



# Dental Professional Advisory Committee Newsletter

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September 2015

*In this issue of The Dental  
Professional Advisory Committee  
Newsletter*

## COVER STORY

COA Symposium

## FEATURES

CPO Column.....	2
DePAC Chair.....	3
DePAC Vice Chair.....	4
Agency Article.....	8
Senior Officer Spotlight.....	9
Junior Officer Spotlight.....	11
Civil Service Officer Spotlight.....	13

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

Dental Coin Orders.....	7
Mentoring in the Commissioned Corps.....	15
Dental Listserv: History and Update.....	17
New PHS Dental Website.....	19
DePAC on Facebook.....	20
Hails and Farewells.....	21
Upcoming Events.....	22
Educational Resources.....	23

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

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The USPHS Dental Newsletter is published 2 times annually, and is distributed electronically through the USPHS Dental Bulletin Board, agency distribution lists, and the USPHS Dental Directory. The next issue of the Newsletter will be published in the winter of 2015. If you have suggestions or comments about the newsletter, or would like to submit an article, please contact the co-editors [LT Mariely Marquez-Lorenzo](#) or [LCDR Cara Ortega](#).

## 50TH ANNUAL USPHS SCIENTIFIC AND TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

*LCDR SCOTT WILLIAMS*



*DePAC Award Winners with RADM Makrides: left to right (back) RADM Nicholas Makrides, CAPT Kathleen Mary O'Connor-Moran, CAPT Gary Pannabecker, CAPT Dean Coppola, LCDR Scott Williams; (front) CDR Sharon Raghubar, CAPT Lynn Van Pelt, LCDR Abby Shannon, CAPT Renee Joskow*

The 50th Annual USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium was held in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 18-21. This year's symposium was not only a great opportunity for Corps Officers to meet our new Surgeon General VADM Vivek H. Murthy, MD, MBA; but it also served as an opportunity for Corps Officers from all over the country to showcase the magnificent work we accomplish on a daily basis and learn together through the many available lectures and continuing education courses. *Continued on page 5.*

## CHIEF PROFESSIONAL OFFICER COLUMN

### RADM NICHOLAS MAKRIDES, DMD, MPH

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS

Summer is here and Washington is bustling with tourists visiting the nation's capital. Should your travels bring you to the DC Metro, please let me know in advance. I enjoy visiting with officers outside the immediate area and will try to schedule time to meet with you.

Much has occurred over the course of six months and I would like to highlight some of the more significant events since our last newsletter. On April 27th, our Deputy Surgeon General, RADM Boris Lushniak, released the new community water fluoridation recommendations at the National Oral Health Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. This update replaces the previous recommended fluoride range (0.7 to 1.2 milligrams/liter) issued in 1962. The new recommendation takes into consideration that Americans have more sources of fluoride than when water fluoridation was first introduced. The new sweet spot is .7 ppm which will maintain the prevention benefits of community water fluoridation while reducing the risk of mild fluorosis.

As I pen this communique, I am excited to report that Secretary Burwell has approved and signed the Oral Health Strategic Framework. The approval of the Framework coincides with the 15-year anniversary of the Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health in America. The Framework has five main goals and associated strategies to help target resources to advance oral health and align dental activities across the Department to include non-HHS agencies. We are planning to publish and release the Framework in the near future.

For those who missed this year's COF, we had a wonderful conference in Atlanta. It was good to reconnect with the dental cadre and enjoy the CE program on category day. Many officers had the opportunity to meet and listen to our new Surgeon General for the first time as he shared his vision for the Corps. What is most impressive about our Surgeon General is that he has immediately engaged on the importance of community water fluoridation. If you have not had the opportunity to review his perspective in Public Health Reports, please click on the following link to read his submission in its entirety at: [http://www.publichealthreports.org/documents/Surgeon\\_General\\_Perspective\\_FG.pdf](http://www.publichealthreports.org/documents/Surgeon_General_Perspective_FG.pdf).

Before I close, I want to recognize our Deputy Surgeon General, RADM Boris Lushniak. After the departure of VADM Benjamin, he assumed a very key role as our Acting Surgeon General. He led our Corps for 18 months and ensured that key initiatives kept moving forward. This October, he plans to retire from the Corps. His sense of humor, dedication and leadership will be greatly missed.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of our oral health providers for your contributions and dedication to the Dental Category and to the U.S. Public Health Service. As always, thank you for the good work that you do to protect, promote and advance the health and safety of our nation!



*RADM Makrides*

<sup>1</sup><http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2015pres/04/20150427a.html>

# DENTAL PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

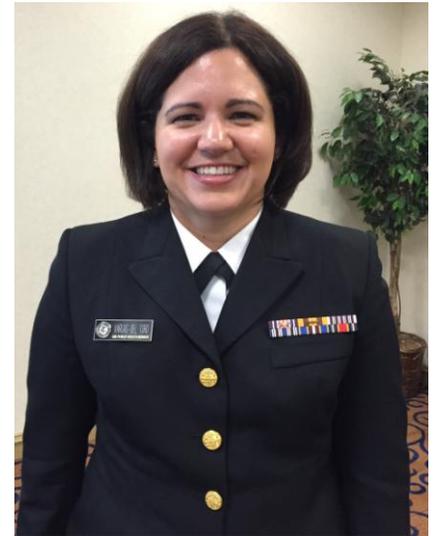
## CHAIRPERSON COLUMN

### CAPT LEIRA VARGAS-DEL TORO, DMD, MPH

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS

Colleagues,

Summer 2015 is here and the Dental Category is staying very busy. I am happy to report that we are in the process of the migration of our website (<http://www.phs-dental.org/depac/newfile.html>) to the CCMIS website (<https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/dentist/>). This is a great effort that the DePAC Communications Work Group, under the direction of CAPT Sharon Raghubar, is spearheading. Click on the links to look at the migration progress so far. Being under the CCMIS website, a government hosted site, comes along with unique challenges and etiquette that we must follow. We are fortunate to have our webmaster, CDR Minh Kevin Lee, working on this task as he has done an outstanding job. I would like to invite you to look at both sites, be patient, and stay tuned! It takes a lot of time to work on this project while still keeping up with our clinical care and administration duties. I am very pleased with the efforts of everyone in DePAC who are also updating information as we move along with technology.



