

# US Department of Health and Human Services

## Third Party Websites and Applications Privacy Impact Assessment

**Date Signed:**

March 15, 2019

**OPDIV:**

OS

**Name:**

U.S. Public Health Service Scientist Professional Advisory Committee Program Support Center  
Twitter

**TPWA Unique Identifier:**

T-3078044-032150

**Is this a new TPWA?**

Yes

**Will the use of a third-party Website or application create a new or modify an existing HHS/OPDIV System of Records Notice (SORN) under the Privacy Act?**

No

**If SORN is not yet published, identify plans to put one in place.**

null

**Will the use of a third-party Website or application create an information collection subject to OMB clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)?**

No

**Indicate the OMB approval number expiration date (or describe the plans to obtain OMB clearance).**

Expiration Date: 1/1/01 12:00 AM

**Describe the plans to obtain OMB clearance.**

Explanation: N/A

**Does the third-party Website or application contain Federal Records?**

No

**Describe the specific purpose for the OPDIV use of the third-party Website or application:**

The Twitter account for the Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC) will provide an alternate means of: increasing visibility of Scientist Officers and the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps in general, by highlighting impactful accomplishments of Scientist Officers including publication of scientific manuscripts, volunteer activities, and typical work activities; inspiring camaraderie among Scientist Officers while building interest around topics relevant to Scientist Officers and the general public; and raising the profile of Scientist Officers and their work with Commissioned Corps Headquarters, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the general public. The Twitter account will also provide an alternate means of raising public health awareness of "scientist-specific public health issues" through the various Social Media Networks.

The Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC) would like to increase visibility of the Scientist Category to fall in line with the other uniformed services with current Twitter accounts including: Marine Corps, Army, Navy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Air Force, and Coast Guard. It will also serve as a means to increase interactions with many of the 21 different agencies with Twitter accounts where our fellow Scientist are stationed including: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Bureau of Prisons, Federal Drug Administration, National Institutes for Health, Department of Defense, US Department of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, among others.

The Twitter account will be a means to share previously published information relevant to public health, science, and the Commissioned Corps. The page will be in line with the mission of the Surgeon General and the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps: to protect, promote and advance the health of our nation. The page will also provide links to vacancies reposted from the USA Jobs website. The intended audience includes: Government employees and officials, candidates/applicants for Commission as Scientist officers and the general public. The page will not be the sole source of information for users and supports the U.S. Surgeon General's vision of Use of Social Media. The use of this TPWA is to promote Public Health Awareness regarding issues as they relate to the Scientist Category of United States Public Health Officers under the US Surgeon General.

**Have the third-party privacy policies been reviewed to evaluate any risks and to determine whether the Website or application is appropriate for OPDIV use?**

Yes

**Describe alternative means by which the public can obtain comparable information or services if they choose not to use the third-party Website or application:**

The Scientist category also has a SciPAC website with a link from the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) USPHS.gov website, but the information is geared towards recruitment of new Scientist officers only. The public can access the same information posted on the Twitter account from the following resources: USA Jobs website, Commissioned Corps Management Information System (CCMIS) Website, US government agency websites, and non-government websites promoted by various professional organizations. The Twitter account will not be the primary source of information shared with the public.

**Does the third-party Website or application have appropriate branding to distinguish the OPDIV activities from those of nongovernmental actors?**

Yes

**How does the public navigate to the third party Website or application from the OPIDIV?**

An external hyperlink from an HHS Website or Website operated on behalf of HHS

**Please describe how the public navigate to the thirdparty website or application:**

The public navigates to the Twitter page by accessing an external hyperlink from an HHS Website or Website operated on behalf of HHS, or by searching for US Public Health Service on Twitter.

Any member of the public can view the Twitter account. A Twitter account is not required to view the page. The page is searchable and it will be set up as an open Twitter account available for public viewing.

Members of the public who wish to "Follow" the Twitter account will need to create a Twitter account. By "following" the account, posts from the account will show up on their account feeds. While the page will contain names of Twitter accounts that "follow" or are "followed by" the Twitter account, personally identifiable information (PII) on the page will not be used by SciPAC, nor will PII be collected, nor will it be stored in any way.

**If the public navigate to the third-party website or application via an external hyperlink, is there an alert to notify the public that they are being directed to anongovernmental Website?**

Yes

**Has the OPDIV Privacy Policy been updated to describe the use of a third-party Website or application?**

Yes

**Provide a hyperlink to the OPDIV Privacy Policy:**

<https://www.usphs.gov/main/privacy.aspx>

**Is an OPDIV Privacy Notice posted on the third-part website or application?**

Yes

**Is PII collected by the OPDIV from the third-party Website or application?**

No

**Will the third-party Website or application make PII available to the OPDIV?**

No

**Describe the PII that will be collected by the OPDIV from the third-party Website or application and/or the PII which the public could make available to the OPDIV through the use of the third-party Website or application and the intended or expected use of the PII:**

The Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC) does not collect any PII through its use of Twitter. Individual users who register with Twitter are required to provide a display name, valid email address or phone number, password, and handle to create a personal Twitter profile. Once registered, users have the option to provide a wealth of additional information about themselves such as telephone number, interests, etc. which may be accessible on the individual user's personal Twitter profile page based on who they follow or otherwise maintained or used by Twitter (see [Twitter.com/privacy](https://twitter.com/privacy) for review of their data policy, and how they may use the provided information). This information may be available to Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC) page administrators in whole or part, based on a user's privacy settings. The Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC) does not solicit, collect, or maintain any personally identifiable information from individuals who visit, favorite, retweet, reply, or otherwise engage with the Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC) Twitter page or tweets. The Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC) Twitter page administrator may however, read, review, or rely upon information that individuals make available on Twitter in the form of replies, use of hashtags, or "@ mentions" for the purposes of responding to a user's question. Even though this information may be accessible to the Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC)'s Twitter page administrators, the Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC) does not collect, disseminate, or maintain any of the information provided on the Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC)'s Twitter page.

**Describe the type of PII from the third-party Website or application that will be shared, with whom the PII will be shared, and the purpose of the information sharing:**

This information is not shared beyond a Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC) Twitter administrator. PII is not collected outside of Twitter or used for other Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC) purposes.

**If PII is shared, how are the risks of sharing PII mitigated?**

This data is kept within the Twitter platform. It is not downloaded into other tools and or repositories.

**Will the PII from the third-party website or application be maintained by the OPDIV?**

No

**Describe how PII that is used or maintained will be secured:**

The Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC) does not keep separate records or accounting of Twitter users or their interaction with the Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC)'s Twitter page. The Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC) does not store or share this information.

User information is retained by Twitter as long as a user maintains a Twitter account. See Twitter's privacy policy to see how long user information is retained after an account has been deleted. Twitter users can learn more about how their information is used and maintained by Twitter by visiting Twitter's data policy located at [www.Twitter.com/privacy](http://www.Twitter.com/privacy).

**What other privacy risks exist and how will they be mitigated?**

A URL to the USPHS website privacy policy is referenced in the bio section of the Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC)'s Twitter page. The Scientist Professional Advisory Committee (SciPAC) will conduct a periodic review of Twitter's privacy practices to ensure Twitter's policies continue to align with agency objectives and privacy policies and do not present unreasonable or unknown risks to consumer privacy.