

TOXTALK



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Tate Yeatman
SOFT 2024 PRESIDENT

"Time moves in one direction, memory in another" - William Gibson

As I write my last submission to ToxTalk as your President, reflecting on the memories I have been blessed to create over the last seven years, the opportunity to work with so many brilliant and inspiring people is what I will cherish most. As our organization has grown, taking care of the routine business of SOFT, not to mention planning of our annual meeting, has grown more challenging and complex. However, no task is too great for our incredible staff, Beth and CC,

who keep everything on track along with help from the incredible members of the organization who continue to step into leadership roles or volunteer on the many committees doing such great work.

This year's meeting in St. Louis was a resounding success full of quality scientific content, opportunities for professional networking, and time to visit with friends, old and new. The total attendance for the meeting was 939 registered attendees making it one of the most highly attended meetings since COVID. Thank you to our hosts, Sarah Riley and Justin Poklis, for all of your hard work over the past year. You should be so proud of efforts! I would also like to thank the entire planning committee: Scientific Program Coordinators Sara Dempsey and Matt Juhascik; Workshop Program Coordinators Alex Krotulski and Vanessa Meneses; Food and Beverage Coordinators Ann Marie Gordon, Denice Teem, and Delisa Downey; Mobile Application Coordinators Rusty Lewis, Roxane Ritter, and Sunday Hickerson; Volunteer Coordinators Emily Smelser and Tonya Mitchell; Fun Run Coordinators Madison Beffa and Kimberly Karin; AV Coordinator Frank Wallace; Young Forensic Toxicologists Erin Strickland; and JAT Special Editor Erin Karschner. These meetings would not happen without you.

For those of you unable to attend this year's meeting, I want to recap some of the Board's accomplishments this past year as I discussed in my President's report during the business meeting.

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TOXTALK

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

We performed a comprehensive review and revision of the Policies and Procedures Manual to reflect changes made to the Bylaws last year and to ensure it accurately reflected current SOFT practices. Thanks to the efforts of the Policies and Procedures Committee, Madeleine Swortwood, Jayne Thatcher, and Laurel Farrell, and a diligent Board, all revisions were finalized and approved at the in-person Board meeting in St. Louis.

The Board renewed SOFT's contract with Accountability Ignited allowing Paula Brantner to continue in her role as the SOFT Accountability Officer. She will continue to be the first point of contact for any reports of misconduct throughout the year and was "on call" at the meeting, if needed.

Paula was also heavily involved with our next project, revision of SOFT's Code of Conduct Policy and development of a Code of Conduct Reporting Procedure. The new policy and procedure, which was also approved during our in-person Board meeting, will ensure that all SOFT members promote the mission of SOFT and maintain a professional and respectful environment and that we handle any future incidents with fairness, consistency, and the absence of bias.

We continued our work of improving committee management and communication. Building on the initiatives of Past President Spargo, meetings will be held with committee chairs and vice chairs each November where we will provide guidance on how to most effectively communicate new proposals and funding requests to the Board and provide a forum for any questions they may have. We also established a schedule to ensure all new committee chairs, vice chairs, and new members are in place by the end of the year so they can hit the ground running in January. Finally, we have moved the committee update webinar to once per year. The webinar will be held at the end of the year allowing all committees to share their accomplishments over the past year with membership.

Finally, I would like to make you aware of a survey that will be sent out to membership early next year. In the past, continuing education credit for SOFT webinars and meeting content was provided through ACCENT, now ADLM, but due to the challenges with communication, delays in approval, and costs we experienced with ACCENT, we shifted to providing our own certificates in December 2022. Although our certificates are accepted by ABFT, I have heard from a number of members expressing frustration because they are not accepted for CE by other organizations. I want to assure you that your concerns have not fallen on deaf ears. The survey will allow us to determine how significant of an impact this issue is for our membership and take appropriate action to best serve our membership.

I want to thank you for all for the incredible opportunity to serve you over the past year. Serving as President of our wonderful organization has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my professional career. I want to thank Beth, CC, and all the Board members that I've had the pleasure to work with over the past seven years on the Board. As I transition to the Past President role, I am excited to see what incredible things incoming President Chris Heartsill and the new Board will be accomplished in 2025 and beyond. SOFT is in incredible hands and the future is bright.

Tate Yeatman

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

RENEW YOUR SOFT MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025!

As we near the end of 2024, we want to express our gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT). Your membership plays a vital role in fostering collaboration and advancing forensic toxicology.

It's time to renew your membership for 2025! All SOFT members will receive an email notification requesting that they complete their annual renewal. You can also log into your membership profile to pay, view, or download your renewal invoice.

Your continued membership ensures SOFT remains a valuable resource for professional growth, networking, and innovation in the field of forensic toxicology. Thank you for being an essential part of our community!

2025 RENEWAL FEE:

- \$150: Full and Associate Members
- \$40: Student Members
- \$40: Retired and Emeritus Members (Renewal + JAT Subscription)
- \$0: Retired and Emeritus Members (Renewal only)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Membership Period: January 1 – December 31, 2025
- Payment Deadline: February 28, 2025



HOW TO RENEW

- [Log into your SOFT profile.](#)
- Select "My Profile."
- Select "Invoices."
- Select the invoice number you wish to pay, view, or download.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- **Credit/Debit Card:** Pay online with a personal or company card.
- **Check:** Mail to the SOFT office at:
1955 W. Baseline Rd. Ste. 113-442, Mesa, AZ 85202
(Include your invoice number in the memo line)
- **ACH/Wire Transfer:**
Swift Code: USBKUS44IMT
Routing Number: 122105155
Account Number:
151701829856
(Include your invoice number in the memo/note)



CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Unlock a treasure trove of knowledge with our **live and on-demand webinars**, designed for forensic toxicologists at every stage of their career. Whether you're a seasoned professional or just starting out, these sessions are crafted to enrich your understanding of cutting-edge topics and industry challenges.

WHY JOIN?

- **Exclusive Access:** Dive into expert-led discussions and practical insights.
- **Affordable Learning:** Webinars are offered at a special rate:
 - \$25 for SOFT Members
 - \$35 for Non-Members
- **On-Demand Flexibility:** Learn on your schedule with recorded sessions.

**EXPAND YOUR EXPERTISE
WITH SOFT WEBINARS – LIVE
& ON-DEMAND!**



AVAILABLE WEBINAR TOPICS:

- **Instrumentation Insights:** [Pros & Cons of Various Instrumentation Types for NPS Detection](#)
- **Postmortem Challenges:** [Navigating the Current Challenges in Postmortem Toxicology](#)
- **NPS Exploration:** [The What, Where, and How of Novel Psychoactive Substances](#)
- **Methodology Mastery:** [Development, Validation, and Verification of Qualitative Methods](#)

SOFT MEMBERS-ONLY PERKS:

- **JAT Editor's Choice Articles** – [Curated insights from the Journal of Analytical Toxicology](#)
- **Legacy Luncheon Series** – [Connect with industry legends and learn from their journeys](#)
- **Funding Forensics:** [Navigating Resources for Enhanced Toxicology](#)
- **Oral Fluid Testing:** [Roadside and Laboratory Drug Testing Insights](#)
- **Diversity in SOFT:** [Current State of Culture, Values, and Diversity in Our Field](#)

DISCOVER THE LEGACY LUNCHEON SERIES - WHERE THE PAST INSPIRES THE FUTURE

Dive into the stories, triumphs, and transformative moments that have shaped the field of forensic toxicology. The **Legacy Luncheon Series** offers a unique opportunity to connect with pioneers who have paved the way for the future, sharing their personal journeys, challenges, and invaluable lessons. This isn't just another webinar – it's a celebration of history, innovation, and the enduring spirit of learning.

WHY ATTEND?

- **Inspiration:** Gain insights from the remarkable journeys of industry legends.
- **Knowledge:** Explore the pivotal moments that defined our field.

SERIES DETAILS

- **Format:** 1-hour webinar
- **Schedule:** On-Demand Recording
- **Cost:** FREE for SOFT members!

