



NAME: LCDR KRISTA M. SCARDINA

JOB TITLE: PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICER

AGENCY: HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION (HRSA)

EDUCATION/DEGREES/CERTIFICATES/INSTITUTIONS:

Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Krista Scardina earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in 2000. Presently, while working for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), she is enrolled in graduate school at George Washington University to obtain a Master of Science in Engineering Management and Systems Engineering, with a concentration in Crisis, Emergency, and Risk Management. She will graduate with her M.S. degree in the fall of 2008.

CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION:

LCDR Scardina is currently a Program Management Officer for HRSA – Office of Pharmacy Affairs. HRSA is the primary federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable. The Office of Pharmacy Affairs has three primary functions:

- Administration of the 340B Drug Pricing Program, through which certain federally funded grantees and other safety net health care providers may purchase prescription medication at significantly reduced prices.
- Development of innovative pharmacy services models and technical assistance.
- Serves as a federal resource for pharmacy practice.

HRSA – Office of Pharmacy Affairs emphasizes comprehensive pharmacy services as being an integral part of primary health care. Comprehensive pharmacy services include patient access to affordable pharmaceuticals, application of "leading practices" and efficient pharmacy management, and the application of systems that improve patient outcomes through safe and effective medication use.

LCDR Scardina is one of the Improvement Advisors and Managers for the HRSA Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Collaborative, which has a goal of improving patient safety, clinical pharmacy services, and health outcomes in the safety net population. Furthermore, LCDR Scardina conducts site visits around the country of high performing organizations and this information is utilized by other organizations. LCDR Scardina also serves as the primary contact for national organizations and their involvement in the HRSA Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Collaborative. LCDR Scardina has the unique experience of working at headquarters and also working in the field, where she can view first hand how funding from HRSA assists organizations.

QUALIFYING SKILLS FOR CURRENT POSITION:

LCDR Scardina believes that the skills necessary to be successful in her current position include organization, planning, writing, and oral communication skills. LCDR Scardina developed these skills during her pharmacy education and from her different work experiences since joining the USPHS.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE USPHS AS A CAREER:

LCDR Scardina first heard of the opportunities offered by the USPHS during a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – Office of Generic Drugs (OGD) rotation while in pharmacy school. She wanted to pursue a career and not just a job. USPHS offered LCDR Scardina a career and offered her an opportunity to positively impact patients on a broad scale.

PREVIOUS USPHS ASSIGNMENTS:

In addition to LCDR Scardina's current position as a Program Management Officer for HRSA – Office of Pharmacy Affairs, she has also had four other assignments. She began her career in the USPHS in May 2000 as a Project Manager in the Office of Generic Drugs. After gaining a firm grasp on the regulations that govern the regulation of the generic drugs, she worked as a Clinical Reviewer for two years. Her last position in the Office of Generic Drugs was as a Medical Affairs Coordinator.

LCDR Scardina transferred to HRSA in 2005 as a Senior Public Health Analyst. While working with the HRSA National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program, LCDR Scardina was responsible for writing guidance documents for state health departments regarding the use of cooperative agreement funding for bioterrorism, pharmaceutical stockpiling, and was the lead on pandemic influenza initiatives.

MOST REWARDING USPHS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

LCDR Scardina enjoys sharing her USPHS experiences with other people, especially students. She has been on numerous USPHS deployments and enjoys telling people about the USPHS.

LCDR Scardina's most rewarding USPHS professional experience occurred in Summer 2006 when she received a phone call from RADM Babb to be considered as the Confidential Assistant for the Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services (Alex Azar). She was honored to be selected for this position, and learned much about the work of the Department of Health and Human Services during her time there.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES:

LCDR Scardina is very active with the USPHS and this is evident from her participation in various USPHS organizations. LCDR Scardina served as Vice Chair and Executive Secretary of the Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee (PharmPAC). She also serves as an Executive Assistant for a Senior Health Official, RADM Kerry Nessler. LCDR Scardina enjoys educating students on the benefits of the USPHS and serves as the PharmPAC Point of Contact for University of Pittsburgh.

SPECIAL NOTES OF INTEREST:

LCDR Scardina enhanced her leadership skills while on several deployments. She was deployed to assist with relief efforts during Hurricanes Isabel, Frances/Ivan, and Katrina. Also, she was deployed during the Presidential Inauguration in 2005.

By LCDR Sandeep (Sonny) Saini