

University Point of Contact Newsletter

An informational and informal publication of the USPHS Pharmacist Professional
Advisory Committee

WWW.PHSPHARMACIST.ORG

SPRING 2008

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GET THE MOST FROM YOUR VISIT:

- Email your contact at the school about a week in advance and send them flyers to post around the school to advertise your presentation. (Then you can ensure you are not introduced as the "Public Health Dept"!)
- Offer a time block to meet with individual students before or after your presentation.
- Document UPOC activities and events on our website

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New UPOC Website in beta testing

Most of you are aware of the website that was developed as a tool to track the University Point of Contacts, their activities, and their contact information. (recruitmentdraft.org). We are currently working on a more robust version of the original site called www.phspharmacist.org.

Although the new site has the same appearance on the outside, LCDR Dev Patel is working behind the scenes to allow administrators to be able to generate reports on numbers of school visits, approximate numbers of students reached and allow users to manage their own contact information. Once the site is fully functional, an email will be sent inviting users to log on and make updates.



What is your tip to other UPOCs?
Send me your experiences with increasing student awareness, turnout, and enthusiasm for the Corps.

Officers in the News...

CAPT Quaglietta and CDR Bishop present award

As part of the Academy of Student Pharmacists celebration at the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy on April 16th, CAPT Nicholas Quaglietta and CDR Bradley Bishop presented the Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award to Ms. Padma Sundareashan as Associate Dean, Dr. Theodore Tong looks on. Ms. Sundareashan was given the award for her work coordinating events supporting the National HIV/AIDS Awareness Week on campus in November, 2007. This event contributed greatly to enhance community healthcare understanding of complex HIV/AIDS concerns.



CAPT Bresette Receives Award



CAPT James Bresette, a UPOC for the University of Maryland, was recently nominated and awarded the Advanced Practice Pharmacy Education 2007 Preceptor of the Year award by a faculty review committee.

Keeping Up...

Revisions to PBKS:

The Pharmacy's Best Kept Secret has been revised several times in the last few months, as all the changes to our pay were happening. The latest version includes the 3.5% pay raise. It also includes the updated Retention Special Pay (RSP) of \$15,000 per year. Note that since this pay isn't variable, the term Variable Special Pay (VSP) will no longer be used.

Be sure to mention the updates, as students might have seen older, similar-looking versions in their files or on their hard drives.

Additional Updates:

- Both the House and Senate support a 3.9% pay increase for FY2009.
- The \$417k cap on VA loans has been eliminated, making it easier for officers to secure mortgages for more costly homes.
- Don't forget to tell students that as a PHS officer, they can contribute to the Thrift Savings Plan, like our civil service counterparts.

LCDR Allison Paynter Visits School With New Pharmacy Program (written by LCDR Allison Paynter)

I was invited to speak to about 150 first and second year students (the only current grades) at the Texas A&M Health Science Center, Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy in Kingsville Texas. The college has weekly forums where pharmacists representing different fields and practices of pharmacy are invited to talk to the students. The forum lasts about 50 minutes, and signs were posted around the school advertising my presentation to students in advance. I was met by Dr. Gary Frech, Director of Experiential Programs. He is extremely enthusiastic about pharmacy and the PHS. The title of my presentation was "The Road Less Traveled: Pharmacy Practice in the U.S. Public Health Service." I started the talk by telling the students about how I remembered my first year in pharmacy school, a PHS pharmacist came and talked to our first year pharmacy class about opportunities in the PHS. I remember something clicked for me that day (I had been questioning my decision about pharmacy school up until that point); I told the students I remember thinking, "finally something for me, I want to do more than the typical pharmacy job, I want to help, I want to make a difference & be able to do different things in my practice." I told the students that was when I heard about JrCOSTEP. I told them about my JrCOSTEP experience with what was the INS at the time, which was such a great experience, and then I talked about the IHS as well as my daily practice at the Northern Navajo Medical Center as a clinical pharmacist.



I talked about the opportunities for student externship, JrCOSTEP, SrCOSTEP, and Residency. I got a ton of questions from the students & at the end of my presentation, and the question/answer session, Dr. Frech came up and said "That was great, did you see how enthusiastic they (students) were, how closely they were paying attention?" He may have just been being polite.

I was invited to come back next January for their version of career day & there is talk of hosting the forum again. Dr. Frech and I talked at length about presenting the Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award annually, and about helping the college set up externships for 4th year students in the future (first graduating class won't happen until 2010). I really think continuing to participate in the forums and hosting students will help build a strong relationship between the PHS and Texas A&M. I also received a letter from the Associate Dean, summarizing the feedback they got from the students on the impact of the presentation.

I ended my presentation with two quotes; The first from Robert Frost: "And I- I took the road less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." The second from Mother Theresa: "What we do are drops in the ocean, but if we did not do them, those drops would be missing forever." I told the students I truly believe that what we do makes a difference, and I do believe it.

LCDR Paynter is a Senior Pharmacist at the Northern Navajo Medical Center in Shiprock, NM

Working with UPOCs Giberson & Pellock: A student's experience

Rotation with the Department of Health and Human Services: Indian Health Services



By: Marilyn Hill
Wilkes University
Pharm. D Candidate 2008

The Indian Health Service (IHS) is an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services that acts as the primary healthcare provider for American Indian and Alaska Natives. During my time at IHS, I worked hand-in-hand with my preceptor CDR Scott Giberson, the National HIV/AIDS Principal Consultant, at the Office of Clinical and Preventative Services, IHS Headquarters in Rockville, MD. As the Principal Consultant, CDR Giberson directs the IHS HIV/AIDS Program and acts as the liaison to external bodies such as HRSA, CDC and Native health organizations.

During my rotation, I attended various meetings regarding National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (March 20th), drafted a national press statement about HIV that

will appear on the IHS HIV internet website, edited and released HIV fact sheets for the IHS, authored an article on antiretrovirals, researched and analyzed IHS public health and quality of care data and worked as the liaison for IHS to HHS National HIV Mobilization Committee. I also spent time with the Pharmacy Professional Advisory Committee (PharmPAC) in the Surgeon General's conference room and spent a day at the United States Pharmacopeia (USP). At the USP, I learned about patient safety, monographs and reference standards, drug information, international technical alliance programs, and the organization's governance and mission. I toured the Pentagon and Capitol and attended a recorded interview (podcast) with CDR Giberson, for *Healthbeat*, a government health program broadcast on the AIDS.gov website. I also spent some time at the FDA, where I traveled with CDR Susan Pellock (FDA pharmacist) to the Bethesda Naval Hospital, reviewed an "Abbreviated New Drug Application" and received an overview of the FDA's Medical Device Program with CDR Matthew

Tarosky (FDA pharmacist).

Overall, the rotation was an eye-opening experience that proved how an expanded role of the pharmacist is greatly needed across the United States, not solely to bring about care and service to all patients in need, but also as a public health professional. Also, I quickly realized that many opportunities are available for pharmacists who may be interested in pursuing a career with the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS). Opportunities available include a career with the FDA, (as a principal investigator, research team member, investigational drug service pharmacist, or FDA reviewer of drugs) serving in the Indian Health Service, (as a clinical pharmacist, chief pharmacist, public health professional, administrator, etc.) or other positions in any one of multiple agencies that employ PHS pharmacists. My advice is to follow the path that suits you best in pursuing your role as a pharmacist, keep an open mind and have a positive attitude. The time has come, now go out there and be leaders in our profession!

CDR Giberson is a UPOC for
Wilkes University



Email UPOC school reports & photos to CDR Peter Vermilyea at peter.vermilyea@wihcc.org