*CAPT Vargas-Del Toro*

Make sure you also look for your Dental Category in social media! Yes, you are reading it right. We are also on Facebook! So have your smartphone, tablet or computer and like the Dental PAC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dental-PAC/455779654591318>). Facebook has proven to be another way to keep us connected in a lively manner. You are welcome to like our page and message us as we continue evolving with technology.

I also want to congratulate all of our fellow Dental Officers that were promoted in PY2015. Job well done! If you were not promoted in PY2015 or you are getting ready for PY2016, make sure to review the benchmarks for the category, stay up to date with readiness, and get involved. DePAC is a great source for information and any of our voting members are willing to help. "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller

Lastly, I hope everyone is enjoying the sizzling hot summer safely with your families and dear ones.

# DENTAL PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## VICE-CHAIRPERSON COLUMN

### CDR VICKY OTTMERS, DDS

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The last newsletter I admitted that I did not have a Service Dress Blue picture. My goal was to have one to publish in this newsletter. Well I have obviously succeeded (see photo) but the key is that the picture was taken at the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium in Atlanta.

This year's 50th Annual Symposium held on May 18-21st in Atlanta, GA had more than 1,200 attendees. The Symposium offered so many good speakers providing quality continuing education. The Dental Category Day was successful with an outstanding agenda, awarded much deserved DePAC and CPO awards, and provided just plain fun in seeing colleagues and friends alike away from our duty stations. From informal dinners to organized social gatherings, we were able to catch up and network. In addition, the Joint Combined Social that DePAC officially supported for the first time was not only well attended by fellow dental officers but also the Surgeon General, Deputy Surgeon General, CPOs, and Officers from all 11 categories.



*CDR Vicky Ottmers*

At the Symposium, Surgeon General Murthy addressed and took pictures with all 11 categories individually. One of his messages was to be fit and to be a role model to others by being active. He said we each need to start with ourselves and then try to involve family members and friends. Well, I'm starting with myself. I signed up for the Army Ten Miler in Washington, DC in October. I knew it would force me to get in better shape as there are over 250+ USPHS officers signed up to run for the PHS team. Consider signing up for next year as the race is sold out and there are 35,000 registrants! Here is the link for more information so you can plan for next year [www.armytenmiler.com](http://www.armytenmiler.com). We all have busy work and personal schedules so it is easy to overlook our own well-being. Don't forget to take time for yourself as it will only help you in all aspects of life.

## USPHS SYMPOSIUM CONTINUED...

The event drew hundreds of attendees from federal agencies such as the Indian Health Service, the Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Bureau of Prisons, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Disaster Medical System, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Medical Reserve Corps, the National Institutes of Health and other components of the Departments of Health and Human Services, Defense, Justice, Transportation, as well as numerous state and local agencies and public health institutions.

The theme for the 2015 COF Symposium was “Public Health Diversity: Succeeding in a Flatter World.” Tuesday, May 19th provided the opportunity for each of the USPHS Categories to host their own Category Day to gain category specific continuing education and present category specific awards. The Dental Category was able to incorporate 6.5 hours of continuing dental education on a broad range of topics focused on enhancing the attendee’s skills both clinically and as public health administrators. LCDR Scott B. Williams started the day with a call to order followed by opening remarks by CDR Leira Vargas-Del Toro.



*Surgeon General, VADM Vivek H. Murthy addressing the Dental Category*



*2015 David Satcher Keynote Lecturer, Dr. John Featherstone and RADM Nicholas Makrides*

Michael Rosenthal, DMD, Administrative Chief Resident, Emory University, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery started the day off with a in depth lecture entitled “Current Concepts of Medication Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaw(MRONJ).” The lecture included an excellent synopsis of the clinical terminology and staging of MRONJ lesions, as well as new medications and risk factors associated with the initiation and progression of the disease.

The second lecture of the day was the David Satcher Keynote Lecture provided by John Featherstone, MSc, PhD, Dean and Distinguished Professor, University of California San Francisco. The lecture entitled “CAMBRA-Caries Management by Risk Assessment in the Public Health Setting” provided useful guidance on the use of caries risk assessment tools on which to build your clinical treatment to reduce the risk of dental caries in the future.

The David Stacher Lecture was followed by lunch and the Dental Category Awards Program conducted by RADM Nicholas Makrides. The lunch session always provides a wonderful opportunity for Officers to socialize and network with fellow Dental Officers from other agencies and areas of the country. RADM Makrides had the honor to recognize and present awards to the recipients of the DePAC Awards, Special Assignment Awards, and CPO Exemplary Service Awards. During the awards presentation the Dental Category Officers and guests were honored to meet the newly appointed 19th Surgeon General of the United States VADM Vivek H. Murthy who gave a very pointed and motivational talk about his vision of the Corps moving forward and our role in advancing the public health of the Nation.

Following lunch, our third speaker Jennifer Cleveland, DDS, MPH Dental Officer for the CDC Division of Oral Health presented a lecture entitled “Transmission of Infectious Agents in Dental Settings, 2001-2014.” This lecture was a wonderful update on the transmission of blood-borne pathogens in dental settings, as well as the most current strategies to prevent infections. The lecture covered the process of how the CDC identifies and responds to potential disease transmissions and included three instances of healthcare-associated patient to patient viral hepatitis transmission between 2002 and 2014 and also included strategies for prevention of future transmissions.