ON-DEMAND LEGACY LUNCHEONS

- Dr. Bill Anderson: *"Toxicology: Rocky Top to Reno, A 50-year Journey"*
- Dr. Vina Spiehler: *"From Beckman Instruments (BI) to AI Expert Systems"*
- Dr. Graham Jones: *"(Why) I Never Wanted to Become a Forensic Toxicologist"*
- Dr. Bruce Goldberger: *"Synergy in Forensic Toxicology"*
- Dr. Marilyn Huestis: *"Three Decades of Cannabinoid Pharmacology Through Controlled Human Studies"*
- Patrick Harding: *"The Legacy of the Robert F. Borkenstein Courses"*

**JOIN US AS WE HONOR
THE LEGENDS OF FORENSIC
TOXICOLOGY AND INSPIRE
THE NEXT GENERATION!**



Invest in Your Professional Growth - Join a thriving community of learners and take your expertise to the next level. Whether live or on-demand, these webinars are your gateway to staying ahead in the ever-evolving field of forensic toxicology. **Register today and unlock the knowledge that drives innovation!**

SOFT HUESTIS & SMITH TOXICOLOGY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARD



Dr. Marilyn A. Huestis & Dr. Michael L. Smith at SOFT 2024

SOFT is thrilled to announce the establishment of the ***SOFT Huestis & Smith Toxicology International Travel Award***, created in honor of the extraordinary contributions of Dr. Marilyn A. Huestis and Dr. Michael L. Smith to the field of forensic toxicology. This award fosters international collaboration by supporting SOFT members in presenting their research at TIAFT annual meetings.

About the Award

The SOFT Huestis & Smith Toxicology International Travel Award has been established to honor the enduring legacies of Dr. Marilyn A. Huestis and Dr. Michael L. Smith, two esteemed leaders in forensic toxicology. Their contributions to the field, ranging from groundbreaking research to leadership within SOFT and TIAFT, have paved the way for scientific advancements and international collaboration. This award seeks to continue their work by supporting SOFT members in attending and presenting their research at TIAFT annual meetings.

Award Objectives

This award aligns with the mission of SOFT to:

- Encourage professional development and global collaboration in forensic toxicology.
- Provide funding for SOFT members to present their research at TIAFT meetings.
- Promote networking, education, and the exchange of ideas between SOFT and TIAFT members.
- Support members with financial need, particularly those attending a TIAFT meeting for the first time.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for this award, applicants must:

- Be SOFT members in good standing for at least three years at the application deadline (or one year for student members).
- Submit a TIAFT-compatible abstract as part of the application.
- Demonstrate financial need and explain the importance of attending the TIAFT meeting.
- Commit to attending all meeting sessions, poster presentations, and social events at the TIAFT meeting.

Note: Priority will be given to members who have never attended a TIAFT meeting.

Award Benefits

The award provides financial assistance, including:

- Round-trip travel to the TIAFT annual meeting.
- Accommodations for the duration of the meeting.
- Early bird registration fees, including access to the networking excursion and annual banquet.
- A \$300 allowance for meals and incidentals not covered by the registration fee.
- Award recipients will also be recognized at the SOFT and TIAFT business meetings and on both organizations' websites.

SOFT HUESTIS & SMITH TOXICOLOGY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AWARD

Application Process

1. Prepare Your Abstract: Submit an abstract compatible with TIAFT's scientific presentation guidelines. The abstract must be included as part of your SOFT application.
2. Complete the Application Form: Fill out the official SOFT application form. Provide details about your SOFT membership, financial need, and reasons for attending the TIAFT meeting.
3. Submit Your Application: All materials must be submitted to the SOFT Awards Committee by the application deadline. Applications submitted after this date will not be considered.

Selection Criteria

Applications are evaluated based on:

- The quality of the submitted abstract.
- Demonstrated financial need.
- Active participation in SOFT activities (e.g., meetings, webinars, committees).
- Previous attendance at SOFT and TIAFT events (priority given to first-time attendees of TIAFT meetings).
- A maximum of three awards will be given each year, with up to three additional backup awardees selected in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Reporting Requirements

Award recipients are required to:

- Attend all TIAFT annual meeting sessions, poster sessions, business meetings, and social events.
- Submit a brief report to ToxTalk within one month after the meeting, describing the value gained from their experience.

2025 Award

- Applications open on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, for [TIAFT 2025](#).
- **The application deadline is Monday, March 31, 2025.**
- The [62nd TIAFT Annual Meeting](#) will be held November 23-28, 2025, in Auckland, New Zealand.

This award not only honors the legacies of Drs. Huestis and Smith but also provides SOFT members with the chance to gain international recognition for their research and expand their professional networks. We encourage all eligible members to apply and help us celebrate the remarkable achievements and future potential of forensic toxicology!

[LEARN MORE!](#)

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE - ST. LOUIS, MO

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN THE GATEWAY CITY FOR SOFT 2024!



It is with mixed emotions that we write this review of the 2024 Annual Meeting. On one hand, we're enjoying having the work behind us, but on the other and we will miss comradery of working closely with our fabulous planning committee.

First and foremost, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers, presenters, workshop chairs, and last but certainly not least, the wonderful exhibitors. Without your invaluable contributions, this meeting would not have been possible. The meeting kicked off on Sunday with the well-attended Young Forensic Toxicologist (YFT) Symposium. A panel of professionals from various areas of forensic toxicology shared their career paths and the opportunities the field offers. Attendees also had the chance to meet and greet the current SOFT Board of Directors. YFT also hosted the Student Enrichment Program which was attended by 50 high school students to learn more about forensic toxicology.

SOFT's workshop program, featuring exclusively half-day workshops for the second consecutive year, was expertly organized by **Workshop Coordinators Alex Krotulski and Vanessa Manesses**. The program's 15 workshops offered a diverse range of educational opportunities, covering topics such as forensic standards and certifications, laboratory development and sample preparation, specific drug class, impairment and the legal aspects of drug testing. We would also like to give a special thanks to Agilent, Sciex, ThermoFisher, and Waters for providing a Lunch and Learn opportunity between the workshop sections. The Diversity Task Force, the Culture, Values, and Diversity Committee, along with SOFTopics, hosted a special lunch session, offering a moving tribute to Elmer Gordon and reminding us of the life and impact of this esteemed toxicologist.

The **Scientific Program Coordinators, Sara Dempsey and Matt Juhasik**, curated a well-organized program featuring 63 oral presentations across 9 sessions. They introduced a new format with a 12-minute time limit for each presentation, as opposed to the usual 15 minutes, allowing for more presentations to be included. Despite this change, the moderators did an outstanding job of keeping the sessions on track and on time. They also organized two sessions featuring a total of 125 posters.

The social events were an absolute blast! Morning yoga was quite the success available to all the early birds on Monday through Wednesday. We hope everyone had a great time at the Tuesday night Welcome Reception, one of the highlights of the meeting each year, and had the opportunity to catch up and enjoy dinner with our vendors. Members also had the chance to attend



OCTOBER 27 – NOVEMBER 1, 2024
UNION STATION HOTEL

PLANNING COMMITTEE



CO-HOST
JUSTIN POKLIS



CO-HOST
SARAH RILEY

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COORDINATORS
SARA DEMPSEY AND MATT JUHASCIK

WORKSHOP COORDINATORS
ALEX KROTULSKI AND VANESSA MENESES

FOOD & BEVERAGE COORDINATORS
ANN MARIE GORDON, DENICE TEEM, AND
DELISA DOWNEY

MOBILE APPLICATION COORDINATORS
RUSTY LEWIS, ROXANE RITTER, AND
SUNDAY HICKERSON

AV COORDINATOR
FRANK WALLACE

YOUNG FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS
ERIN STRICKLAND

JAT SPECIAL ISSUE EDITOR
ERIN KARSCHNER

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS
EMILY SMELSER AND TONYA MITCHELL

FUN RUN COORDINATOR
MADISON BEFFA AND KIMBERLY KARIN

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE - ST. LOUIS, MO

this year's Elmer Gordon Forum, where a wide range of timely topics were discussed. The evening concluded at the MilliporeSigma Nite Owl, with drinks and music to cap off the night. The Wednesday night trip to the Anheuser-Busch Brewery featured delicious St. Louis-themed food, drinks, brewery tours, and a Clydesdale meet-and-greet. As a bonus, we got to enjoy a World Series game on the big screen, accompanied by live music from the local Funky Butt Brass Band. Although we had some rain on the morning of the Karla Moore Tox 'N Purge Fun Run, there was a great turnout to enjoy the route selected by the **Fun Run Coordinators, Kimberly Karin and Madison Beffa**. And finally, what can we say about President Yeatman's Skull and Crossbones Ball! The food, the clothes and costumes, and the music!!

