



ToxTalk

The official publication of the SOCIETY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS, INC.

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**October 20-24
Portland, OR**

ToxTalk is mailed quarterly (bulk mail) to members of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc. It is each member's responsibility to report changes of address to the SOFT mailing address (Mesa, AZ - above). Non-members may now receive ToxTalk for \$15 per calendar year. Make your check payable to SOFT and mail it directly to the ToxTalk Editor.

DEADLINES: Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1, and Nov. 1.

NEXT DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2003 (firm!)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Amanda Jenkins, Ph.D., DABC, DFTCB

Greetings to SOFT members and friends! 2003 promises to be another active year for our society. I thank you for the honor of being your President this year and appreciate the confidence you have placed in me. Although the office of the President is considered by many to be the "top" job of SOFT, it is really the officers, Board of Directors and other volunteers who ensure the organization continues to work to serve its members and, hopefully, contribute to the field of forensic toxicology.

Over the last few years SOFT has grown to be a strong organization both in terms of membership and also financially. This year the Board will seek to enhance the benefit of membership to toxicologists. In order to ease the work of future meeting hosts and also Bonnie Fulmer, our administrative assistant, Dr Bruce Goldberger, chair of the internet web-site committee, is working with our internet consultant to set up a program for online meeting registration, abstract submission and membership dues renewal.

The Board approved the creation of a young scientist award to be administered by the ERA committee. This award would be bestowed on bench level scientists in order to provide funds to attend the annual meeting. The award would be issued on a competitive basis. Dr Phil Kemp, chair of the ERA committee, will be coordinating this so watch for flyers in this issue of **ToxTalk**. The Continuing Education Committee is organizing a forensic toxicology review seminar in San Antonio in April. SOFT members who are interested should contact Dr Rebecca Jufer for information or go to the SOFT web-site. The Joint SOFT/AAFS Drugs and Driving committee is continuing to provide educational opportunities for members with a special session on over-the-counter medications at the 2003 AAFS meeting.

Also note that a list of charter members has been compiled and verified by several SOFT members. This list will appear in the membership directory and will be permanent recognition of their contribution in the founding of this society.

A flyer providing details of the SOFT JAT special issue was included in the last issue of **ToxTalk**. encourage all members to seriously consider submitting a paper for publication. The Guest Editor this year is Dr Karla Moore. As I stated at the SOFT meeting in Detroit, I believe the field is lacking papers on interpretive issues - please consider this when compiling submissions.

In addition to the work of the committees as mentioned above, and our annual meeting, another avenue for informal communication is **ToxTalk**. This newsletter is only as beneficial to members as the quality and quantity of contributions. Therefore, resolve this year to submit to Dr Monforte, the editor, an interesting case note, information on other toxicology organizations, or your opinion about a toxicology-related issue be considered for publication.

Many will know that we had finalized meeting sites and hosts through 2007. At the recent Board meeting in February the following sites and hosts were approved--2008 in Phoenix, AZ, Host Vicki Watts; 2009 Oklahoma City, OK, Host Dr Phil Kemp. If you are interested in hosting a meeting but do not know what is involved, contact the Chair of the Meeting Resource committee, Vice President Dr Dan Isenschmid.

Lastly, your officers, committees and the Board wish to be responsive to members' questions and ideas. Therefore, contacts for the various activities of SOFT are noted in this newsletter.

I wish everyone a productive year in which SOFT moves forward as an organization and also one in which its members perform their daily duties in forensic toxicology with integrity, a spirit of inquiry, and an open mind to the challenges of new technologies, drugs and testing matrices which lie ahead. ☺

SOFT/JAT SPECIAL ISSUE
Deadline for completed papers - March 28th



SOCIETY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS

2003 Annual Meeting
October 20 - 24, 2003

Doubletree Inn, Portland, Oregon

WELCOME!

We are extremely excited and honored to be able to host the 2003 Annual Meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists. The 2003 meeting will be held at the spacious Doubletree Hotel Portland-Lloyd Center in Portland, Oregon. The Doubletree Hotel is conveniently located near the Portland Convention Center and downtown Portland. The meeting will feature workshops on Monday and Tuesday with scientific sessions Wednesday through Friday. We are planning to have the meeting all inclusive with continental breakfasts and lunches during the week, capped off with a special night for the President's Reception at the nationally acclaimed Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI). The fun-filled evening will include dinner, entertainment, dancing, and a showing for all at the OMSI Max Theatre.

Hotel Accommodations: As mentioned above, the Doubletree Hotel Portland-Lloyd Center will be hosting our meeting. The 2003 convention rates will be:

\$128 for standard, one queen bed \$138 for premium, two queen beds \$138 for premium, one king bed

You can register online direct with the Portland Doubletree hotel at www.portlandlloydcenter.doubletree.com under special accounts enter the SOFT group code which is SFT. Or you may call the hotel for reservations at (503) 281-6111. The deadline for hotel reservations to get the special SOFT group rate is September 28, 2003.

Airport and Transportation: You will be flying into the newly renovated Portland, PDX Airport, which is only about 10 miles from the hotel. Most of the major airlines have flights in and out of PDX on a regular basis.

There is also light rail service from the airport that makes a stop directly at the hotel and currently cost \$1.55. *TriMet-MAX* (Light rail service from airport): www.tri-met.org The MAX Red Line operates between downtown Portland and the Portland International Airport (PDX), with no transfers required. This convenient light rail service, once at the hotel, is free anywhere within the major Portland downtown area. The hotel will also provide a limited free shuttle service to/from the airport. Rental car service is also available at the airport and some rental car services near the hotel.

Weather: The weather is pleasant at that time of the year with highs in the 60's and lows in the 40's. As we do in the Northwest, we dress in layers. Sweaters, sweatshirts, medium jackets are good. The Online-Online SOFT Polar Fleece jacket included in your online registration will be perfect for touring the Portland area. If you will be touring the mountains or the coast, heavier jackets and coats might be needed, especially the coat at night.