The fourth speaker Barbara Gooch, DMD, Associate Director for Science, CDC Division of Oral Health, presented a lecture entitled “CDC Dental Update: Fluoridation, Clinical Preventive Services and Tooth Retention.” This lecture included the science and rationale behind the recent change in the CDC recommendation for community water fluoridation and other preventive measures to improve tooth retention.



*COF 2015 Dental Category Day Social at Pitty Pats Porch*

The final speaker of the day was CAPT Arlene Lester, DDS, MPH, FACD, Regional Minority Health Consultant for DHHS. CAPT Lester presented a very informative lecture entitled “Health Equality and Health Disparities.” Her lecture focused on how advances in modern dentistry, medicine and technology have increased the life spans and quality of life of American citizens, however, there are still well-documented health disparities between racial and ethnic populations. Her lecture also included national initiatives that are currently in place to decrease those

disparities and how our role as USPHS Officers function within those initiatives to improve the health of the American People.

CDR Vargas-Del Toro along with RADM Makrides gave our closing remarks, and the educational portion of Category Day concluded. Category Day also provided the opportunity for socializing and subsequently, fellow Officers convened at Pitty Pat's Porch that evening for a wonderful night of food and mingling.

The 2016 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium will be held in Oklahoma City on May 16-19, 2016. Please visit the Symposium website (<http://symposium.phscof.org>) for updates on the upcoming 51st Annual Symposium.

## DENTAL COINS ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

### GET YOUR ORDER FORM: [PHS-DENTAL COIN](#)



#### Note from the Editors

The DePAC Communications Work Group would like to thank all who have contributed to this edition of the DePAC Newsletter. We would encourage each officer to contribute information for publication through their DePAC work groups to help improve our newsletter and communication to all dental officers.

## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT:

### CAPT BRUCE A. DYE, DDS, MPH

### NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

I began my career as a young clinician and PHS dentist assigned to the Sisseton Indian Health Service Hospital in 1989. During those first two years in South Dakota, I learned the value of great mentorship (I had a remarkably patient and skilled senior PHS dentist as Chief of the program) and I discovered that a significant amount of dentistry I learned in dental school was not applicable to the environment I was working in. I transferred to Michigan's Upper Peninsula in 1991 to serve as Chief of the dental clinic for a small tribe that was beginning to build their own health care delivery program. One of the advantages of working and managing this particular clinic was the diversity of our patient pool. Beyond accepting tribal members for care, we also accepted non-tribal members who were US or Canadian Native Americans and non-Indians. In addition, our patients came to us with a variety of third-party coverages such as insurance, sliding fee, Medicaid, etc. The program grew in the number of patients served, the number of procedures rendered, and the scope of care. From this, I began to recognize the need to understand health management practices, to ensure quality in care, and how to balance treatment needs of individuals compared to public health needs of the community. Thus, I enrolled in a MPH program with an emphasis on Health Management and Policy at the University of Michigan and completed this program while working concurrently with Indian Health Service.



*CAPT Dye*

During my MPH training, I found a great interest in and a small talent for epidemiology. Shortly after matriculating from the school up north (I am a proud OHIO State graduate), a great opportunity presented itself and I applied for a three-year Epidemiology Training Fellowship administered by the FDA. I was accepted and permitted to continue on as a PHS officer in long-term training. I was fortunate to acquire my foundational epidemiology training at Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health and finish my experiential training at the CDC / National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). There I found a position to grow as an epidemiologist and an oral health researcher. More importantly, I was able to become actively involved in the oral health data collection efforts of the National Health and Nutritional Examination Survey (NHANES), which is our country's main surveillance mechanism for a variety of oral health diseases and conditions. During this period, I was able to complete a residency in Dental Public Health at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research part-time while at NCHS and successfully complete the specialty Board examinations of the American Board of Dental Public Health. Last year, I returned to NIDCR to direct the NIDCR Dental Public Health Residency Program where I now help train and guide our next generation of dental public health leaders and researchers.

The best advice I have for junior dental officers is to recognize that opportunities can arise at unexpected times and sometimes you need to seize those opportunities without much information available. Likewise, pursuing advance education is the best way to help you prepare for a career in the modern PHS. Post-doctoral training, ranging from a General Practice Residency or a formal post-graduate level academic degree to a more individually-paced AGD Fellowship will benefit you sometimes in ways that were not imaginable at the time of that training. As you advance through the PHS system, many folks will look to you as a source of knowledge and leadership. As a PHS officer, it is your responsibility to rise and meet that challenge.

## SENIOR OFFICER SPOTLIGHT:

### CAPT DONALD L. ROSS, DMD

### FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS

#### *Can you provide a brief summary of your training and education?*

Originally being from Puerto Rico, I graduated from the University of Puerto Rico School of Dentistry in 1988, subsequently completing a G.P.R. at the Veterans Administration Medical Center there in 1989. Prior to and during dental school, I had been in both the Air Force and Army National Guard when I then enlisted as an officer after graduating. I completed the USAF basic training and Munitions Systems Specialist School. While in the ARNG, I completed the Officer Basic Course and the Combat Casualty Care Course.

#### *Can you tell our readers how long you've been a PHS officer and describe your duties at your present site?*

My first exposure to PHS was while working in a PHS-funded rural health clinic in Florida, Puerto Rico; the oversight officer was a Commissioned Corps Dentist. I always told him that if he would get me a billet for that site I'd stay forever... In 1992 we moved to Atlanta and I had my call to active duty there (U.S. Penitentiary Atlanta) in September of that year. I am currently a Regional Chief Dentist for the BOP in our North Central Region, based in the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Chicago. In this capacity, I provide administrative oversight to the dental staff in 17 Federal prisons and extensive clinical support in those facilities with vacancies in the chief or staff dental officer positions. I also provide administrative support to the Chief Dentist for the Federal Bureau of Prisons and our central and regional offices. On a national level: I oversee the dental laboratory services contract, I am the point of contact for digital imaging, and I review all requests for major equipment funding (over \$5k).

