

From: PHS Commissioned Corps Medical Officers on behalf of Purohit-Sheth, Tejashri
Sent: Tue 12/15/2009 10:31
To: COMMCORPS_MEDOFFCRS@LIST.NIH.GOV
Subject: PPAC Newsletter and REMINDER for Tomorrow's PPAC Forum

Good Morning All,

1. PPAC Forum Tomorrow 12/16/09 at 1300 EST: The topic for tomorrow's PPAC Forum will be a discussion of the Federal Recovery Coordination Program, provided by CAPT Elise Young. The following link provides an overview of this program, and tomorrow at the Forum, CAPT Young will explain the opportunity for PHS officers that this program provides:

<http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=1499>

Call in number: 866-756-7152, Participant Code: **4318558** or, for those of you who can't use toll-free numbers, **210-835-2533**.

2. Volunteers for OBC Graduation needed: As you are aware, as part of the Transformation initiative, the BOTC course has been replaced. Currently, all officers entering the USPHS, are required to take the Officer Basic Course (OBC) at the time of service entry, or soon thereafter. All PPACs have been requested to provide category representation at the OBC graduation. An example of the graduation invitation is attached, as well as directions and location of OBC (Landsdowne, VA). We have been fortunate that CAPT Helminiak has been able to represent our category for several of these in the past, and will continue to do so. However, as scheduling conflicts may arise, the PPAC is aiming to develop a list of medical officers who are willing to attend the OBC graduation to represent our category in the event a need arises. Please contact CDR Daisy Eng if you would like to be added to our volunteer list: DEng1@hrsa.gov. Thank you.

3 . On October 1, 2009, President Obama released an Executive Order on reducing text messaging while driving, demonstrating federal leadership in improving safety on our roads. Please see the attached link. http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Executive-Order-Federal-Leadership-on-Reducing-Text-Messaging-while-Driving/

4. Communications: As we have completed our transition to our new PPAC website (see below), please notify Juliana Grant for any errors that you may note so we can promptly correct them: webmaster@usphs-ppac.net Thank you.

A. **PPAC Listserve:** PPAC newsletters such as this one will go out periodically, providing important information on topics relevant to all PHS medical officers (e.g. active duty, retired, and IRC). Past PPAC newsletters are archived on the web, at listserv.nih.gov. To sign up, send an email to Listserv@list.nih.gov with the following text: *subscribe Commcorps_medoffcrs_firstname lastname*.

B. **PPAC Website:** The PPAC website is a rich source of information for PHS officers. In addition to information about the Physicians Professional Advisory Committee (PPAC), it provides links to key information deemed useful for PHS officers and is often a quick and easy way to find the most relevant information about recent news, policies, promotion, uniforms, etc. Available at: <http://usphs-ppac.net/>

C. **PPAC Portal:** The PPAC Portal is a password-protected area of an NIH server for use by PHS medical officers. The Portal is used to share draft policy proposals for comment, job openings for medical officers, PPAC Committee minutes, discussion threads, and other material whose intended audience is limited to PHS medical officers. Copy and paste the following link for instructions on how to obtain access: http://usphs-ppac.net/PPAC_Portal_Instructions_09-17-08.pdf

7. 2009 Schedule of PPAC Calls and Forums: PPAC meetings and Open Forums will continue to occur bimonthly on a staggered basis on the dates listed below. They will begin at 1300 EST on

Wednesdays. A call number and an agenda will be sent out prior to each meeting. ALL PHS MEDICAL OFFICERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE CALLS AND THE FORUMS!!! The calls are formal meetings (required for voting members) intended to share and discuss issues the PPAC is working on. The Forums are intended to be opportunities to explore issues of interest to medical officers in greater depth and less formality. Please let me know if you have topics or speaker suggestions for the Forums since we'd like to make sure that we cover relevant and engaging issues.

PPAC Meetings: Jan 28, Mar 25, May 20, July 15, Sept 16, Nov 18
PPAC Forums: Feb 25, April 15, June 17, Aug 19, Oct 21, **Dec 16**

Tejashri

Tejashri Purohit-Sheth, M.D.
CDR, Medical Category, USPHS /PPAC Chair

Branch Chief, Good Clinical Practice 2
Division of Scientific Investigations
Office of Compliance/CDER
Food and Drug Administration
White Oak, Bldg. 51, Rm. 5358
10903 New Hampshire Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20993
(301) 796-3402
tejashri.purohit-sheth@fda.hhs.gov