Abstracts: Abstracts may be submitted three ways, including online upload as a Word document. See the *Call for Papers* for details.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES: Hotel registration deadline is Friday, **September 28**, 2003 to receive the special SOFT-2003 rates. The deadline for the SOFT-2003 meeting registration with no LATE FEES is Friday **September 5**, 2003. After September 5, 2003 there will be an additional \$100 fee attached to all registrations. This will be a firm deadline. The deadline for all online meeting registrations, both ontime-online and online late registration, will be **October 10**, 2003. After October 10, 2003 only onsite registration will be available for the SOFT 2003 annual meeting in Portland, Oregon and the late fee will be applied.

SOFT 2003 Committee Members:

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>FAX</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Meeting Hosts			
Kent Johnson	503-413-2069	503-413-4621	kent.johnson@attbi.com
Vickie Watts	480-236-4968	480-831-8091	toxilady@aol.com
Scientific Program			
Barry Logan, Ph.D.	206-262-6000	206-262-6145	blogan@swp.wa.gov
Ann Marie Gordon	206-262-6100	206-262-6145	agordon@wsp.wa.gov
Vendor Liaison			
Lisa O'Dell	303-477-5976	303-561-3803	NomadLee9@aol.com

DRUGS IN THE NEWS



“Ily”

Submitted by Vincent M Papa, Ph.D., Air Force Drug Testing Laboratory, Brooks AFB, Texas 78258

Recently, an episode of *CNN Presents* concerned the use of ily. Ily is marijuana dipped in formaldehyde. The effects of ily are extreme paranoia and psychosis similar to PCP.

Formaldehyde is a gas at room temperature but can be commonly used in the laboratory as a 37% solution called formalin. Formaldehyde is employed in the manufacture of synthetic resins, fabrics, paper, wood products, disinfectants and preservatives. The TLV value for occupational exposure is 0.3 ppm. Formaldehyde combines with cellular constituents, especially mucous membranes. Metabolically, it is oxidized to formic acid and further to carbon dioxide and water. Formic acid is normally produced in the urine by the metabolism of glycine and is present at concentrations of 17-19 mg/L. In 11 persons exposed to levels at the TLV or greater, the concentration reached 101 mg/L (1).

Formaldehyde vapor causes mild irritation of mucous membranes and respiratory passages at levels of 2-3 ppm. However, levels of 10-20 ppm cause severe irritation. Lacrimation, cough, inflammation of the bronchi, pulmonary edema, and death have resulted in exposure to higher concentrations. Direct contact results in contact dermatitis, especially after repeated exposure (2).

Ingestion of formaldehyde can cause death. For example, Burkhart reported that a 57-year-old male who ingested 120 ml of formalin exhibited peak serum formic acid levels of 11 and 1360 mg/l at 5.5 hrs. and 12 hrs. after ingestion, respectively. Death occurred 12 hrs. after ingestion (3). Toxic concentrations of formaldehyde may be detected by most volatile procedures. Methods that are employed for the detection of formic acid include colorimetry, GC after derivitization and enzymatic analysis (4).

References:

1. P.Schweda. Formic acid levels in body fluids as an index of formaldehyde exposure. In *Proceedings of the 21st International Meeting*, TIAFT, Brighton, UK, 1985.
2. Ellenhorn and Barceloux, *Medical Toxicology*, Elsevier, 1988.
3. K.K.Burkhart, K.W.Kulig and K.E.McMartin. Formate levels following formalin ingestion. *Vet.Hum.Tox.*32: 135-137, 1990.
4. A.B.Makar, K.E.McMartin, M.Palese, Formate assay in body fluids. *Biochem.Med.* 13: 117-126, 1975.

Methamphetamine In Breast Milk Causes Infant's Death

Submitted by Joseph Monforte, Ph.D.

The Arizona Republic reported that a woman who breast-fed her infant daughter after snorting and smoking methamphetamine was charged with felony child abuse more than two years after the baby's death. The mother admitted using methamphetamine daily, including the day she went to the hospital to deliver. An autopsy ruled that the baby died from methamphetamine poisoning, but "conflicting information" on the cause of death from some outside experts caused delays in the criminal investigation.

Tryptamines

Submitted by Vincent M Papa, Ph.D., Air Force Drug Testing Laboratory, Brooks AFB, Texas 78258

The synthetic substances, 5-MeO-DIPT (5-methoxy- N,N-disopropyltryptamine) known as "Foxy" and alpha methyltryptamine (AMT) are being reported by the DEA and other agencies as being abused. Tryptamine analogs are hallucinogenic compounds that naturally exist in plants, fungi and some animals and can also be synthetically produced. These substances include psilocybin, psilocyn, bufotenine, alphaethyltryptamine, diethyltryptamine, and dimethyltryptamine.

There have been reports of abuse of tryptamine from Arizona, California, Florida and New York. Many tryptamines can be obtained from companies in the United States or via the internet. Foxy and AMT usually sell for \$80 – \$150 for 500 mg.

Users of tryptamine can experience numerous effects including hallucinations, euphoria, dilated pupils, empathy, visual and auditory disturbances, and feelings of love and emotional distress. Side effects can also include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Effects of Foxy and AMT are very dose dependent. The duration of effects from 20 mg of AMT can last 12-24 hrs while the effects of ingestion of 6-10 mg Foxy can last 3-6 hours. Since the majority of immunoassays employed in amphetamine screening have limited cross reactivity to tryptamine analogues, these compounds will not be detected in common methamphetamine and amphetamine urine screening tests. ☼

WHAT TO DO IN PORTLAND

(When not busy at the SOFT meeting)

Oregon Visitor Information: We invite you to discover a state where renowned chefs, four-star hotels and world-class golf exist side-by-side with roadside diners, yurts and snowboarding. Oregon! Things look different here. www.traveloregon.com is the official website of the Oregon Tourism Commission. If you would like to order a free copy of *The Official 2002 Oregon Travel Guide*, 128 image-filled pages of helpful travel information about the State of Oregon, call 1.800.547.7842, or fill out the forms on this website.