A special thanks to the **Volunteer Coordinators, Emily Smelser and Tonya Mitchell**, who did an outstanding job organizing volunteers for each event; the **Food & Beverage Coordinators, Ann Marie Gordon, Denice Teem, and Delisa Downey**, who devoted their time and attention to ensuring all meals and snacks were perfectly planned, as evidenced by the delicious options we enjoyed, including St. Louis' own Ted Drewes Frozen Custard! Thanks also to the **Mobile Application Coordinators, Rusty Lewis, Roxane Ritter, and Sunday Hickerson**, whose app kept us all well-informed throughout the event; the **AV Coordinator, Frank Wallace**, who ensured all the workshops and sessions ran smoothly; and lastly, the SOFT Office team, Beth Olson and CC Watson, for their tremendous effort and guidance throughout the planning process.

Once again, we want to extend our sincere thanks to the Planning Committee for the success of the 2024 Annual Meeting and hope that all attendees had a fun and informative experience. Our final thanks go to the SOFT Board of Directors for allowing us the privilege of hosting SOFT St. Louis 2024. We look forward to next year and SOFT Portland 2025!



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SOFT 2024 HOSTS SARAH RILEY AND JUSTIN POKLIS PASS THE SOFT FLAG TO SOFT 2025 HOSTS SARA SHORT AND AMY MILES

Honoring Dr. Karla Moore: Continuing a Legacy of Giving

Each year, SOFT proudly donates proceeds from the Karla Moore Tox 'N Purge Fun Run/Walk to the American Cancer Society in memory of Dr. Karla Moore.

Dr. Moore, a trailblazer in toxicology and a dedicated officer in the United States Air Force, founded the original Tox 'N Purge run/walk in 1997 for our Salt Lake City meeting. After her passing in 2008, this event was memorialized in her honor, ensuring her passion for both science and community lives on.

This year, we are thrilled to announce that **we raised \$4,320—the most we've ever raised—to donate to the American Cancer Society!**

Thank you to everyone who participated in this record-breaking Tox 'N Purge Fun Run/Walk, helping us honor Dr. Moore's memory and supporting the fight against cancer.

**\$4,320
DONATED
TO ACS!**



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ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE - ST. LOUIS, MO



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ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE - ST. LOUIS, MO

Thank you to our Exhibitors & Sponsors for your outstanding participation in SOFT 2024! Your support and engagement played an integral role in making this year's event an incredible success. From showcasing innovative products and services to fostering valuable connections within the forensic toxicology community, your presence truly enhanced the experience for all attendees. We are deeply grateful for your contributions and commitment, and we look forward to partnering with you again in the future!

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ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE - PORTLAND, OR

The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held in Portland, Oregon the week of October 26 – October 31 at the Oregon Convention Center.



OREGON CONVENTION CENTER

Portland is a welcoming city. The amusing moniker “*Keep Portland Weird*” is a nod to the city’s embrace of all things unique, creative, and quirky. Portland truly has a come-as-you-are mentality.

Portland has many nicknames! Most commonly, it is known as the City of Roses, and the rose is used on signage throughout Portland. Roses are non-native to Portland, but during World War I, Europe’s hybrid roses were at risk of being decimated by bombings. In 1918, roses began arriving from England

and were planted in the **International Rose Test Garden** in Washington Park in Portland. Today, more than 10,000 individual rose bushes bloom in the International Rose Test Garden from late May through October, representing over 610 different rose varieties. Annually, the city proudly celebrates the Rose Festival.



ROSE TEST GARDEN



BRIDGETOWN

Boasting 12 bridges, Portland is also known as **Bridgetown** or **Bridge City** because the city is bisected by the Willamette River. Bridges are a necessity to travel between the east and west sides. Fun Run participants will experience the pedestrian bridge routes over the river!



**OREGON CONVENTION CENTER
OCTOBER 26 – 31, 2025**



PLANNING COMMITTEE



**HOST
SARA SHORT**



**HOST
AMY MILES**

Scientific Program Coordinators

Kayla Neuman - WI State Lab of Hygiene
Tyson Baird - Sedgewick Co Regional Forensic Science Center

Workshop Program Coordinators

Mary Lynn Heffington - Arkansas State Crime Lab
Dani Mata - Orange Co Crime Lab

Volunteer Coordinators

Chelsea VanDenBurg - Oregon State Police Lab
Brianna Lehr - Oregon State Police Lab
Dawn Sklerov - Washington State Patrol Toxicology Lab

Food & Beverage Coordinators

Ann Marie Gordon - Consultant
Denice Teem - Oakland County ME's Office
Delisa Downey - Virginian Dept. of Forensic Science

Mobile Application Coordinators

Rusty Lewis - Federal Aviation Administration
Roxane Ritter - Federal Aviation Administration
Sunday Hickerson - Federal Aviation Administration

Audio Visual Coordinator

Frank Wallace - Wallace Consulting Solutions

Young Forensic Toxicologists Chair

Elisa Shoff - Miami-Dade ME's Office

JAT Special Issue Editor

Rebecca Wagner - Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science

Fun Run Coordinator

Shannon Palladino - Oregon State Police Lab

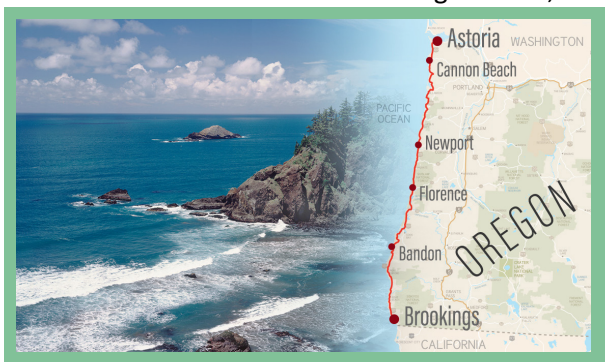
ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE - PORTLAND, OR



Portland's culinary scene offers a vibrant variety of food and drink. Outside of restaurants, Portland popularized the food truck concept and there are many "food cart pods" in various neighborhoods so you don't need to choose just one cuisine during a meal! Oregon's climate is ideal for growing hops, which makes the region popular for those who love IPAs. Not to be outdone by the beer industry, the Willamette Valley is well-known for producing exceptional Pinot Noir wine. This region of Oregon has a cooler climate and

volcanic soil, which are perfect conditions for the thin-skinned grapes used to make Pinot Noir.

For the explorers, Portland's location offers a basecamp for day trips to take in the Pacific Northwest. The Pacific Ocean and the Oregon coast, the majestic Mount Hood, or the breathtaking Columbia River Gorge are just short drives away. Portland is a quintessential "outdoorsy" city. Hiking, biking, and camping are common activities, rain or shine! The fresh air and, sometimes gentle rain, are reminders to slow down, breathe, and enjoy.



Be sure to mark your calendars and pack your bags for Portland and SOFT 2025! This is your chance to connect, collaborate, and be inspired by leading minds in forensic toxicology. Don't miss the unforgettable experience waiting for you at this must-attend conference. On behalf of the SOFT 2025 Planning Committee and hosts, we look forward to seeing you there!

- Sara & Amy

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Call for Workshops: Feb 2025

Call for JAT Special Issue Titles/Abstracts: Mar 2025

JAT Special Issue Papers Due: Mar 2025

Call for Abstracts: Mar 2025

Workshop Proposals Due: Apr 2025

Abstract Submissions Due: Jun 2025

Registration & Room Block Open: Jun 2025

Late Registration Begins: Sept 2025

Onsite Registration Begins: Oct 2025

SOFT 2025: Oct 26 - 31



OREGON CONVENTION CENTER
OCTOBER 26 - 31, 2025



PLANNING COMMITTEE



HOST
SARA SHORT



HOST
AMY MILES

Scientific Program Coordinators

Kayla Neuman - WI State Lab of Hygiene
Tyson Baird - Sedgewick Co Regional Forensic Science Center

Workshop Program Coordinators

Mary Lynn Heffington - Arkansas State Crime Lab
Dani Mata - Orange Co Crime Lab

Volunteer Coordinators

Chelsea VanDenBurg - Oregon State Police Lab
Brianna Lehr - Oregon State Police Lab
Dawn Sklerov - Washington State Patrol Toxicology Lab

Food & Beverage Coordinators

Ann Marie Gordon - Consultant
Denice Teem - Oakland County ME's Office
Delisa Downey - Virginian Dept. of Forensic Science

Mobile Application Coordinators

Rusty Lewis - Federal Aviation Administration
Roxane Ritter - Federal Aviation Administration
Sunday Hickerson - Federal Aviation Administration

