDS, provide primary health care to medically underserved people, serve women and children through State programs, and train a health workforce that is both diverse and motivated to work in underserved communities. Thirty-five pharmacists currently work in HRSA.

Roles for pharmacists in HRSA include the study of national pharmacy manpower requirements and in development of health professions' education infrastructure. Pharmacists are also involved in the provision of medications for the treatment of HIV/AIDS to medically underserved people.

For more information: [Health Resources and Services Administration Home Page.](#)

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** is recognized as the lead federal agency for protecting the health and safety of people - at home and abroad, providing credible information to enhance health decisions, and promoting health through strong partnerships. CDC serves as the national focus for developing and applying disease prevention and control, environmental health, and health promotion and education activities designed to improve the health of the people of the United States. For more information: click here [CDC](#)

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

The **Public Health Service** is charged with the responsibility to provide health care to the men and women of the United States Coast Guard.

To view the USCG website: [USCG](#)

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The **Department of Homeland Security** leverages resources within federal, state, and local governments, coordinating the transition of multiple agencies and programs into a single, integrated agency focused on protecting the American people and their homeland. More than 87,000 different governmental jurisdictions at the federal, state, and local level have homeland security responsibilities. The comprehensive national strategy seeks to develop a complementary system connecting all levels of government without duplicating effort. Homeland Security is truly a "national mission".

For more information: click here [DHS](#)

For an Application for Commission in the Public Health Service please refer to the following link:

<http://www.usphs.gov/applynow/>

For a listing of the current vacancies, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>

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