Portland's Public Golf Courses:

<http://www.parks.ci.portland.or.us/Parks/golf.htm>

Outlet Malls

Columbia Gorge Premium Outlets:

www.premiumoutlets.com/columbiagorge

Woodburn Company Stores:

www.woodburncompanystores.com

Other Shopping

Portland Saturday Market:

www.portlandsaturdaymarket.com

Lloyd Center: www.lloydcenter.com

Pioneer Place: www.pioneerplace.com

Gray Line City Tours: (reservations requested 800.422.7042, 503.285.9845)

Other Portland Attractions:

Portland Art Museum: \$10/adult

www.portlandartmuseum.org; Approx.

Portland Classical Chinese Garden: \$6/adult

www.portlandchinesegarden.org; Approx.

Oregon Zoo: \$7.50/adult

www.oregonzoo.org; \$7.50/adult Approx.

Pittock Mansion: \$5.25/adult

www.pittockmansion.com

Japanese Garden: \$6/adult

www.japanesegarden.com;

The Grotto: free www.thegrotto.org

This information is not guaranteed. Please confirm directly with the vendors. ☼

GABAPENTIN (Neurontin®)

Submitted by D. Anderson, Los Angeles County Dept. of Coroner

At the recent American Academy of Forensic Sciences Toxicology Open Forum, a question was asked regarding information about postmortem levels of gabapentin. The literature is limited in the number of postmortem cases citing gabapentin and, therefore, a query was taken of the Toxicology database from the Los Angeles County Dept. of Coroner. Baselt 6th edition:

Dose	[] (ug/ml)	Range (ug/ml)
400 mg	3.4	2.2-6.1
900 mg	1.9 steady	
1200 mg	2.6 steady	

T1/2 5-9 hours
Vd 0.8-1.3 L/kg

Natural

CaseNumber	SpecimenName	Level (ug/ml)	COD
1	Blood	2.4	Acute & Chronic Myocarditis
2	Blood	2.6	Systemic Amyloidosis with cardiomyopathy
3	Blood	2.7	ASCVD
4	Blood, Heart	3.8	Aspiration Pneumonia
5	Blood, Heart	5	Deferred, Incoming mode as Natural
6	Blood, Heart	16	Non-specific Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy
7	Blood, Heart	17	Hypertrophic Heart Disease
8	Blood, Heart	18	Metastatic Lung Cancer

N 8
Range 2.4-18
Average 8.4
Median 4.4

Accident

CaseNumber	SpecimenName	Level (ug/ml)	COD
9	Blood	7.0	Multiple Drug Intoxication
10	Blood, Heart	9.7	Multiple Drug Intoxication
11	Blood	13.0	Multiple Drug Intoxication
12	Blood, Heart	10.0	ASCVD
13	Blood, Heart	11.0	Deferred, Incoming mode as Accident
14	Blood, Heart	12.0	Deferred, Incoming mode as Accident
15	Blood, Jugular Vein	12.0	Morphine & Codeine Intoxication
16	Blood, Heart	14.0	Deferred, Incoming mode as Accident
17	Blood, Heart	20.0	Deferred, Incoming mode as Accident
18	Blood, Heart	25.0	Multiple Drug Intoxication
19	Blood, Heart	27.0	Multiple Drug Intoxication
20	Blood, Heart	29.0	Multiple Drug Intoxication
21	Blood, Heart	39.0	Alcohol & Multiple Drug Intoxication
22	Blood, Heart	59.0	Deferred, Incoming mode as Accident
23	Blood, Heart	320.0	Hypertrophic Heart Disease

N 15
Range 7-320
Average 40.5
Median 14.0

Suicide

CaseNumber	SpecimenName	Level (ug/ml)	COD
24	Blood	5.8	Ethanol & Diphenhydramine Intake
25	Blood	7.1	Multiple Drug Intoxication
26	Blood	28	Multiple Drug Intoxication
27	Decomp Fluid	320	Multiple Drug Intoxication
28	Blood, Jugular Vein	33	Multiple Drug Intoxication
29	Blood, Jugular Vein	47	Deferred, Incoming mode as suicide
30	Blood, Heart	66	Multiple Drug Intoxication
31	Blood, Heart	78	Paroxetine Intoxication & Multiple Drug Intoxication
32	Blood, Heart	80	Multiple Drug Intoxication

N 9
 Range 5.8-80
 Average 73.8
 Median 47

Undetermined

CaseNumber	SpecimenName	Level (ug/ml)	COD
33	Blood	9	Hypertrophiccardiomyopathy
34	Blood, Heart	18	Acute Heroin/Morphine Toxicity

N 2
 Range 9.0-18
 Average 13.5
 Median 13.5

Homicide

CaseNumber	SpecimenName	Level (ug/ml)	COD
35	Blood, Heart	4.9	Deferred, Incoming mode as Homicide

DON'T JEOPARDIZE YOUR SOFT MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

ToxTalk - Reduced Meeting Rates - Voting Rights

2003 DUES ARE NOW OVERDUE

SOFT DIRECTORY PRINTING PLANNED FOR MAY

The 2003 SOFT Directory will be mailed with the June issue of ToxTalk. This directory will include a list of the "charter members," the cornerstone of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists.

Have you changed your place of employment or any other contact information? Still have the same e-mail server you used last year? Now is the time to update your information for the next SOFT Directory. Please contact the SOFT Administrative Office by phone or fax at 480-839-9106 or e-mail info@soft-tox.org to make any alterations. ☺

ToxTalk NETWORK: *Sharing problems and solutions*

Technical Working Group on Forensic Science Education and Training (TWGED)

Call for Information

Background: A National Institute of Justice sponsored initiative called the Technical Working Group on Forensic Science Education and Training (TWGED) recently completed work on a Research Report that provides, among other information, a curriculum guide for Undergraduate forensic science programs. There is also guidance for the broad composition of coursework for graduate programs in forensic science.

Another initiative has now begun to use the TWGED curriculum guidelines as the basis for voluntary accreditation of forensic science undergraduate and graduate programs. This effort – known as the Forensic Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) – has seed funding from the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and has set forth an aggressive schedule that will lead to the accreditation of 10 programs in the next two years, with more to follow thereafter.