#### *What led you to consider a career in the PHS dental program?*

Having being exposed to public health dentistry at its best in that rural health clinic (only dentist in a town of 8k, no private practice) following my service at the VA (to which I returned as a staff dentist), I was hooked with the concept of service dentistry as a vocation, having no interest in commercial dentistry. In 1992 I had applied to both the VA and the BOP in Atlanta and consider it a blessing that I was given the opportunity to join the USPHS and the BOP.

#### *What did you find to be the most challenging aspect of your transition into the Public Health Service?*

Really, it was a "perfect" fit for my professional aspirations. I never had the "dream" of my name on a sign outside a private practice. Just "sad" that it took me four years to finally have the opportunity to serve.

#### *What has been the most rewarding aspect of your service thus far?*

I have been fortunate to have excellent supervisors/mentors that have encouraged me to look at the broader picture outside of my clinic. This has allowed me to reach my current position. The highlight of my regional/national management activities are the contributions I can make so that our BOP dentists as a whole have an opportunity to obtain the staffing, equipment/supply, and physical plant improvements which in turn allow for efficient delivery of



CAPT Ross

dental care to our patient population. I tell all of our new dentists that our wards have no other option for dental care and it is our primary responsibility to provide it within the policy constraints inherent to a correctional setting.

***Describe some of your hobbies and activities outside of the PHS?***

With a 30 week/year travel schedule, my favorite hobby is spending time at home with my wife. Personally I enjoy reading (Medieval History 1000-1500) and photography, particularly when driving to the various institutions in my region. My youngest son once stated, "You are driving at 70 mph and suddenly stop to take a picture of an eagle? What a nerd." My response was, "If there is no one behind me, and I can stop safely, yes!"



*Photographs of wildlife taken by CAPT Ross*

***Has your experience in the PHS thus far lived up to your expectations?***

Just having had a good clinical career in the PHS/BOP would have been stellar. With the additional opportunities given to develop and the ability to contribute on the larger stage for the BOP and support the PHS response to 9/11 and Katrina, it has made for an incredibly rewarding career.

## **JUNIOR OFFICER SPOTLIGHT: LCDR NATHAN MORK, DDS, MPH INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE**

### ***Can you please provide a brief summary of your training and education?***

I graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry in 2004, and after graduation, completed a one-year Hospital-based General Practice Residency (GPR) at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, MN. Not only was this great exposure to oral surgery, but also public health and the complex health issues compounded by poverty and other socioeconomic barriers. After several years in the PHS, I entered an Executive Master of Public Health program through the University of Washington, School of Public Health, graduating in 2011. In 2012, I separated from the PHS to complete a Dental Public Health Residency at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Working with some of the most experienced experts in Public Health Dentistry was an opportunity that was truly invaluable. I continue to learn from and collaborate with the many amazing people I met through my residency experience.



*LCDR Mork*

### ***Can you tell our readers how long you've been a PHS officer and describe your duties at your present site?***

I first joined the PHS in September 2005. Duties at my present site include clinical dentistry, serving as the dental infection control officer, and mentoring pre-dental and dental students. I also serve as the Bemidji Area Dental Field Consultant, a position that entails serving on the IHS National Workgroup representing Bemidji Area federal programs, assisting with recruitment/retention efforts, and performing dental program reviews.

### ***What led you to consider a career in the PHS dental program?***

I grew up seeing my dad wear a khaki uniform (PHS) to work every day and at the time, I didn't entirely know what the PHS was all about. I honestly had no plans to become a dentist or a Commissioned Officer. As I grew older, I asked more questions about the PHS and became more and more interested. During my GPR experience is when I finally decided that a career in the PHS would be a great fit for me. I am really invested in the "upstream" approach to solving problems, and appreciate all the opportunities to prevent disease and promote health that come with a career in the PHS. I am very happy with my decision.

### ***What did you find to be the most challenging aspect of your transition into the Public Health Service?***

The most challenging aspect of entering into the Public Health Service was not having the comprehensive guidance that we now have with the Officer Basic Course (OBC). I did not feel confident that I was wearing my uniform correctly or following the proper customs and courtesies. I was fortunate to complete OBC when I re-entered the USPHS after separating for my dental public health residency; I gained a real appreciation for the uniform and became much more confident in my ability to fully serve as a uniformed officer.

***What has been the most rewarding aspect of your service thus far?***

The most rewarding aspect of my service is being able to help at all levels of public health – patient care, service unit, area, and national. Contributing in such a diverse way keeps me engaged and invested in the future of the PHS.

***Describe some of your hobbies and activities outside of the PHS?***

My hobbies include photography, kayaking, hiking, and reading to my daughters, ages 6 and 3. I also love to travel, with some my favorites being Japan, Hawaii, Estonia, and the Pacific Northwest.

***Has your experience in the PHS thus far lived up to your expectations?***

Absolutely. I would recommend the PHS to anyone seeking a challenging career. It really can be like a blank canvas in which to paint your own future. The support is there, the opportunities are there, and the need is great. All you need to add to the equation is your time and talents, whatever they may be.

## **CIVIL SERVICE OFFICER SPOTLIGHT: DR. JULIUS THEOPHILUS, DDS INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE**

### ***Can you please provide a brief summary of your training and education?***

I was born and raised in Nassau, Bahamas and achieved my Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan and my Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. I went on to complete post-graduate Dental Training in Community Dentistry, General Practice and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Columbia University and Harlem Hospital in New York City.