Audio Visual Coordinator

Frank Wallace - Wallace Consulting Solutions

Young Forensic Toxicologists Chair

Elisa Shoff - Miami-Dade ME's Office

JAT Special Issue Editor

Rebecca Wagner - Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science

Fun Run Coordinator

Shannon Palladino - Oregon State Police Lab

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE - PORTLAND, OR

2025 JAT SPECIAL ISSUE

SPECIAL ISSUE EDITOR:

[Rebecca Wagner, Ph.D.](#)

Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science

INSTRUCTIONS & DEADLINES:

- Titles & Abstracts are due by March 3: [SUBMIT HERE!](#)
- Final manuscripts are due by March 17: [SUBMIT HERE!](#)
(Manuscripts should be submitted through Manuscript Central, please check the box for the SOFT Special Issue when submitting)

I am immensely appreciative that the incoming SOFT President Chris Heartsill has named me this year's Journal of Analytical Toxicology (JAT) Special Issue Editor in conjunction with the SOFT 2025 annual meeting in Portland. I am honored and excited to contribute to the ongoing success of JAT and SOFT. Over the years, the SOFT community has become my family with the annual meeting serving as a reunion of incredibly brilliant and talented scientists. JAT is just one way to disseminate the impactful research and collaboration that occurs within our field.

As 2024 comes to a close and we reflect on our accomplishments, I hope that you consider sharing your scientific discoveries and contribute to the 2025 SOFT Special Issue. Your contributions to the Special Issue will continue the longstanding history of highlighting high-quality research and will allow you to make a meaningful impact on the field of forensic toxicology. An additional benefit is that SOFT members who are first authors of accepted manuscripts will be eligible for the 2025 Experimental Design and Impact on Toxicology (EDIT) Award. Previous awardees of this prestigious award can be found [HERE](#).

Regardless of your submission of a manuscript, please consider serving as a peer reviewer. The peer review process is crucial for maintaining high scientific standards and providing constructive feedback to authors. When the opportunity arises, I encourage you to get involved and participate as a peer reviewer.

The new year is just around the corner, and exciting opportunities lie ahead. As we prepare for the upcoming 2025 JAT Special Issue, I wanted to remind you that the submission deadlines are quickly approaching. This is a wonderful chance to contribute your research to a high-impact issue that will advance the field of forensic toxicology. I am thrilled to serve as your Special Editor and am eager to collaborate with all of you to produce a high-quality issue. Together, we can create a special issue that reflects the growing and expanding community of forensic toxicology. I look forward to working with you and to celebrating the continued success and evolution of this field.

-Becky



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2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS



EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD (ERA) AWARD RECIPIENTS

AWARD RECIPIENT: MARTHE VANDEPUTTE

Title: "Nitazenes of the past, present, and future: Insights from in vitro μ -opioid receptor assays and in vivo behavioral studies in mice"

Affiliation: Laboratory of Toxicology, Department of Bioanalysis, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

AWARD RECIPIENT: NATALIE ORTIZ

Title: "Determining Cannabinoid Acetate Analog Metabolites (Δ 9-THC-O-A, Δ 8-THC-O-A, CBD-di-O-A) Using Human Liver Microsomes to Determine the Structure and Relative Appearance of Metabolism"

Affiliation: Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Richmond, VA

AWARD RECIPIENT: KERRY MURR

Title: "Comparison of Ketone Levels Using a Commercial Ketone Monitoring System to Screen for Beta-hydroxybutyrate Prior to GC-MS Analysis"

Affiliation: The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)

YOUNG SCIENTIST MEETING AWARD (YSMA) RECIPIENT

AWARD RECIPIENT: LUETTE MUIR

Title: "Analysis of 28 Phytocannabinoids and Semi-Synthetic Cannabinoids in Blood and Urine by LC-MS/MS"

Affiliation: Armed Forces Medical Examiner System, Dover Air Force Base, DE, USA

LEO DAL CORTIVO AWARD RECIPIENTS

BEST PLATFORM AWARD RECIPIENT: AMANDA PACANA

Title: "A Novel Screening Workflow for Nitazene Analogs using LC-QQQ Precursor Ion Scan Acquisition"

Affiliation: Sam Houston State University

BEST POSTER AWARD RECIPIENT: BRIANNA STANG

Title: "Drug Surveillance in Oral Fluid Samples Collected from New York City Nightclubs"

Affiliation: CFSRE

ANNUAL SOFT AWARD RECIPIENTS

YOUNG FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT: ERIN KARSCHNER

This annual award recognizes a young member of SOFT (\leq 40 years old) for exceptional service to the organization. The recipient of the award must demonstrate excellence in service and leadership.

TEACHING AND MENTORING AWARD RECIPIENT: CARL WOLF

This annual award recognizes a member of SOFT who is actively teaching and/or mentoring students and other persons in the field of forensic toxicology. This recipient of the award can be an academic or a non-academic practitioner. The measure of mentorship must be articulated by a letter of reference provided by one or more of the individuals mentored.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT: DAN ISENSCHMID

This annual award recognizes a member of SOFT who has provided exemplary service to the Society of Forensic Toxicologists in a manner that was sustained in time and effort.

YOUNG FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS (YFT)

Hello, Fellow, Forensic Toxicologists!

We hope everyone enjoyed the annual meeting in St. Louis, MO a few weeks ago! The YFT committee did!

Before the meeting officially began, YFT hosted the **YFT Symposium and Professional Development Fair** (PDF) on Sunday, October 27th. Symposium attendees heard from the 2022 Leo dal Cortivo platform winner, Marthe Vandeputte, and the 2023 Leo dal Cortivo platform and poster winners, Danai Taruvinga and Alyssa Reyes. The attendees were introduced to the SOFT Board of Directors as well as each other through a fun ice breaker! The night concluded with hosted a panel discussion with panelist who spoke about various opportunities and career paths within the field of forensic toxicology, including higher education, working in public laboratories, working in industry, obtaining certifications, and involvement in professional organizations. The panel was well received by all attendees with a lot of audience participation.



YFT ICEBREAKER



This year was particularly special as we celebrated 15 years of the Young Forensic Toxicologist committee! A 15th anniversary pin was designed to commemorate this achievement. Thank you, Joe Kahl, for designing this anniversary pin!

YFT activities continued Monday, October 28th with the **Student Enrichment Program (SEP)** and a two-part workshop titled **The ABCs of ABFT Certification** on Tuesday, October 29th. This year YFT partnered with the Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience and the

SLUCare Physician Group – Forensic Toxicology Laboratory for the student enrichment program. The program consisted of a combination of short lectures and hands-on activities to teach the students the different foundations and aspects of forensic toxicology, including their own crime scene to solve!

The YFT committee rounded out their activities at the annual meeting by presenting the **Leo Dal Cortivo Awards** on Thursday, October 31st to poster winner **Brianna Stang** (“Drug Surveillance in Oral Fluid Samples Collected from New York City Nightcubls”) and platform presentation winner **Amanda Pacana** (“A Novel Screening Workflow for Nitazene Analogs using LC-QQQ Precursor Ion Scan Acquisition”). They will each receive a \$1,000 cash prize and free registration to a future SOFT meeting. Congratulations Brianna and Amanda!

Finally, YFT is saying good-bye to committee members who are rotating off: **Marissa Finkelstein, Sara Dempsey, Lindsay Glicksberg, and Kayla Neuman**. The committee thanks them for their time and commitment to the committee over the last few years and wishes them well!



CURRENT & PAST YFT MEMBERS



COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

ERIN STRICKLAND, CHAIR

ELISA SHOFF, VICE CHAIR

WHITNEY BROWN, SECRETARY

MARISSA FINKELSTEIN, PAST CHAIR

SARA DEMPSEY

ARACELIS VELEZ

AMANDA BROOKING

KAYLA NEUMAN

EDWARD ZUMAETA

ERIKA PHUNG

LAUREN WOLFE

LINDSAY GLICKSBERG

LUKE GARCIA

SARA WALTON

KIMBERLY KARIN



Committee Members oversee the planning and coordination of the YFT Symposium, Professional Development Fair, Student Enrichment Program, and the Leo Dal Cortivo Awards at the annual SOFT meeting



PROJECT MANAGER: AMY MILES, amy.miles@slh.wisc.edu

REGION 5: SABRA JONES, sabra@soft-tox.org

REGION 7: CHRIS HEARTSILL, chris@soft-tox.org

REGION 9: KRISTEN BURKE, kristen@soft-tox.org

The last year for the Regional Toxicology Liaisons (RTL) was busy and filled with several trainings, engagements, and presentations.

