

WS 11: Beyond the Bench: Leveling Up Your Forensic Toxicology Career

Audience Knowledge: Intermediate

Workshop Chairs

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Toxicologist 1

Abstract

Forensic Toxicology is a niche field with endless opportunities to build a meaningful and fulfilling career to meet individualized goals. Forensic toxicology professionals often begin their career at entry or bench level positions performing in-laboratory activities. As experience grows, an individual may desire to explore opportunities beyond the bench, and discover alternative career pathways available for forensic toxicologists. In this workshop, the SOFT professional mentoring committee presents a career navigation journey to begin by refreshing attendees on the interview process from both the perspective of the interviewee (resume updating, job searching, preparation) and interviewer (desirable characteristics, question compilation, logistics). Next, instructors holding senior level positions within their institutions will provide insight on career path options to include management, supervision, leadership, and academia/research. Select instructors who have piloted complex career pathways will share personal experiences to include international employment, change of sector, and finding the right fit. Additionally, mentoring success stories dealing with professional development and career advancement will be shared by representatives from SOFT and TIAFT. Two break out sessions will be scheduled to allow attendees to explore presented topics, discuss career challenges, and (of course) network!

Speakers

Erin Spargo

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Toxicology Director

Workshop Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
01:30 PM - 02:00 PM	Welcome (5 min) & To Interview or To Be Interviewed: These are the Questions! (25 min)	Palmquist-Orlando (Welcome); Johnson (Presentation)
02:00 PM - 02:15 PM	Moving from the Front Line to the Command Center: The Role of the Toxicology Manager	Spargo
02:15 PM - 02:30 PM	Toxicology Supervisor - A Look Behind the Title	Kahl
02:30 PM - 02:45 PM	The In-between: Technical Lead – Part Leadership and Analyst	McCall
02:45 PM - 03:00 PM	Navigating an Academic Career in Forensic Toxicology: Strategy, Development and Growth	Concheiro-Guisan
03:00 PM - 03:10 PM	A Mentorship Success Story: Preparing for ISO 17025:2017 Accreditation	Edel & Patton
03:10 PM - 03:30 PM	Breakout Session - Small group discussion covering discussed topics	Palmquist-Orlando & Johnson
04:00 PM - 04:45 PM	Unique Career Navigation Experiences: (1) There and Back Again: From Research to Casework - and Back; (2) Toxicology Research in Three Sectors and Two Countries; (3) From the Scottish Highlands to the Heart of Africa: A Transatlantic Journey	Skillman / Vikingsson / de Korompay
04:45 PM - 05:15 PM	Mentoring/Networking/Career Success Stories with Q&A	Huestis & Wille
05:15 PM - 05:30 PM	Round Table, Q&A, Networking Session	Palmquist-Orlando & Johnson