*Dr. Theophilus*

### ***Can you tell our readers how long you've been involved in Dental Public Health and describe your duties at your present site?***

I commenced working with the Indian Health Service in January 2003 at Rosebud Hospital in Rosebud, South Dakota as Dental Director. I am currently the Dental Director at Quentin Burdick Memorial Hospital in Belcourt, North Dakota of which both Rosebud and Quentin Burdick are a part of the Great Plains Region of the Indian Health Service. At Quentin Burdick Memorial Hospital, I manage four Dentists, two Dental Hygienists, eight Dental Assistants of which four are Expanded Function and a Medical Support Assistant. We treat approximately 620 patients monthly. While my practice at Quentin Burdick Memorial Hospital Dental Department is limited to Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, where I treat patients in the Clinic, the Operating Room and the Emergency Room, I also contribute to other disciplines of Dentistry with respect to treating our patients.

### ***What led you to consider a career in Dental Public Health?***

My heroes and role models are my wonderful parents. I gravitated towards my father's profession which is also Dentistry and had the opportunity to see first-hand while growing up in the Bahamas the number of individuals who for one reason or another did not have access to Dental Health Care. I was intent on practicing Dentistry in an environment where I could have made an impact immediately and I know that environment to be Public Health thus I embarked on my journey with the Indian Health Service. All Human Beings regardless of where they live should have access to quality Dental Care in my mind. Rural Areas, Lower Socioeconomic areas and areas that lack organized infrastructure are inundated with people who do not have access to quality Dental Care and these areas are where I have decided to make my contribution to the Profession of Dentistry. My goal is to provide exceptional Dental Care one patient at a time to my patients in Belcourt, North Dakota.

### ***What did you find to be the most challenging aspect of your transition into Dental Public Health?***

In my mind, there are two institutions within the confines of Public Health Dentistry. The first institution hires you and in my case it is the Indian Health Service. The second institution is who you provide services to and in my case they are my PATIENTS. One has to make sure that both institutions trust you and you must deliver a product that is pleasing to both institutions. Satisfying both of these institutions can be difficult at times however my disposition is always to provide quality Dental Care to my patients while doing no harm in a respectful and safe environment.

***What has been the most rewarding aspect of your service thus far?***

Patients, Patients, Patients and last but not least patients. I am ecstatic when my patients have received and are satisfied with the Dental Care that I provide to them. The Affordable Care Act in my mind has given more patients access to affordable dental care. When patients are satisfied, the institutional that hired me is satisfied and this is tremendous.

***Describe some of your outside hobbies and activities?***

I enjoy immensely meeting people, playing chess and I am an avid admirer of traditional Jazz.

***Has your experience in Dental Public Health thus far lived up to your expectations?***

My experience in Dental Public Health thus far is PRICELESS. Everyday this experience brings a new adventure from which there is the opportunity to learn lifelong lessons. This journey that I have embarked on while it is not for the faint hearted, it instills tremendous character and strength in you. The foundation of this wonderful experience is the PATIENTS to whom I am extremely grateful. PRICELESS.

## MENTORING IN THE COMMISSIONED CORPS

### CAPT PHILIP DRISCOLL, DDS

### UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Growing up, an adage I frequently heard my mother say was, “each generation stands on the shoulders of the previous one.” The simple meaning, of course, is that the knowledge and experience gained by previous generations is passed on, benefiting and pushing forward the next generation to greater heights of achievement. The lessons of history bear witness to this simple fact: caveman to walkman and beyond. The slow accumulation of knowledge - not so slow anymore - over the span of many centuries has resulted in a world filled with technological wonders that were completely unimaginable when I was just a boy, some of it unimaginable just a few short years ago.

As silly as it may sound, in some ways, an individual’s career progression is similar to that of the overall advancement of mankind. As a junior officer, things start very simply, but over time the officer progresses to greater levels of responsibility and knowledge and can achieve unimaginable success. Nonetheless, in the beginning, we usually lean a lot on the guy or gal next to us who is just as green, or perhaps even greener.

“Fake it ‘till you make it,” is an expression that I occasionally heard as a young officer, and eventually you do make it along with a healthy share of bruises. Undeniably, without guidance, the path can be pretty rough and discouraging at times. There is so much information that must be absorbed in those initial years: daily work routines and paperwork, clinic and corps policies, readiness and promotion requirements, proper drafting of a curriculum vitae Public-Health-Service style, and so on; and not to mention learning to understand the overall commissioned-corps culture. You are back in school for sure.

So, you may say, “What’s the big deal?” We have Officer Basic School (OBC) and there are always the many instructions and manuals available to aide one’s navigation through the bureaucratic jungle. And, yes, indeed, you would be right in saying that. There is, in fact, no end of information out there ostensibly to help you. The problem, though, - besides being laborious, cumbersome, and time consuming to sift through - is that often this information raises as many questions as it answers. And, truth be told, without experience sometimes it does not even answer your particular questions. Indeed, at times the search for the proverbial needle in a haystack may not appear so daunting after all. As the American author, Clarence Day, best known for his work *Life with Father* once said, “Information's pretty thin stuff unless mixed with experience.”

I could probably credit innumerable people in the Corps for my success. Everyone I have worked with has taught me something; however, there is less than a handful that ever took a real interest and actually made any significant impact on my career. I will mention only one, my former DePAC mentor, CAPT Gary Pannabecker, an Indian Health Service Officer stationed in Browning, Montana.



CAPT Driscoll

I credit CAPT Pannabecker as the one individual that got me involved and helped pave the way for my career. He answered my numerous questions and dispelled my many concerns. He gave me those much needed answers and more importantly he gave me the benefit of his many years of experience. I treasure all that he did for me, and I still maintain contact with him.

If you are a seasoned officer, consider lending those shoulders out. I am sure that there is a junior officer that could make good use of them. If you are a junior officer and looking for some shoulders to lean on, then contact the DePAC Mentoring Workgroup and we will actively search out an officer to provide you support and guidance.