Testimony training continued in the final quarter of 2023. The table below summarizes October 2023 to September 2024, including future training. The training continues to be well received. The inclusion of the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) State Coordinator or designee, a Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP) or designee, and an individual from the judiciary such as a Judicial Outreach Liaison (JOL) has increased communication for the laboratories to highway safety partners. As of September 30, 2024, the RTLs have trained over 300 analysts and 60 laboratories. Responsibility.org provided funding for the training again in the last year.

[The treatment court group AllRise](#) has requested the RTLs' assistance in updating their best practices manual, specifically the testing portion. In addition, Kristen Burke (R9 RTL) attended a portion of the annual AllRise conference held in California. This allowed the RTLs to learn more about AllRise and understand how the two groups can successfully collaborate in the future. At the end of June, the RTLs attended a train-the-trainer with AllRise and found this beneficial. There are several areas in which the RTLs will be able to assist and collaborate with AllRise. The RTLs will be meeting regularly with AllRise to begin reviewing the best practices document and discuss other opportunities.

RTL Chris Heartsill chose to convene toxicology partner meetings in 2024, funded by Responsibility.org. Attendees included toxicologists, representatives from NHTSA Region 7, public health, TSRPs, judiciary, and law enforcement. Many who attended had not met before, providing an excellent opportunity for collaboration and engagement. Sabra Jones (R5) and Amy Miles (Project Manager) met in Illinois and successfully connected the laboratories with partners that can assist with funding.

Standardization continues to be the primary goal for the RTLs. Discussions with Responsibility.org have begun to address this. In 2024, there may be an opportunity to provide laboratories with method development and validation assistance. Stay tuned for further announcements!

Finally, at the end of September, a two-year extension of the Cooperative Agreement between the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) and SOFT was signed. The extension will allow for the expansion of the RTL program. Once NHTSA approves the expansion plan, SOFT will send out an announcement.

If you have any questions or suggestions for the RTL team, please reach out!

Amy Miles

[VISIT THE RTL WEBPAGE!](#)

PROFESSIONAL MENTORING PROGRAM

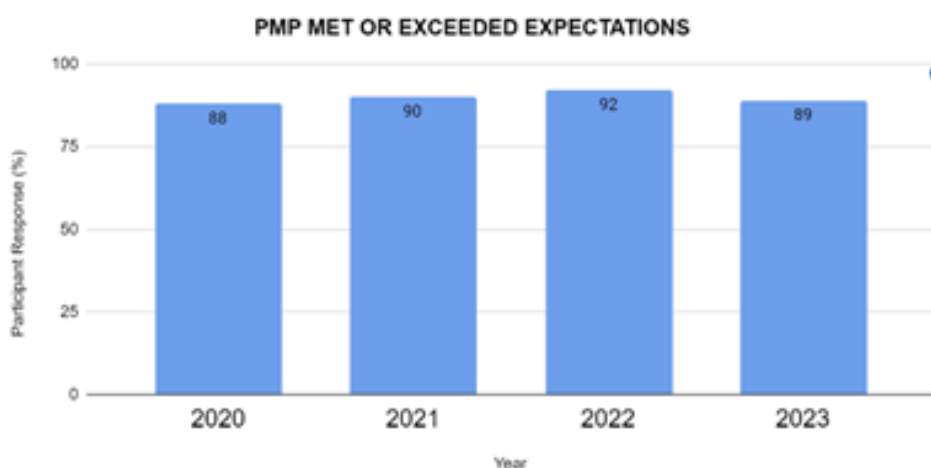
Another year in the books! The Professional Mentoring Program (PMP) is wrapping up its 5th year with over 60 pairings. It has been a great year, and we are extremely proud of all the participants and the goals they've worked towards this year. We look forward to 2025!

2024 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Webinar #1:** Building your Influence by Greg Cox
- **Webinar #2:** Mentoring Program Panel Discussion on mentorship and building relationships in the Toxicology community
- **Summer Book Club Discussion:** Surrounded by Idiots: The Four Types of Human Behavior and How to Effectively Communicate with Each in Business (and in Life) by Thomas Erikson
- **Poster presentation at SOFT** - Professional Mentoring Program Progress: 2020-2023



SOFT 2024 POSTER



The PMP program continues to be a success and beneficial to the mentoring pairs! As shown on our poster presentation, participants indicated that the program met or exceeded their original expectations!

PROFESSIONAL MENTORING PROGRAM GOALS

To engage members in the mission of SOFT by:

1. Developing and nurturing future leaders of the organization
2. Providing a forum for one-on-one career advice
3. Offering a forum for mutually beneficial knowledge transfer for the purpose of supporting and advancing the organization and the forensic toxicology field.



BECOME A MENTOR/MENTEE!

2025 PROFESSIONAL MENTORING PROGRAM SCHEDULE

January 2025: Pairings established; mentoring agreements sent

February 2025: Establish mentoring expectations; formalize agreement

Spring 2025: Webinar/Activity

Summer 2025: Book Club with SOFTopics

Fall 2025: Webinar/Activity

October/November 2025: SOFT Meeting Activities

December 2025: Commencement; Program assessment survey sent

SOFT-DFC Snapshot – Ethanol

By Elizabeth Fisher for the SOFT DFC Committee

SOFT-DFC Snapshots are short reports of critical information about the more common drugs associated with drug-facilitated crimes (DFCs). They are not complete literature reviews about the drug or drug class. One key aspect is their focus on the ability to detect a drug after a single-dose administration, as is often the situation in DFC investigations. As such, these summaries also point out instances in which available data is limited in the hopes that this will encourage further research studies. Finally, SOFT-DFC Snapshots point to the use of these drugs in actual DFC cases, as cited in the medical and open literature.

Ethanol presents as a clear, colorless, volatile liquid that acts as a central nervous system depressant. It is the most commonly consumed drug behind caffeine.¹ Ethanol is the most prevalent finding reported in drug-facilitated crimes either alone or in combination with other drugs. Its zero-order kinetics is helpful in making estimations of blood alcohol content during the post-absorption phase (as described in ANSI/ASB Best Practice Recommendation 122). These estimations can assist in DFC investigations, especially in cases of delayed specimen collection.

Drug Class¹⁷

Central Nervous System Depressant (Sedative-Hypnotic)

Generic Name

Ethyl Alcohol, Alcohol

Dosage Forms

0.6 fluid ounces or 14 grams of pure ethanol (one standard drink)²

FDA Approval

Ethanol is approved under Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 as a food that is generally considered safe for human consumption³ and as an acceptable inactive ingredient in over-the-counter drug formulations as long as the specific volume contained is expressly stated. If it is to be taken orally and contains more than 5% ethanol it must include a warning for children under 12. If it is to be taken orally and contains more than 0.5% ethanol it must have a warning for children under 6.⁴

Metabolism/Elimination

Ethanol is generally taken orally with approximately 20% being absorbed in the stomach and the rest through the small intestine. The amount absorbed through the stomach is determined by the rate of gastric emptying which is influenced by several factors including (but not limited to) the type of food in the stomach, drugs that influence gastric emptying, and type of alcohol consumed. The majority of ethanol is metabolized by oxidative pathways (alcohol dehydrogenase, catalase, cytochrome P450) forming the metabolite acetaldehyde. Acetaldehyde is metabolized by aldehyde dehydrogenase, ultimately ending as carbon dioxide and water.⁵

Single Dose Studies

Urine:

The SOFT DFC Committee⁶ and the AAFS Standards Board⁷ have established the importance of testing urine samples from alleged victims of drug-facilitated crimes for ethanol, at a decision point concentration of 0.01 g/dL or lower. Urine is easily collected, straightforward to analyze, and provides a longer window of detection of ingestion compared to blood.

In one study, after consuming a moderate dose (0.54-0.85 g/kg) of ethanol, approximately 2% was still detectable in urine 7 hours post dose. The elimination rate of whole body clearance is approximately 7-8 g/hr.⁸

SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

In an attempt at simulating real world situations, one study looked at samples collected after an evening of drinking by collecting at bedtime, the next morning and the next afternoon. The samples collected the next morning still had measurable levels of alcohol in the urine even though breath testing was negative. By later in the morning and into the afternoon, ethanol was no longer detected in the urine emphasizing the importance of quick collection.⁹

Ethanol Glucuronide may also be an analyte of interest due to its long elimination half-life of 2.5 hours extending the detection window of ethanol use by 15-25 hours. Some observations showed it detected as long as 80 hours.¹¹

Blood/Plasma/Serum:

Blood, plasma, and serum specimens allow for more meaningful quantitative assessments of positive findings, but ethanol's detection window in blood is very dose dependant.