Federal funding through the National Institute of Justice, and possibly other agencies, may be made available in the future to assist the efforts of FEPAC, TWGED and follow-up forensic science education and training improvement programs. Input and consideration of unique features of forensic toxicology programs should be part of this future – and that's where we need your help.

What Is Needed: We wish to identify all of the forensic toxicology undergraduate and graduate degree- and certificate-granting programs in the United States. So – if you are a graduate of one of these programs, or you lead or teach in a program, or you are just aware of a program, please forward by e-mail, FAX or snail-mail the following information:

- Name of the Academic Institution
- Best Person to Contact There
- Contact Person's Phone Number & e-mail Address
- Type of Certificate or Degree(s) granted

Please forward this information to Carl Selavka at: Cselavka@pol.state.ma.us -or - Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab, 59 Horse Pond Road, Sudbury, MA 01776 (FAX 508.358.3111) Thank you!!



CALL FOR CASE NOTES

CASE REPORTS TO BE FEATURED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOXTALK

The June 2003 Issue of ToxTalk will focus on Case Reports. Any Case Report or unusual finding will be welcome. Please send them directly to the Editor, preferably in Microsoft Word format. This is a good opportunity to share your experiences with your colleagues in an informal forum.

Your Case Note may be as short as ½ page. E-mail your Case Note to:

Joseph R. Monforte, Ph.D., DABFT, **ToxTalk** Editor

E-mail: DrMonforte@aol.com

Other items of interest to SOFT members are also welcome.

NEXT DEADLINE: MAY 1st (firm!)

PRESIDENT JENKINS APPOINTS 2003 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bylaws	Yale Caplan
Policy and Procedures	William Anderson
Ethics	Carl Selavka
Nominating	Laurel Farrell
Budget, Finance and Audit	Ruth Winecker
Membership	Graham Jones
Laboratory Guidelines	Graham Jones
Meeting Resource	Daniel Isenschmid
Internet Web-Site	Bruce Goldberger
Educational Research Award	Philip Kemp
Continuing Education	Rebecca Jufer
Drugs and Driving Drug Facilitated	Fiona Couper
Sexual Assault	Marc LeBeau
JAT Special Issue	Karla Moore
ToxTalk	Joseph Monforte ☺

HAVE YOU CHECKED THE NEWEST FEATURES ON THE SOFT WEBSITE?

Visit the SOFT web-site at www.soft-tox.org for the latest information on items of interest to SOFT members. Sections limited to SOFT members may be accessed by typing the username: **drugs** and password: **#cocaine!** Unauthorized access or printing is protected by copyright laws.

This year you will be able (and are encouraged) to submit papers and register for the Annual SOFT meeting through the SOFT website. Thanks to WebMaster Bruce Goldberger.

SOFT broadcast messaging is based on members' e-mail addresses from the 2001 SOFT Directory. If you change your e-mail address, you must contact the webmaster directly at info@soft-tox.org to receive SOFT broadcast messages. ☺



AAFS HONORS SOFT MEMBERS

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences recently honored the following SOFT members at their recent annual meeting. Congratulations!

Irving Sunshine Award - Jeri D. Roper-Miller

Rolla N. Harger Award - H. Horton McCurdy

Alexander O. Gettler Award - Michael I. Schaffer

PRELIMINARY 2003 SOFT MEETING OUTLINE

(Subject to change, cancellations, weather, revisions . . .)

Oct. 20-21
Workshops

Oct. 21
Welcome Reception

Oct. 22
SOFT Fun Run
Meeting Opens Scientific
Program
Elmer Gordon Open forum

Oct. 23
Scientific Program
President's Reception

Oct. 24
Scientific Program
Farewell Luncheon

SOFT TREASURER'S REPORT

January-December, 2002

Submitted by Daniel Isenschmid, Ph.D., SOFT Treasurer 2001-2002

OPENING BALANCE: **227880.81**

CHECKING	108232.18
RESERVE	25000.00
ERA FUND	94648.63

INCOME	86035.82
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2001 ANNUAL MEETING	40763.98
ANNUAL MTG. REIMBURS.	8548.63
APPLICATION FEES	670.00
DUES	27857.00
ERA FUND DONATIONS	678.00
INTEREST	6060.69
LATE FEES	343.00
MAIL LABEL LEASES	200.00
MISC	25.00
SOFT LOGO ITEMS	380.00
TOX TALK SUBSCRIPTIONS	60.00

EXPENSES	(42997.95)
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AAFS HOSPITALITY	2555.89
ADMINISTRATIVE	8872.03
(Labor, Postage, Phone, Supplies)	
ANNUAL MEETING 2002	4235.46
ANNUAL MEETING 2003	1500.00
ANNUAL MEETING 2004	1253.05
COMMITTEES	25.30
CPA FEES	800.00
FEES (Bank, Credit Cards)	658.45
ERA FUND AWARDS	4975.00
INCORPORATION FEE	170.00
INSURANCE	200.00
JAT SPECIAL ISSUE (flyers)	2.91
OFFICER EXPENSE	2950.34
SOFT PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	1832.40
TOXTALK	5766.98
WEB-SITE	4503.64

NET INCOME	43037.87
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CLOSING BALANCE: **270918.68**

	149506.36
CHECKING	
RESERVE	25000.00
ERA FUND	96412.32

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2003 SOFT ANNUAL DUES???

SOFT ANNOUNCES "YOUNG SCIENTIST" AWARD CANDIDATES SOLICITED FOR "ERA" AND "YSMA"

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD

Description:

The education of specialists in the field of forensic toxicology continues to be a challenge. Forensic toxicologists are scientists who engage in the analysis of body fluids and tissues for the presence of drugs and chemicals and interpret these analytical results for judicial purposes. The ever-increasing sophistication of analytical methodologies and the enhanced knowledge of underlying physiological and pharmacological factors governing our understanding of the effects of these substances promise to add information to the judicial process that was not thought possible just a few years ago.