For more information about mentoring in the commissioned corps, visit the DePAC website at the following:

<http://www.phs-dental.org/depac/mentoring.html>

Contact Officer: CAPT Philip Driscoll, *Mentoring Workgroup Member and Mentor* ([Philip.G.Driscoll@uscg.mil](mailto:Philip.G.Driscoll@uscg.mil))

## Dental Listserv: History and Update

### **CDR MINH KEVIN LEE, DDS FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS**

The dental listserv is one of the most effective means of communicating with officers in the fields. USPHS officers who are subscribed to the listserv can receive instant messages and sometimes feedback from other officers. It puts us closer together and allows us to reach out to others. New officers are encouraged to go to the <http://www.phs-dental.org/depac/listserv.html> or <http://dcp.psc.gov/osg/dentist/listserv.aspx> for detailed information on the listserv. The listserv is hosted by the NIH server. The NIH self-service web page allows officers to subscribe, unsubscribe, change email address, or browse through archived messages.



*CDR Lee*

### **History and Recent Changes**

The Dentist-L listserv was created in March 2001 as a means for communication between officers in the aftermath of 9/11. Dental-L listserv was designed as a forum for discussions between subscribers on the list. This mailing list is not moderated. There is no editor for this system. This allows for open discussion without content approval prior to posting. In 2002, a second listserv, the Dental Bulletin Board, was created to relay important announcements throughout the Dental Category. This is a moderated mailing list, which means messages must be approved before forwarding to the list for distribution. Over time, the two listservs have become redundant. Officers may receive two announcements from the two listservs or may miss announcement if the message was posted on one listserv only. Recently, the Dental Professional Advisory Committee (DePAC) determined that only one listserv is needed to communicate with the dental category. Effective May 31, 2015, the Dentist-L listserv was discontinued. All subscribers to the Dentist-L listserv were migrated over to the Dental Bulletin Board before that date; NO action is needed from Officers.

### **Eligibility for List Subscriptions**

All dentists and hygienists in a Federal Public Health program or US Public Health Service dentists and dental hygienists are eligible to subscribe to the Dental Bulletin Board. The dental health care professionals may be: (1) either Active Duty or Retired; (2) Commissioned Corps, Civil Service, or Contract/Tribal hire; (3) Dentists or Dental Hygienists; (4) other disciplines involved in Federal Oral Health programs.

### **Instructions for using the Dental Listserv**

Eligible Officers are welcome to visit our site to subscribe, unsubscribe, change email address, browse through archive messages. The following are specific instructions:

- To SUBSCRIBE OR UN-SUBSCRIBE to the Dental Bulletin Board List, please visit the the NIH self help webpage - subscription. Carefully follow the instructions. For Subscription type, Mail header style, and Acknowledgements, it is best to leave the setting at the defaults. The Listserv will walk you through a very easy process of getting your account set up.
- To CORRECT/CHANGE your e-mail address on the Dental Bulletin Board List, please visit the NIH self help webpage - change. Carefully follow the instructions. The Listserv will walk you through a very easy process of getting your e-mail address changed.
- To BROWSE the list archives online, please visit the NIH Self help webpage – archives. After log in, you can browse by month for any messages that were posted.
- To post messages to all subscribers on the Listserv, send an e-mail message worded exactly as you want it to be viewed to the e-mail address: [DENTALBULLETINBOARD@list.nih.gov](mailto:DENTALBULLETINBOARD@list.nih.gov). Afterward, you will receive an email confirmation before the message is forwarded to all subscribers. The message will be reviewed by the list moderators for approval and then forwarded to all list subscribers.

### **Standards of Conduct (Etiquette)**

Messages posted to the listservs are disseminated to all subscribers. Subscribers to the USPHS Dental Category Bulletin Board must adhere to the following principles:

- All postings must not violate the U.S. Public Health Service Policies and Regulations. This is applicable to all PHS officers, whether retired, inactive, or on active duty (including those on leave without pay). More information is available for viewing at the Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel Homepage (<http://dcp.psc.gov>).
- All postings must demonstrate courtesy and consideration of others, as outlined in USPHS Standard of Conduct (§73.735-301, CCPM #62).
- All postings must not violate the U.S. Public Health Service Standards of Conduct (applicable to all PHS Officers, whether retired, inactive, or on active duty (including those on leave without pay)), which is available for viewing at the Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel Homepage (<http://dcp.psc.gov>).
- PHS Officers are Health Professionals in Public Service. Beyond professional competence, your behavior must reflect the highest degree of integrity and impartiality. Thus, all e-mail correspondence should reflect professionalism, honesty, and integrity.
- The Dental Bulletin Board should be used in a positive and cordial manner, and all effort should be made to avoid personal attacks on any person, whether a subscriber or not.

## New Dental PAC Website

### **CDR MINH KEVIN LEE, DDS FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS**

The migration of all the Professional Advisory Committees (PACs) websites to a centralized server hosted by CCMIS has been in development for a number of years. It is finally here. It has been an off-and-on project that started as far back as 2009. Many ideas were proposed including the use of the open source software DotNetNuke. Finally, under the leadership of CDR Dwayne Jarman, an in-house software was developed which allows all the PAC websites to be migrated to <https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/default.aspx>. The software, "Jarmanator", continues to develop, and in the near future, more features will be added, such as automatic update of Officer information and duty stations.