Elimination rates of ethanol can range from 0.010 – 0.020 g/100mL/hour for an average drinker and upto 0.025 – 0.035 g/100mL/hour for chronic drinkers. Differences in elimination curves have also been noted between genders.¹²

DFC Cases

A 2021 study from New Zealand found in 161 submitted DFS samples, that 51 were positive for ethanol in the blood with a range of sampling times of 6 – 9 hours post incident. 76 were positive for ethanol in the urine with a range of sampling times of 6 – 19 hour post incident. Incident times were based on the victim's report of the incident.¹⁰

A 2012 study of victims seeking treatment after reported sexual assaults found that of the 264 patients, 155 tested positive for ethanol and/or drugs. Of the patients that reported within 12 hours (median time 4.4h), 102 were positive for ethanol at an average level of 0.187g/100mL at the time of the incident as determined by back-calculation. Most victims reported a public place of assault or stranger assailant and 57 of those patients suspected proactive DFSA.¹³

A 2001 study reported on submitted samples from alleged sexual assault victims from across the United States. Of the 3303 samples, 73% were collected with 24h and 98.8% within 72h of incident. Of the 2026 samples that tested positive, ethanol was the most common drug found at a rate of 67%; either alone or in combination with other drugs. Ethanol alone was found in 895 of the samples.¹⁴

A study from London examining DFSA cases between January 2000 and December 2022, found that most positive cases contained ethanol (81%). Of the 1014 case submitted, 391 were collected within 12h of the incident. The majority of the cases were from alleged incidents originating in social situations involving alcohol. Of the 391 ethanol cases, 233 of those cases were back-extropolated to a level greater than 0.15 g/100mL at the time of the incident.¹⁵

A 2018 study of 1000 cases of alleged DFSA in the United States from March 2015 – June 2016 found that ethanol was present in 30.9% of the cases. The level of ethanol ranged from 0.0092 – 0.366 g/100mL. For cases with only urine, the BAC was calculated from UAC. Of the 155 cases submitted that contained blood and urine, only 65 found ethanol in both matrices.¹⁶

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SOFT/AAFS DRUGS AND DRIVING COMMITTEE SOFT SPECIAL SESSION

SUBMITTED BY SARA DEMPSEY AND STEPHANIE OLOFSON

The SOFT/AAFS Drugs and Driving Committee sponsored a special session during the 2024 SOFT Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. Highlights of the presentations are included below. The email address is listed for the presenting author* that can be contacted if there are additional questions or requests for more information.

S13 - New York State Police's Evidential Oral Fluid Testing Pilot Program

Jennifer F. Limoges*, Amanda M. Cadau, Seth J. Tracy

New York State Police Forensic Investigation Center, Albany, NY, USA

jennifer.limoges@troopers.ny.gov

- The New York State Police (NYSP) ran an evidential oral fluid pilot program from September 2023 through May 2024 to allow stakeholders to adapt to the alternate specimen type, identify any hurdles to broader implementation, and to collect blood and oral fluid correlation data.
- The laboratory received 244 oral fluid samples; 201 blood-oral fluid pairs, 11 urine-oral fluid pairs, and 32 oral fluid only samples were submitted. Blood-oral fluid paired samples showed an excellent overall correlation of 97% in which at least one drug matched in both samples; 56% had an exact match for parent and/or metabolite; oral fluid detected additional drug(s) in 40% of pairs.
- Feedback from the Members involved in the pilot program was very favorable.
- The NYSP evidential oral fluid program launched on July 2, 2024. The program recommends Members collect blood and oral fluid in all serious injury and fatal motor vehicle investigations, and it allows for oral fluid be a stand-alone option for non-injury misdemeanor DUID investigations.
- Other police agencies in New York interested in adding oral fluid as an option in DUID investigations can also submit to the NYSP laboratory.

Additional information may be found at:

[NYSP Toxicology – Evidential Oral Fluid Testing - FAQs](#)

[NYSP's Evidential Oral Fluid Testing Pilot Program Report](#)

S14 - Changes in blood cannabinoid concentrations over multiple collection times in driving under the influence of drugs(s) casework

Brianna Peterson*

NMS Labs, Horsham, PA, US

Brianna.peterson@nmslabs.com

- 35 DUID cases consisting of 81 blood samples from multiple collection times post-incident were analyzed for delta-9 cannabinoids.
- 17 blood samples were collected 6 hours after the driving incident
- THC concentrations were greater than 5 ng/mL in 7 samples and ≥ 10 ng/mL in 3 samples.
- THC concentrations did not exhibit a classic rapid and/or constant decrease over time for most cases; 11 samples had an increase in THC concentration at a later time point.

SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

S15 - A Ketamine Trilogy: A Review of Three Different DUID Cases with the Same Driver

Edward Zumaeta*

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, West Palm Beach, FL, USA

Zumaetae@pbso.org

- The driver underwent a DUI investigation three separate times where toxicology results indicated use of ketamine, THC, and amphetamine consistent with the Adderall history.
- During the FSTs the driver had HGN, VGN, LOC, poor balance on the walk and turn and one leg stand, and did not complete the finger to nose task properly.
- General observations that were common throughout the three incidents were lack of coordination and balance, disorientation, confusion, inability to complete sentences or thoughts, slurred speech, drowsiness, increased heart rate and blood pressure, and dissociation.
- These observations correlate well with the indicators for dissociative anesthetics captured in the DRE matrix.
- Although ketamine cases are likely to be polydrug cases, ketamine use in drivers can cause impairment such as lack of coordination, inability to complete divided attention tasks, and issues with information processing which all can be a risk to traffic safety.

S16 - Results from the 2024 Survey for Drug Testing in DUID and Motor Vehicle Fatality Investigations

Amanda D'Orazio^{1*}, Barry Logan^{1,2}, Amanda Mohr², Ayako Chan-Hosokawa¹, Curt Harper³, Marilyn Huestis⁴, Sarah Kerrigan⁵, Jennifer Limoges⁶, Amy Miles⁷, Colleen Scarneo⁸, Karen Scott⁹

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- A total of 80 laboratories completed a survey via SurveyMonkey® on testing practices associated with driving under the influence of drugs (DUID) case testing in laboratories throughout the United States. The top screening methods for blood samples was Enzyme-Linked Immuno-Sorbent Assay (ELISA) (46%), Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS) (41%), and Liquid Chromatography-High Resolution Mass Spectrometry (LCHRMS) (33%). The top confirmation methods were Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS) (91%), Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) (69%), and Gas Chromatography-Flame Ionization Detection (GC-FID) and Liquid Chromatography-High Resolution Mass Spectrometry (LC-HRMS) (15%).
- For screening practices in blood, 71-99% (mean=93%, median=94%) of laboratories screen for individual drugs in the Tier I scope, and 64-97% (mean=86%, median=88%) met the recommended screening threshold. For confirmatory practices in blood, 64-97% (mean=89%, median=91%) of laboratories confirm individual drugs in the Tier I scope, and 40-97% (mean=86%, median=89%) met the recommended confirmation threshold. Overall, a total of 16% of laboratories met or exceeded all of the 2021 recommendations for confirmatory testing, while 47% are currently changing methods to meet the recommendations.
- The top ten most prevalent drugs reported by laboratories in blood were THC and metabolites; amphetamine/methamphetamine; fentanyl; cocaine and metabolites; alprazolam/alpha-hydroxyalprazolam; clonazepam/7-aminoclonazepam; diphenhydramine; oxycodone; diazepam/ nordiazepam; hydrocodone.
- An updated manuscript of the recommendations is planned for the Journal of Analytical Toxicology following a critical review of the survey data and consideration of changing drug trends since the 2021 recommendations.

SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

Additional information may be found at: https://www.cfsre.org/images/Presentations/2024_Survey_Report.pdf

S17 - Driving under influence of delta8-tetrahydrocannabinol cases in Houston, Texas

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- There were 14 cases positive for delta8-THC during September 2020 to May 2024 with concentrations ranging from 1.1-120 ng/mL and median concentration of 1.8 ng/mL. This made up 1.7% of the cases that tested positive for cannabinoids.
- Delta8-THC use was more prevalent in males.
- Delta8-THC was more likely to be used in combination with other drugs. Concurrently detected drug groups besides cannabinoids included benzodiazepines, opioids, and amphetamines.
- Observations made by officers in the three case examples were consistent with adverse effects that have been associated with delta8-THC use: lethargy, impaired coordination, slurred speech, confusion, and sedation.