The Society of Forensic Toxicologists is dedicated to continuing effective education in this field and actively supports research projects that advance the foundations of the science in academic settings. The award will recognize students pursuing advanced degrees whose research has progressed to the point of presentation to the members of SOFT.

Eligibility:

The Educational Research Award (ERA) is designed to recognize students pursuing advanced degrees (Ph.D. and M.S.) with research in an area relevant to forensic toxicology. Applications are competitive. Awardees may reapply. Abstracts must be for **oral** presentations and must be accepted by the scientific program committee for the current year's SOFT meeting.

YOUNG SCIENTIST MEETING AWARD

Description:

As forensic toxicology continues to evolve, it has become increasingly clear that the bench level scientist is the indispensable and under-appreciated tool of the forensic laboratory. It is at the bench where the advancement of this complex science occurs. Unfortunately, often due to budget constraints, it is the bench scientist that gets left behind in the laboratory at SOFT meeting time. That is about to change!

The Society of Forensic Toxicologists is offering the Young Scientist Meeting Award (YSMA) for bench level scientists to undertake projects and get involved in the SOFT annual meeting. The YSMA will provide funding to offset meeting and travel expenses.

Eligibility:

The Young Scientist Meeting Award is designed to recognize bench level scientists working in the field of forensic toxicology. Any bench level scientist (B.S., M.S., or Ph.D.) with 5 years or less experience is welcome to apply. Applications are competitive. Awardees may not reapply. Abstracts must be for **oral** presentations and must be accepted by the scientific program committee for the current year's SOFT meeting.

Award: Complimentary basic SOFT meeting registration fee plus \$1,000 toward travel expenses to the 2003 SOFT Annual Meeting

Deadline: April 15, 2003
Successful applicants will be announced by July 1st.)

Application Materials: SEE THE SOFT WEBSITE FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMS
www.soft-tox.org

Submission Address: Phil Kemp, Ph.D., DABFT, SOFT E.R.A. Chairman
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
901 N. Stonewall, Oklahoma City, OK 73117

Please post the enclosed flyers.

ELMER GORDON OPEN FORUM

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL DIALOGUE

SOFT extends its deepest sympathy to Dr. Michael Schaffer, whose wife, Linda, passed away very recently and very suddenly.

Send items for this section to Editor Joseph Monforte: DrMonforte@aol.com ☺

PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

SOFT MEETINGS:



October 20-24
Portland, OR
Hosts: Kent Johnson
Vickie Watts

2004 Washington, D.C. – Marc LeBeau
2005 Nashville, TN - Louis Kuyendall
2006 Austin, TX - Rod McCutcheon

2007 Chapel Hill, NC - Ruth Winecker
2008 Phoenix, AZ - Vickie Watts
2009 Oklahoma City, OK - Phil Kemp

"The Effects of Drugs on Human Performance and Behavior": Course offered March 16-19, 2003, Indiana University. Contact dlindsay@indiana.edu

Canadian Society of Forensic Science - 50th Anniversary: *Forensic Science: Public or Private Enterprise*, March 24-29, 2003, Vancouver, BC, Canada. Contact: www.csfs.ca

Midwest Association For Toxicology and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring: May 8-9, 2003, East Lansing, Michigan. For more information go to www.midwesttox.org or e-mail Laureen Marinetti at LMarinetti@aol.com

California Association of Toxicologists - Quarterly Meeting: August 1-2, 2003, Santa Rosa, CA. Theme: Alcohol-related topics; speakers will include Alan Wayne Jones and other recognized experts in the field of alcohol research. Contact Gregory A. Priebe, California Department of Justice, 7505 Sonoma Highway, Santa Rosa, CA 95409 Phone: 707-576-2415 Fax: 707-576-2141 Greg.Priebe@doj.ca.gov

2nd Summer Conference on Current Topics in Forensic Toxicology: August 28-30, 2003, UCLA Extension. Contact Sheila King at sking@unex.ucla.edu for more information.

8th International Congress of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring & Clinical Toxicology: September 7-22, 2003, Basel, Switzerland. Contact www.ictdmet2003.ch

All members and others are encouraged to contribute to **ToxTalk**. Please submit your contribution to:
Joseph R. Monforte, Ph.D., DABFT, ToxTalk Editor, by e-mail at DrMonforte@aol.com



Society of Forensic Toxicologists

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AWARDS

Description:

The education of specialists in the field of forensic toxicology continues to be a challenge. Forensic toxicologists are scientists who engage in the analysis of body fluids and tissues for the presence of drugs and chemicals and interpret these analytical results for judicial purposes. The ever-increasing sophistication of analytical methodologies and the enhanced knowledge of underlying physiological and pharmacological factors governing our understanding of the effects of these substances promise to add information to the judicial process that was not thought possible just a few years ago.

The Society of Forensic Toxicologists is dedicated to continuing effective education in this field and actively supports research projects that advance the foundations of the science in academic settings. The award will recognize students pursuing advanced degrees whose research has progressed to the point of presentation to the members of SOFT.

Eligibility:

The Educational Research Award (ERA) is designed to recognize students pursuing advanced degrees (Ph.D. and M.S.) with research in an area relevant to forensic toxicology. Applications are competitive. Awardees may reapply. Abstracts must be for **oral** presentations and must be accepted by the scientific program committee for the current year's SOFT meeting.

Award:

An award of \$1,000 plus a complimentary basic SOFT meeting registration fee will be made to offset travel expenses to the 2003 SOFT Annual Meeting. Awardees may reapply.

Deadline: April 15, 2003 (Successful applicants will be announced by July 1st.)

Application Materials: SEE THE SOFT WEBSITE FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMS (www.soft-tox.org).

Submission Address: Phil Kemp, Ph.D., DABFT
SOFT E.R.A. Chairman
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
901 N. Stonewall
Oklahoma City, OK 73117



Society of Forensic Toxicologists

Young Scientist Meeting Award

Description:

As forensic toxicology continues to evolve, it has become increasingly clear that the bench level scientist is the indispensable and under-appreciated tool of the forensic laboratory. It is at the bench where the advancement of this complex science occurs. Unfortunately, often due to budget constraints, it is the bench scientist that gets left behind in the laboratory at SOFT meeting time. That is about to change!