#### **Benefits of Consolidating the PAC Websites**

- More professional appearance with official USPHS logos and site
- Consistent theme and appearance that are shared by all the PAC sites
- Consistent navigation and layout for all the PAC sites
- Easy access to other PAC sites and Chartered Advisory Group (e.g. JOAG)
- Clear view of the Office of Surgeon General Initiatives
- Built-in password protection for members' only web pages
- No cost to the dental category for using the server

#### **Challenges of Site Migration**

Since the Dental PAC website has migrated from a third party server to a government site, the content of the Dental PAC website must be revised to reflect current USPHS policies. Under the leadership of the current Dental PAC Chair CAPT Leira Vargas-Del Toro, all the contents of the web pages were reviewed and updated. All the DePAC workgroup chairs made a significant contribution to this process.

The second challenge is meeting the requirements of Section 508. Section 508 is a Federal mandate which requires the websites of all Federal agencies to be accessible to people with disabilities. The law applies to all Federal agencies when they "develop, procure, maintain, or use" electronic and information technology. Under Section 508, agencies must give persons with disabilities access to information that is comparable to access available to others. For a detailed information regarding Section 508, please visit <https://www.section508.gov>.

## Important Features of Section 508:

### Don'ts

- **Don't** use animated .gifs, flashing texts or images without some form of manual controls.
- **Don't** use slight shade of colors to convey information, especially with red-green colors. Use a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1.
- **Don't** use spaces or special characters for filenames.
- **Don't** use images without descriptive text or captions. Also fill out the alternative description, e.g. alt=""
- **Don't** underline text unless it is a hyperlink or email link.
- **Don't** use watermarks or images as a background.
- **Don't** leave the document properties blank. Author, title, key words, category must be completely fill out. For 2007 Microsoft Word, click on the OFFICE Button > Prepare > Properties.
- **Don't** use generic phrases like "Click here" for links. Use descriptive hyperlinks.
- **Don't** use fonts which are difficult to read. Do use recommended fonts (e.g., Times New Roman, Verdana, Arial, Tahoma, Helvetica, or Calibri).

The old DePAC website (<http://www.phs-dental.org>) will discontinue in late December 2015. Afterwards, all traffic to the DePAC website will be directed to the new Dental PAC site (<https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/dentist/>).

## DePAC is on Facebook!



Now we need your help. Fill the page with proud images of our Officers! Take pictures of yourself making healthy choices or exercising **#healthyselfie**. Send a picture of where you work (where appropriate). Let's start putting faces with names and start putting a good face on USPHS Dentists and Federal Dental Programs.



Search for "Dental PAC" and like our page. Message your comments, pictures, and recommendations directly to the page to have them reviewed and, if appropriate, posted!

## HAILS AND FAREWELLS:

### WELCOME TO THE COMMISSIONED CORPS

- CAPT WILLIAM J. ESPOSITO (POLACCA, AZ – IHS)



### FARE WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS IN THE NEXT LEG OF YOUR JOURNEY.

- RADM (RET.) ISABEL GARCIA, NIH
- CAPT (RET.) RICHARD FIRNHABER, USCG
- CAPT (RET.) JAMES HYLAND, USCG
- CAPT GLENN MARTIN, USCG
- CDR ADRIANA STEGMAN, USCG

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2015-2016

Agency/Organization	Web Link/info	Meeting date	Meeting Location
Mid-Continent Dental Congress	<a href="http://www.gslds.org/education-mcdc.php">http://www.gslds.org/education-mcdc.php</a>	Oct. 29-30, 2015 (Nov. 10-11, 2016)	St. Charles, MO
American Dental Association Annual Meeting	<a href="#">ADA: American Dental Association - ADA Annual Session</a>	Nov. 5-10, 2015 (Oct. 20-25, 2016)	Washington, DC Denver, CO
American Association of Women Dentists	<a href="http://www.aawd.org/?page=AnnualConference">http://www.aawd.org/?page=AnnualConference</a>	Nov. 6-7, 2015	Washington, DC
American Academy of Periodontology Annual Meeting	<a href="http://www.perio.org/meetings/am/index.html">http://www.perio.org/meetings/am/index.html</a>	Nov. 14-17, 2015 (Sept. 10-13, 2016)	Orlando, FL San Diego, CA
Chicago Dental Society Midwinter Meeting	<a href="http://www.cds.org/midwinter_meeting/midwinter_meeting.aspx">http://www.cds.org/midwinter_meeting/midwinter_meeting.aspx</a>	Feb. 25-27, 2016	Chicago, IL
American Dental Education Association Annual Meeting	<a href="http://www.adea.org/EventDetail.aspx?id=21328">http://www.adea.org/EventDetail.aspx?id=21328</a>	Mar. 12-15, 2016	Denver, CO
IADR/AADR Annual Meeting & Exhibition	<a href="http://www.iadr.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=4526">http://www.iadr.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=4526</a>	Mar. 16-19, 2016	Los Angeles, CA
Hinman Dental Meeting	<a href="http://www.hinman.org/">http://www.hinman.org/</a>	Mar. 17-19, 2016	Atlanta, GA
Academy of Prosthodontics	<a href="http://www.academyofprosthodontics.org/2016_Palm_Springs_California.html">http://www.academyofprosthodontics.org/2016_Palm_Springs_California.html</a>	Mar. 29- Apr. 2, 2016	Palm Springs, CA
American Association of Endodontists	<a href="http://www.aae.org/annualsession/">http://www.aae.org/annualsession/</a>	Apr. 6-9, 2016	San Francisco, CA
Western Regional Dental Convention	<a href="https://www.westernregional.org/2016/">https://www.westernregional.org/2016/</a>	Apr. 8-9, 2016	Phoenix, AZ
Academy of Laser Dentistry	<a href="http://www.laserdentistry.org/index.cfm/conference">http://www.laserdentistry.org/index.cfm/conference</a>	Apr. 14-16, 2016	Orlando, FL
National Oral Health Conference	<a href="http://www.nationaloralhealthconference.com/">http://www.nationaloralhealthconference.com/</a>	Apr. 18-20, 2016	Cincinnati, OH
American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry	<a href="http://www.aacd.com/conference">http://www.aacd.com/conference</a>	Apr. 27-30, 2016	Toronto, Canada
The Texas Meeting: Annual Session Texas Dental Association	<a href="http://texasmeeting.com/">http://texasmeeting.com/</a>	May 5-7, 2016	San Antonio, TX
California Dental Association Spring Scientific Session	<a href="http://www.cdapresents.com/Anaheim2015.aspx">http://www.cdapresents.com/Anaheim2015.aspx</a>	May 12-14, 2016	Anaheim, CA
USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium	<a href="http://symposium.phscof.org/">http://symposium.phscof.org/</a>	May 16-19, 2016	Oklahoma City, OK
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Annual Session	<a href="http://www.aapd.org/annual/">http://www.aapd.org/annual/</a>	May 26-29, 2016	San Antonio, TX
Pacific Northwest Dental Conference (WSDA)	<a href="http://www.wsd.org/pndc/">http://www.wsd.org/pndc/</a>	Jun. 16-17, 2016	Bellevue, WA
Academy of General Dentistry Annual Meeting	<a href="http://www.agd.org/am2016.aspx">http://www.agd.org/am2016.aspx</a>	Jul. 14-17, 2016	Boston, MA
American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry	<a href="http://www.estheticacademy.org/?page=AAEDMeetings">http://www.estheticacademy.org/?page=AAEDMeetings</a>	Aug. 2-5, 2016	Dana Point, CA
National Dental Association	<a href="http://ndaonline.org/nda-convention/">http://ndaonline.org/nda-convention/</a>	TBA	TBA