S18 - Evaluation of Securetec DrugWipe S as an Approved Roadside Oral Fluid Device in Alabama

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- Roadside oral fluid devices are used by law enforcement at the roadside to help identify potential drug use in drivers.
- The Securetec DrugWipe tests for cocaine, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, opiates, amphetamine, methamphetamine, and benzodiazepines and was deemed fit for purpose for use within the state of Alabama as a screening device for probable cause similar to a preliminary breath test (PBT) for ethanol.
- This evaluation was performed using both authentic and simulated oral fluid samples and performance parameters evaluated included sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value (PPV), negative predictive value (NPV), and accuracy with all parameters exceeding 80%.

S19 - Application of LC-HRMS Screening to Blood DUID Cases: Benefits & Limitations

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- An LC-HRMS (Orbitrap) blood drug screen/confirmation procedure was developed using 0.2 mL of blood with protein precipitation sample preparation.
- NSC-ADID 2021 Tier I blood confirmation levels were met for 33/36 substances (excluding cannabinoids) and included Tier II substances except inhalants, GHB, and synthetic cannabinoids. A total of 269 target substances have been validated to date.
- Ascorbic acid was included in the sample preparation to allow for an LOD of psilocin of 1 ng/mL.

SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

- Acidified methanol (0.2% HCl in methanol) was used to stabilize volatile bases during evaporation. It was observed that a 1% solution did not allow for recovery of valproic acid at 5 µg/mL.

Congratulations to **Edward Zumaeta**, recipient of the **CSLA Award for the Best Platform Presentation** during the **SOFT 2024 Drugs and Driving Special Session**. The CSLA sponsors an Annual Travel Award of \$500 that is presented to the Best Platform presentation during the Drugs and Driving Special Session at SOFT.

The Center for the Studies of Law in Action (CSLA) at Indiana University builds on the work of Professor Robert F. Borkenstein, inventor of the Breathalyzer, the first practical instrument for testing breath alcohol.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc.
Business Meeting Agenda and Minutes
Annual Meeting 2024, St. Louis, Colorado
Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 3:30 pm CDT

1. Call to Order by President Yeatman at 3:40 pm CDT *Tate Yeatman*
 - a. A quorum was established and reported to President Yeatman.

2. Approval of Agenda *Tate Yeatman*
 - a. **Motion to approve (Tim Rohrig); Second (Chip Walls); Approved by all.**

3. Approval of 2023 Annual Business Meeting Minutes *Tate Yeatman*
 - a. **Motion to approve (Chip Walls); Second (Robert Sears); Approved by all.**

4. President's Report *Tate Yeatman*
 - a. President Yeatman thanked everyone for their attendance and reported that SOFT and the BOD had a very busy year. He discussed several highlights. 1) Policies & Procedures: A revision of the Policies and Procedure Manual was completed and approved by the BOD this week. 2) Code of Conduct: A revision of the Code of Conduct Policy and drafting the accompanying Reporting Procedures, both of which were approved by the BOD this week. The BOD also voted to renew our contract with Paula Brantner of Accountability Ignited. She has received no reports this week. SOFT did receive a report in early 2023 and we used the new procedures to resolve this matter. After Paula's preliminary investigation, an alternate recommendation was suggested, confirmed by the Ethics Committee, and offered to the individual who opted to voluntarily step down from membership permanently and attendance at SOFT events in lieu of a formal investigation. 3) Committees: We continue to work on committee management and communications. Soon, the committee chairs and vice chairs will meet with Outgoing President Yeatman and Incoming President Heartsill to discuss funding, expectations, membership, and deadlines. 4) Continuing Education: Previously, we made the decision to discontinue using ACCENT for continuing education credits. SOFT has offered certificates for continuing education, and these have been accepted by ABFT. However, there is discussion that they may not be accepted by other organizations. For this reason, a survey is forthcoming to gauge the continuing education needs from our membership. President Yeatman thanked the BOD for their efforts.

5. Executive Director's Report *Beth Olson*
 - a. ED Olson welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the BOD, Executive Committee, President Yeatman, and CC Watson for their efforts. She discussed several updates and initiatives. 1) Continuing Education: SOFT has enhanced their ConEd efforts and this year we were able to offer 4 webinars and the Legacy Luncheon series to our membership, in addition to SOFTopics, book club, and mentoring programs. 2) Community Feature: Next year, we will offer a new community feature that functions similar to social media and will include a newsfeed and discussion boards. 3) Meeting Resource Committee: ED Olson thanked Marc LeBeau for his efforts on this committee as he is stepping down. Erin Spargo is moving into the Chair role and Denice Teem is moving into the Vice Chair role. For our upcoming meetings, we have booked 2025 Portland, 2026 Chicago (SOFT/TIAFT), and 2027 Providence. We are considering 2028 Milwaukee and 2029 Omaha. ED Olson thanked the St. Louis Planning Committee, meeting hosts, and Mobile App Team for their extensive efforts this year.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

6. Secretary's Report

Madeleine Swortwood

- a. Secretary Swortwood asked for a moment of silence for those we have lost in the last year. She then discussed the growth in membership numbers by category, with the numbers available on screen. She discussed the number of pending applications and reported that we would be streamlining this process for next year. She told the membership that updates to the membership application process will be published in the first issue of ToxTalk in 2025.

7. Treasurer's Report

Jeri Ropero-Miller

- a. Treasurer Ropero-Miller reported that the biennial external audit was completed and our financials were considered neutral, consistent, and clear with no major inconsistencies identified. The Finance Committee completed their Q1-Q3 internal audits with no significant findings. The balances of our accounts were displayed on screen and continue to be healthy and stable. Our investment account experienced growth.

8. President Elect's Report

Chris Heartsill

- a. President Elect Heartsill reported that the committees were very busy this year as our diversification initiative continued. Currently, we have 187 members serving on committees. On November 12, applications will open for those interested in serving on a committee, with a close date of December 3. The annual Committee Activity Update meeting will continue to be held virtually and will take place on December 12. This will be recorded and available to watch later for those unable to attend live.

9. Regional Toxicology Liaison Report

Amy Miles

- a. Amy discussed the origin of the RTL program in 2021 that was established via a cooperative agreement with NHTSA. The RTL program currently has 3 RTLs (Chris Heartsill, Sabra Botch-Jones, and Kristen Burke). They work with about 50 different labs. In their first year, RTLs identified labs and connected with stakeholders. In years 2 and 3 of the program, they offered free testimony training to more than 300 people across 60 labs. They have also offered webinars and in-person regional toxicology summits. The original cooperative agreement ended in September 2024 but awarded SOFT another 2 years. In addition, the SOFT BOD approved to register SOFT on the GSA which will allow us for longer contracts in the future. The program expansion will be announced soon.

10. JAT Special Issue

Bruce Goldberger/Erin Karschner

- a. SOFT Special Issue Editor Erin Karschner reported that they had 18 submission and 15 accepted manuscripts. She thanked President Yeatman for the opportunity and the authors and reviewers for their hard work. She said that none of the submissions met the criteria for the EDIT award, so the Publications Committee will be reviewing the award criteria to hopefully expand the scope of the award and increase eligibility.
- b. Bruce Goldberger presented Erin Karschner with an award to thank her for her efforts. He announced that he would be retiring as Editor in Chief after 23 years and more than 5000 papers. He announced the two new Co-Editors in Chief: Dayong Lee and Frank Peters.

11. Drugs & Driving Travel Award (CSLA)

Sara Dempsey

- a. Vice Chair Dempsey announced that the CSLA award (\$500) is for best platform in the Drugs & Driving Special Session. The award was presented to Edward Zumaeta for his presentation entitled "A Ketamine Trilogy: A Review of Three Different DUID Cases with the Same Driver".