The Society of Forensic Toxicologists is offering the Young Scientist Meeting Award (YSMA) for bench level scientists to undertake projects and get involved in the SOFT annual meeting. The YSMA will provide funding to offset meeting and travel expenses.

Eligibility:

The Young Scientist Meeting Award is designed to recognize bench level scientists working in the field of forensic toxicology. Any bench level scientist (B.S., M.S., or Ph.D.) with 5 years or less experience is welcome to apply. Applications are competitive. Awardees cannot reapply. Abstracts must be for **oral** presentations and must be accepted by the scientific program committee for the current year's SOFT meeting.

Award:

An award of **\$1,000 plus a complimentary basic SOFT meeting registration fee** will be made to offset travel expenses to the 2003 SOFT Annual Meeting (October 20-24, Portland, OR).

Deadline: April 15, 2003 (Successful applicants will be announced by July 1st.)

Application Materials: SEE THE SOFT WEBSITE FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMS
www.soft-tox.org

Submission Address: Phil Kemp, Ph.D., DABFT
SOFT E.R.A. Chairman
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901 N. Stonewall
Oklahoma City, OK 73117



**SOFT 2003
OCTOBER 20-24, 2003
PORTLAND, OREGON**



CALL FOR PAPERS AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

General Information

The Program Committee solicits abstracts on all forensic toxicology topics including postmortem toxicology, forensic urine drug testing, analytical toxicology of drugs, pharmacology as related to forensic toxicology, pathology as related to forensic toxicology, pediatric and geriatric case reports, and the relationship between drug concentrations and performance impairment. Scientific papers selected for presentation will be divided into two groups: 15-minute platform presentations and poster presentations. The Program Committee will select appropriate abstracts from those **submitted by the June 2, 2003, deadline**. The presenting authors of all papers will be required to register for the meeting. Only abstracts written in English will be considered. The format for the preparation of the abstracts is provided on the submission form.

Platform (Oral) Presentations

ONLY 35-mm slides or LCD (PowerPoint) presentations will be accepted. Each presenter will be provided with 10 minutes to present their material and 5 minutes to answer questions. Platform presentations must cover the material reported in the abstract. Regardless whether 35 mm slides or LCD projection are used, information on the slides must be kept simple with plenty of open spaces between lines. Limit information on each slide to seven lines or less. Do not crowd the slide. Avoid backing up in slide lectures. If you need a slide twice, make duplicate slides. White on black, white on blue, blue on yellow or yellow on blue project best. Avoid red and blue or other non-contrasting color combinations. If using 35mm slides, it is highly recommended that you provide your own carousel.

LCD Projector – Policies and Procedures

An LCD projector will be available for use at this meeting. Any LCD format platform presentation **MUST** be submitted in advance (Deadline September 12, 2003) on 3.5-inch disk or by E-mail in Microsoft PowerPoint (IBM format only) to the Program Chair (contact information on abstract submission form). There will be **NO** exception to these requirements. All presentations will be pre-loaded and tested on a computer (and backup computer) provided by SOFT. You may bring your own laptop as an additional backup, however in order to improve flow between presentations this will only be used in the event of unexpected technical problems. Slide projectors will be

available for presenters who do not meet this deadline, or format requirement.

Poster Presentations

Each author selected for poster presentation will be provided with a 4' x 8' tack board on which to display material related to his or her presentation. Presenters must bring their own tacks. Authors have complete freedom to choose ways of displaying their information in figures, tables, text, photographs, etc; however, they should avoid crowding too much information into a limited space. The poster should be readable from a distance of 3 feet. Posters will be kept up for the entire day they are scheduled. Please be sure your poster is mounted by 8 a.m. and leave it mounted until 5 p.m. It will only be necessary for the author to be present at the poster for the one-hour noted in the program.

Abstract Submission -

1. Online, through the SOFT website at <http://www.soft-tox.org>. The abstract itself is to be provided in Microsoft Word **ONLY** using the format described on the back of this form.
2. Electronically by e-mail – Be sure to provide all the information required on the back of this form in the body of your e-mail text. Be sure to type **ONE** of the disclosure statements in your-email. By submission of your abstract electronically, no signature is required for the disclosure. The abstract itself is to be provided as an attachment in Microsoft Word **ONLY** using the format described on the back of this form.
3. By mail – Complete the back of this form. The abstract itself **MUST** be provided on diskette in Microsoft Word **ONLY**. Please label the diskette with the presenting author's name. Include four (4) hard copies of the abstract.

Disclosure Information (Please Read Carefully)

In order for AACC ACCENT credits to be provided for attendees to the SOFT 2003 Annual Meeting by the TDM/Toxicology Division of AACC each speaker must provide disclosure of potential bias or conflict of interest. This information is provided to any attendee who requests information concerning possible bias, conflict of interest or commercialism of any presentation. Please complete the information as it applies to you on the submission form.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS JUNE 2, 2003



**SOFT 2003
ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM
DEADLINE – JUNE 2, 2003**



Information to be provided with the Abstract

Please complete the following information (or provide it electronically, if submitting your abstract by e-mail):

Presenting Author Name _____
 Mailing Address _____

 Telephone Number _____
 Fax Number _____
 E-mail _____
 Co-author(s) Name(s) and Address(es) _____

Attach additional pages if necessary

Has this paper been presented before? Yes ___ No ___
 If yes, where and when? _____
 Select your presentation preference:
 Platform ___ 35-mm () Powerpoint () Poster _____

Format of the Abstract

Type the title in upper and lower case letters. Separate the title from the authors by single blank line. Type the name(s) of the authors and, followed by the address(es) (affiliation, city, state, country) of the authors. For multiple addresses use a numerical superscript after the name. Use an asterisk (*) to identify the presenting author. Separate the author's names from the body of the abstract by a single blank line. Identify three key words at the bottom of the abstract. See example below:

The Analysis of Oobleck from Precipitation Collected in the World of Dr. Seuss

Cindy Lou Who^{*1}, Yertle Turtle², and Bartholomew Cubbins².
¹Whoville University, Whoville, MI, U.S.A.; ²Mulberry Street Consulting Group, Prairie of Prax, MN, U.S.A.