## ONLINE ORAL HEALTH RESOURCES & CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

<i>*DePAC Does not advocate for any of the products, materials or information in articles included in this list, it is merely a compilation of online resources and continuing education opportunities for category members.</i>		
<b>Agency/Organization</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Web Link</b>
American College of Dentists	<b>CE</b> - Dental Ethics Course	<a href="http://www.dentaethics.org">www.dentaethics.org</a>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	<b>Resource</b> - Oral Health Resources	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/">http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/</a>
Colgate	<b>CE</b> – Free Live and On-Demand Webinars for continuing education	<a href="http://www.colgateoralhealthnetwork.com/Dental-CE-Course/">http://www.colgateoralhealthnetwork.com/Dental-CE-Course/</a>
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	<b>Resource</b> – Video, HRSA Deputy Administrator Marcia K. Brand, PhD	<a href="http://www.hrsa.gov/publichealth/clinical/oralhealth/">http://www.hrsa.gov/publichealth/clinical/oralhealth/</a>
HRSA	<b>Resource</b> - HHS Oral Health Initiative 2010	<a href="http://www.hrsa.gov/publichealth/clinical/oralhealth/hhsinitiative.html">http://www.hrsa.gov/publichealth/clinical/oralhealth/hhsinitiative.html</a>
IHS Division of Oral Health	<b>Resource</b> - Early Childhood Caries Initiative	<a href="http://www.doh.ihs.gov/ecc">http://www.doh.ihs.gov/ecc</a>
Inside Dentistry	<b>CE</b> - online continuing education opportunities	<a href="http://www.insidedentistry.net/continuingeducation.php">http://www.insidedentistry.net/continuingeducation.php</a>
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research	<b>CE</b> - Practical oral health care for patients w/ developmental disabilities	<a href="http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/EducationalResources/HealthCareProviders/POCPDD.htm">http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/EducationalResources/HealthCareProviders/POCPDD.htm</a>
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research	<b>Resource</b> - Dental Providers Oncology Pocket Guide. Reference on treating pts before, during and after cancer treatment	<a href="http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/oralhealth/Topics/CancerTreatment/ReferenceGuideforOncologyPatients.htm">http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/oralhealth/Topics/CancerTreatment/ReferenceGuideforOncologyPatients.htm</a>
National Maternal & Child Oral Health Resource Center	<b>Distance Learning</b>	<a href="http://www.mchoralhealth.org/materials/DL.html">http://www.mchoralhealth.org/materials/DL.html</a>
Naval Postgraduate Dental School	<b>Resource</b> - Clinical updates archives	<a href="http://www.wrnmcc.capmed.mil/ResearchEducation/NPDS/SitePages/Research/ClinicalUpdatesIndex.aspx">http://www.wrnmcc.capmed.mil/ResearchEducation/NPDS/SitePages/Research/ClinicalUpdatesIndex.aspx</a>
Naval Postgraduate Dental School	<b>CE</b> - Correspondence Course Program	<a href="http://www.wrnmcc.capmed.mil/ResearchEducation/NPDS/Shared%20Documents/Correspondence%20Course%20Brochure.pdf">http://www.wrnmcc.capmed.mil/ResearchEducation/NPDS/Shared%20Documents/Correspondence%20Course%20Brochure.pdf</a>
Northwest Center for Public Health Practice	<b>CE</b> - Basic Public Health principles study modules	<a href="http://www.nwcp.org/training/training-search#b_start=0">http://www.nwcp.org/training/training-search#b_start=0</a>
Ohio Department of Health, the Indian Health Service, and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors	<b>Resource</b> - Safety Net Dental Clinic Manual	<a href="http://www.dentalclinicmanual.com/">http://www.dentalclinicmanual.com/</a>
Proctor & Gamble	<b>CE</b> – online continuing education courses	<a href="http://www.dentalcare.com/en-US/conteduc/conteduc.jsp">http://www.dentalcare.com/en-US/conteduc/conteduc.jsp</a>
The University of Iowa	<b>Resource</b> - Oral Disease Pictures	<a href="http://guides.lib.uiowa.edu/c.php?g=131885&amp;p=864394">http://guides.lib.uiowa.edu/c.php?g=131885&amp;p=864394</a>