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

12. SOFT Awards

Sara Schreiber

- a. ERA/YSMA 2024: The award criteria and presentation titles were displayed on screen. The committee received 7 MS ERA, 3 PhD ERA, and 4 YSMA applications. The winners were presented with their awards. Awardees presented during a special session on Thursday of this 2024 SOFT meeting.
 - ERA – Marthe Vandeputte, “Nitazenes of the Past, Present, and Future: Insights from In Vitro μ -Opioid Receptor Assays and In Vivo Behavioral Studies in Mice”
 - ERA – Natalie Ortiz, “Determining Cannabinoid Acetate Analog (Δ 9-THC-O-A, Δ 8-THCO-A, CBD-di-O-A) Metabolites Using Human Liver Microsomes to Determine the Structure and Relative Appearance of Metabolism”
 - ERA – Kerry Murr, “Comparison of Ketone Levels Using a Commercial Ketone Monitoring System to Screen for Beta-hydroxybutyrate Prior to GC-MS Analysis.”
 - YSMA – Lurette Muir, “Analysis of 28 Phytocannabinoids and Semi-Synthetic Cannabinoids in Blood and Urine by LC-MS/MS”
- b. Annual Awards 2024: The award criteria and information about the recipients were displayed on screen. The previous Distinguished Service Award winners were presented with their medals (Chip Walls, Bruce Goldberger) and the medal for Liz Kiely will be mailed to her family.
 - Distinguished Service Award - Dan Isenschmid (presented by Tim Rohrig)
 - Teaching & Mentoring Award – Carl Wolf (nominated by Justin Poklis)
 - Young Forensic Toxicologist Service Award – Erin Karschner (nominated by Marilyn Huestis)
 - Research in Forensic Toxicology Award – No award given though there were two nominees

13. Recognition of Workshop Chairs

Alex Krotulski & Vanessa Meneses

- a. Alex and Vanessa displayed the names of workshop chairs and workshop titles on the screen for the 15 workshops presented this week. Workshop chairs were thanked and presented with their certificates.

14. Recognition of Webinar Chairs

Kei Osawa & Robert Johnson

- a. Robert and Kei displayed the names of the webinar hosts and webinar titles on the screen. There were 4 completed since the last annual meeting and there will be one more this year. The webinar hosts were presented with their certificates.

15. SOFT 2025 Portland

Amy Miles & Sara Short

- a. Amy and Sara introduced their 2025 Planning Committee and the names were displayed on the screen. After a video played about Portland, Amy and Sara provided some meeting information to the membership. The hotels will be Hyatt Regency and Hotel Eastland. The meeting will be held at the Oregon Convention Center. For transportation, each registrant will receive a free light rail pass for the week. The Wednesday off-site event will be held at OMSI museum and the Fun Run will take place along the Walamut River. They also presented their approved logo to the membership.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

16. Announcements

Tate Yeatman

- a. SAT (Southwest Association of Toxicologists) will be March 26-28, 2025 in San Antonio, TX.
- b. Carolina Cannabinoid Collaborative invites you to submit an abstract by November 8 for their December 6-8 meeting in Richmond, VA.
- c. MATT (Midwest Association for Toxicology and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring) invites you to their 20th anniversary meeting in Milwaukee, WI in April 2025.
- d. Huestis & Smith International Travel Award: Marilyn Huestis and Mick Smith announced that they will be donating a special fund to both SOFT and TIAFT that will financially support, in perpetuity, for 3 SOFT members to attend TIAFT each year (and vice versa), to include all travel costs. This information will be sent out to the membership soon.

17. Unfinished Business

Tate Yeatman

- a. There was no unfinished business to discuss.

18. New Business

Tate Yeatman

- a. Outgoing Officers and Directors were recognized and thanked for their contributions. The outgoing officers were:
 - Director Andre Sukta
 - Counselor Marilyn Huestis
 - Immediate Past President Erin Spargo

19. Elections

Tate Yeatman

- a. The slate of officers as proposed by the Nominating Committee was published in the most recent issue of ToxTalk and is as follows:
 - Jeri Ropero-Miller – President Elect
 - Robert Johnson – Treasurer
 - Dani Mata – Director
 - Kim Samano – Director
- b. President Yeatman asked for any nominations from the floor. **There were no nominations from the floor, therefore the proposed slate of officers was approved by acclamation.**

20. Recognition of Past Presidents

Tate Yeatman

- a. President Yeatman asked the Past Presidents to stand with their medallions for recognition.
- b. Incoming President Chris Heartsill was presented with his medallion by Outgoing President Yeatman.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

- c. Incoming President Chris Heartsill presented Outgoing President Yeatman with an award to commemorate his efforts.

21. Incoming President's Remarks

Chris Heartsill

- a. Chris delivered a heartfelt message to the membership to thank those that helped him throughout major chapters of his life, including those who set him on his way, those that shaped his early professional career, those that unknowingly encouraged him, and those that supported him. He announced that his Counselor would be Dan Anderson and he selected Becky Wagner as the JAT Special Issue Editor.

22. Adjournment

Tate Yeatman

- a. President Yeatman drew the winners of Free Registration for 2025. The winners were Jessica Gleba and Andrea Fox.
- b. **Motion to adjourn (Dwain Fuller); Second (Marilyn Huestis); Approved by all.**
 - Meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm CDT.

SOFT MEMBERSHIP

Unlock an unparalleled realm of professional growth with the Society of Forensic Toxicologists. We extend a warm invitation to individuals seeking excellence in their forensic science careers. Take your career to new heights by exploring the diverse membership options we offer:

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP: Elevate your academic journey with SOFT for just \$40! Join as a student member and embrace a wealth of educational resources at discounted rates.

ASSOCIATE & FULL MEMBERSHIPS: Unleash the full potential of your professional growth for \$150. Associates and Full members gain exclusive access to a spectrum of benefits designed to advance their careers. Full members having voting rights at the Annual SOFT Business Meeting.

EMERITUS & RETIRED MEMBERSHIPS: For those with a legacy of contributions, the application and renewal fee are complimentary. For just \$40, subscribe to the Journal of Analytical Toxicology (JAT) to stay abreast of cutting-edge industry advancements.

MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION: Are you ready to promote your membership? Apply today for free!

Ready to take the leap towards professional distinction? Delve into the detailed information by clicking on the options to the right and uncover the enriching world of opportunities that SOFT has meticulously curated for your success. Your professional journey begins with SOFT!

PENDING APPLICATION? Have you recently applied for membership and noticed your application status is "pending"? The most common reason for this is a missing sponsorship form from your sponsor. To move your application forward, please ensure your sponsor submits the required form as soon as possible. Sponsors can check their submission status by logging into their SOFT Membership account and selecting "Forms I've Submitted." If needed, sponsors can complete the form by clicking the "SPONSOR" button below.

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TOXTALK

EDITORS:

Robert Johnson, Ph.D., F-ABFT
Chris Heartsill, B.S., D-ABFT-FT

2025 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

Issue 1: Due by Jan 13, Published week of Feb 3
Issue 2: Due by May 12, Published week of Jun 9
Issue 3: Due by Aug 13, Published week of Sep15
Issue 4: Due by Nov14, Published week of Dec15

[GUIDELINES AND SUBMISSION](#)

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FUTURE MEETINGS



SOFT/TIAFT 2026

Hilton Chicago
Chicago, IL
September 19-24, 2026
Hosts: Luke Rodda and Andre Sukta



SOFT 2027

Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence RI
September 26-October 1, 2027
Meeting Hosts: TBD

[FUTURE SOFT MEETINGS](#)

2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Applied Analytical Toxicology Committee

Rebecca Wagner & Wayne Lewallen

Awards Committee

Sara Schreiber & Tim Rohrig

Continuing Education Committee

Kari Midthun & Kei Osawa

Culture, Values and Diversity Committee

Sherri Kacinko & Frances Scott

Drug Facilitated Crimes Committee

Teri Stockham & Celeste Wareing

Drugs & Driving Committee

Nick Tiscione & Sara Dempsey

Ethics Committee

Madeline Montgomery

Finance Committee

Jeri Roper-Miller

Meeting Resource Committee

Marc LeBeau & Erin Spargo

Membership Committee

Madeleine Swortwood

Mentoring Committee

Courtney Wardwell & Kim Samano

Nominating Committee

Erin Spargo

NPS Committee

Kayla Ellefsen & Alex Krotulski

Oral Fluid Committee

Curt Harper & Mandi Mohr

Policies & Procedures Committee

Madeleine Swortwood

Postmortem Toxicology Committee

Joe Kahl & Samantha Tolliver

Publications Committee

Stephen Raso & Heather Barkholtz

SOFTopics

Dani Mata, Vanessa Meneses & Alanna deKorompay

Toxicology Resource Committee

Sabra Jones & Joey Jones

Young Forensic Toxicologists Committee

Erin Strickland