



NAME: LCDR LAURA PINCOCK

JOB TITLE: SAFETY EVALUATOR

AGENCY: FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND
RESEARCH, OFFICE OF DRUG SAFETY,
DIVISION OF MEDICATION ERRORS AND
TECHNICAL SUPPORT (DMETS)

EDUCATION/DEGREES/CERTIFICATES/INSTITUTIONS

LCDR Laura Pincock completed her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 1996 and Doctor of Pharmacy in 1997, graduating Magna Cum Laude in both, at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. She immediately went on to Inova Fairfax Hospital where she successfully completed an ASHP accredited residency in Pharmacy Practice June 1997. LCDR Pincock practiced clinical pharmacy at Frederick Memorial Hospital until April of 2001 when she was selected as a Senior Regulatory Review Officer at FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), Office of Medical Policy, Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications (DDMAC). In August 2004, she was selected to be a Safety Evaluator with CDER's Office of Drug Safety Division of Medication Errors and Technical Support (DMETS)

CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION

LCDR Pincock's current duties as a safety evaluator include reviewing and evaluating pre-market proposed proprietary drug and biological names and product characteristics to determine the likelihood of confusion with existing products in the marketplace. She is also responsible for reviewing, analyzing, and evaluating the medication error reports for pre-market and post-market drug and biological products which are submitted to the Agency or cited in the scientific literature. Additionally, she serves as a scientific advisor on adverse reactions associated with drug and biological products and on the safety of drug and biological products within the Agency.

QUALIFYING SKILLS FOR CURRENT POSITION

LCDR Pincock developed her skills by maintaining a commitment to higher education in pharmacy practice while practicing mobility throughout her career. Her work experience includes retail pharmacy, clinical pharmacy, and working as a senior regulatory review officer with DDMAC. She has obtained certification and training in many areas, ranging from Advanced Cardiac Life Support Provider Certification to successfully completing a pharmacy practice residency at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Virginia.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE USPHS AS A CAREER:

When asked about her decision to join the PHS, LCDR Pincock had this to share. Upon entering pharmacy school, she fully intended to graduate with a BSPHarm and practice as a retail pharmacist. As she progressed through pharmacy school, she realized a different career path would better suit her needs. Having the good fortune of being selected as a Junior COSTEP in the summer of 1995, she learned about the limitless possibilities for an officer in the PHS and the global experiences she might pursue. She decided to act "outside the retail or hospital box" of traditional pharmacy roles. LCDR Pincock realized she could pursue several different interests all within the domain of the PHS, and her time in each position would count towards her long-term career objectives. She saw that the opportunities to become involved were limitless. There is even the possibility to help create and modify policies that have a global impact. LCDR Pincock also enjoys the comradeship of the Commissioned Corps and notes, I have received more job satisfaction than I originally thought possible.

PREVIOUS USPHS ASSIGNMENTS:

LCDR Pincock's professional experience with the US Public Health Service began with 2 tours of duty, in 1995 and 1996, as a Junior COSTEP with the FDA's Division of Drug Information Resources (DDIR). As a Junior COSTEP she was involved in extracting and analyzing drug product data from human drug submissions, and acting as a liaison between pharmaceutical companies and the Food and Drug Administration to monitor, document, and update Phase IV commitment status. In April 2001 she was brought on to be a Senior Regulatory Review Officer with FDA's DDMAC where her duties included reviewing and evaluating promotional materials for prescription human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), metabolic/endocrine, and lipid-lowering drug products to ensure compliance with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and various regulations pertaining to the advertising of prescription drug products.

MOST REWARDING USPHS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

LCDR Pincock obtains gratification by helping others in need, such as a program involving the dispensing of antibiotics for the Anthrax attacks on Washington, DC. She also derives gratification from seeing a news report about an FDA activity she contributed to. For example, in her previous position at DDMAC, her team regulated drug advertising to ensure that a fair balance of the risks and benefits of each drug were accurately presented. When she viewed an advertisement that she had been directly involved on, she could see the results of her work. She also felt good knowing she contributed in DDMAC's steps to enforce regulatory authority against advertisements that were misleading. In her current position as a Safety Evaluator, she feels proud to hear news being distributed about medication errors or other drug safety alerts. She finds satisfactions knowing that the world is safer because of the important work she carries out.

By Elizabeth Girard