Indent each paragraph three spaces. Type the entire abstract single-spaced. Do not type in all capital letters. Capitalize and punctuate exactly as you wish the abstract to appear in the program. Do not double space after a period. The abstract should be limited to one 8 ½ x 11-inch page using Times New Roman font, size 12.

The abstract must contain the following information: (1) author(s) name(s) and affiliation, city, state, country; (2) short specific title; (3) statement of paper's objective; (4) statement of methods, if relevant; (5) statement of results; (6) statement of conclusion; (7) key words (three).

Key Words: Oobleck, Seuss, Precipitation

AACC Policy on Disclosure of Potential Bias or Conflict of Interest

AACC requires that all speakers in accredited Continuing Education Activities to disclose any possible bias or conflict of interest regarding the topic that is being presented. A conflict of interest is defined as any financial interest of the speaker in a company=s products or services discussed in the presentation. For example, if the speaker (1) holds stock in the company, (2) is paid salary or consultant fees by the company, (3) has grant support from the company and/or (4) has received support for travel expenses, honoraria, etc. from the company, a conflict of interest exists regarding this topic and must be reported. If the speaker has a financial interest in a company *but is not discussing a product or service of that company, no conflict of interest must be disclosed.*

Please place an X next to ONE of the DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS indicated below:

_____ I have read the above statements and I declare that neither I nor any member of my immediate family has a financial interest in a company as defined in the AACC policies on conflict of interest.

_____ I have read the above statements and I declare that I have (or a member of my immediate family has) a financial interest in a company as defined in the AACC policies on conflict of interest. Please indicate the nature of the conflict of interest (Grant/Research Support ___; Salary/Consultant ___; Stocks/Bonds ___; Honoraria/Expenses ___) and the Source (Company) providing financial support _____

Signature _____
 Date: _____

By submission of this abstract by e-mail no signature is required for the disclosure. You must, however, type the applicable disclosure statement in your e-mail text.

Submission Address:

Barry K. Logan, PhD, SOFT 2003 Program Chair
 Washington State Toxicology Laboratory
 2203 Airport Way S.
 Seattle WA 98134

Phone (206) 262-6000 Fax (206) 262-6018
 E-mail: SOFT2003@wsp.wa.gov

NOTIFICATION: You will be notified of receipt of your abstract within two weeks of submission. If you do not receive notification in this time frame, please contact the Program Chair to make sure your abstract was received. Correspondence from the Program Chair will be with the presenting author only. Notification of acceptance will be made by July 31, 2003.



SOFT 2003 ANNUAL MEETING
DoubleTree– Lloyd Center, Portland, Oregon
OCTOBER 20-24, 2003
Welcome!



We are extremely excited and honored to be able to host the 2003 Annual Meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists. The 2003 meeting will be held at the spacious Doubletree Hotel Portland-Lloyd Center in Portland, Oregon. The Doubletree Hotel is conveniently located near the Portland Convention Center and downtown Portland. The meeting will feature workshops on Monday and Tuesday with scientific sessions Wednesday through Friday. We are planning to have the meeting all inclusive with continental breakfasts and lunches during the week, capped off with a special night for the President's Reception at the nationally acclaimed Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI). The fun-filled evening will include dinner, entertainment, dancing, and a showing at the OMSI Max Theatre.

Weather

The weather is pleasant at that time of the year with highs in the 60's and lows in the 40's. As we do in the Northwest, we dress in layers. Sweaters, sweatshirts, medium jackets are good. The Online-Online SOFT Polar Fleece jacket included in your online registration will be perfect for touring the Portland area. If you will be touring the mountains or the coast, heavier jackets and coats might be needed, especially the coat at night.

Hotel Accommodations

As mentioned above, the Doubletree Hotel Portland-Lloyd Center will be hosting our meeting. The 2003 convention rates will be:

- \$128 for standard, one queen bed
- \$138 for premium, two queen beds
- \$138 for premium, one king bed

You can register online directly with the Portland DoubleTree at www.portlandlloydcenter.doubletree.com under special accounts enter the SOFT group code which is SFT. Or you call the hotel for reservations at (503) 281-6111. The deadline for hotel reservations to get the special SOFT group rate is September 28, 2003.

Airport and Transportation

You will be flying into the newly renovated Portland, PDX Airport, which is only about 10 miles from the hotel. Most of the major airlines have flights in and out of PDX on a regular basis. There is also light rail service from the airport that makes a stop directly at the hotel and currently cost \$1.55. **TriMet-MAX (Light rail service from airport):** www.tri-met.org The MAX Red Line operates between downtown Portland and the Portland International Airport (PDX), with no transfers required. This convenient light rail service, once at the hotel, is free anywhere within the major Portland downtown area. The hotel will also provide a limited free shuttle service to/from the airport. Rental car service is also available at the airport and some rental car services near the hotel.

Things to Do Additional / Offsite Activities

From the hotel, you will be around 60-70 miles from Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens (our local volcano) or the Oregon Coast. You will be able to take tours of the local wine country and visit local fruit and berry farms and markets. Within 45 minutes of the hotel, you can visit the United States' second tallest waterfalls, Multnomah Falls, along with 4 or 5 other falls you can see along our scenic waterfalls' route. And if you have never driven along the Columbine River Gorge, you have missed some of the Northwest's most breathtaking natural sights. Within Portland, there are so many things to see and do you may want to stay another week or two. Some of the most famous sights are the internationally acclaimed rose gardens and parks. Hiking trails abound throughout Portland and the surrounding areas, and how can we forget the shopping areas with Oregon's largest mall right across the street from the hotel.

SOFT 2003 Committee Members:

Kent Johnson, Meeting Host
503-413-2069 503-413-4621 kent.johnson@attbi.com
Vickie Watts, Meeting Co-Host
480-236-7968 480-831-8091 toxilady@aol.com
Barry Logan, Ph.D., Scientific Chair
206-262-6000 206-262-6145 blogan@swp.wa.gov
Ann Marie Gordon, Scientific Co-Chair
206-262-6100 206-262-6145 agordon@wsp.wa.gov
Lisa O'Dell, Vendor Liaison
303-477-5976 303-561-3803 NomadLee9@aol.com



SOFT 2003 ANNUAL MEETING
DoubleTree -Lloyd Center, Portland, Oregon
October 20-24, 2003
REGISTRATION WORKSHEET



Name _____ Degree _____
 Last First
 Name to appear on badge _____
 Title _____ Agency _____
 Address _____
 E-mail _____
 Telephone _____ Fax _____
 Accompanying Person(s) _____

Use This Worksheet to complete the ONLINE – ONTIME
 Registration on the SOFT website at <http://www.soft-tox.org>.

	Member	Non-Member	Qty.	TOTAL
FULL MEETING REGISTRATION (Late Fee Applies after 9/05/03) Includes: Admission to scientific sessions, Abstract Book, SOFT jacket , Coffee Breaks, Continental Breakfasts, Welcoming Reception, Luncheons, Tuesday Happy Hour, Elmer Gordon Forum, and President's Reception	\$185.00	\$275.00	___	\$ _____ Enter jacket size online
ACCOMPANYING PERSON REGISTRATION (Available only with full meeting registration). Includes: All the above <u>except</u> Abstract Book and Jacket	\$150.00	\$225.00	___	\$ _____
FULL-TIME STUDENT (Proof of full-time status required)	\$95.00	\$95.00	___	\$ _____
LATE-FEE (Applies after September 5 to EACH of above registrations) <u>After October 10, 2003– only On-Site Registration is available</u>	\$100.00	\$100.00	___	\$ _____
PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION – ADDITIONAL TICKETS (Additional tickets for non-registrants only available prior to October 10)	\$75.00	\$95.00	___	\$ _____
ON-SITE REGISTRATION (President's Reception and polo-fleece jacket NOT included)	\$285.00	\$375.00	___	\$ _____
Workshop # 1: Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Threat: Challenges for the Toxicologist.	\$100.00	\$150.00	___	\$ _____
Workshop # 2: Forensic Toxicology of Metals	\$50.00	\$150.00	___	\$ _____
Workshop # 3: Principles of Sample Preparation	\$50.00	\$75.00	___	\$ _____
Workshop # 4: Practical Applications for LCMS in Routine Toxicology	\$50.00	\$75.00	___	\$ _____
Workshop # 5: Forensic Toxicology of Methadone	\$50.00	\$75.00	___	\$ _____
Workshop # 6: Feeling Blue? Antidepressant Workshop!	\$100.00	\$150.00	___	\$ _____
Workshop # 7: Preparation and Planning for Laboratory Accreditation by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT).	\$50.00	\$75.00	___	\$ _____
Workshop # 8: Developments in Federally Regulated Drug Testing	\$50.00	\$75.00	___	\$ _____
Workshop # 9: Toxicology in the Emergency Room	\$50.00	\$75.00	___	\$ _____
Workshop # 10: Developments in Pharmacology of Antiepileptic Drugs	\$50.00	\$75.00	___	\$ _____
ABFT Breakfast (Diplomates and Specialists)	\$25.00	\$25.00	___	\$ _____

ID BADGE WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ALL FUNCTIONS.
TICKET REQUIRED FOR PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION.

TOTAL \$ _____

LATE FEE applies for all registrations received after **Friday, September 5, 2003.**

Deadline for registration online at <http://www.soft-tox.org> is **Friday, October 10, 2003.** You must register online to receive the FREE polo-fleece jacket with embroidered SOFT logo and a ticket to the President's reception at the OMSI museum.

Payment on the SOFT Registration website is through PayPal, a secure site, which accepts the most major credit cards or payment though routing of checks drawn on a US bank or International Bank. For those members not wishing to pay through an online transaction, checks or Money Order in US dollars can be mailed to the SOFT administrative office, ATTN SOFT-2003 Meeting Registration, at P.O. Box 5543, Mesa, AZ 85211-5543. All payments should be made out to SOFT-2003.

IMPORTANT - Refund policy Refunds will be honored upon written request prior to 09/05/03 minus a \$75 fee.

There will be NO refunds after 09/05/03.

Preliminary Program

SOFT 2003 Annual Meeting - Portland, Oregon

Saturday October 18th

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

SOFT/AAFS/NSC Workgroup on Drugs and Driving

Sunday October 19th

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

National Safety Council Executive Board Meeting

Monday October 20th

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

ABFT Exam

9:00 am – 10:30 am

ABFT Accreditation Committee

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

ABFT Board Meeting

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

W-1: Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Threat: Challenges for the Toxicologist.

Aaron Jacobs, Chair

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

W-2: Forensic Toxicology of Metals

Rob Middleberg, Chair

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

W-3: Principles of Sample Preparation

John Cody, Chair

1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

W-4: Practical Applications for LCMS in Routine Toxicology Testing

Rod McCutcheon, Chair

1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

W-5: Forensic Toxicology of Methadone

Ann Marie Gordon, Chair

Tuesday October 21st

6:30am

FUN RUN

Contact: Karla Moore

8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

W-6: Feeling Blue? Antidepressant Workshop!

Rebecca Jufer, Chair

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

W-7: Preparation and Planning for Laboratory Accreditation by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT).

Yale Caplan, Chair

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

W-8: Developments in Federally Regulated Drug Testing

Donna Bush, Chair

1:30 pm – 5:00 pm.

W-9: Toxicology in the Emergency Room

Kari Blaho, Chair

1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

W-10: Developments in Pharmacology of Antiepileptic Drugs

Jeri-Ropero Miller, Chair

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

SOFT Welcome Reception

Wednesday October 22nd

8:30 am – 9:15 a.m.

Plenary Session I

9:15 am – 3:00 pm

Scientific and Poster Sessions

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

SOFT Business Meeting

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Happy Hour with Exhibitors

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Elmer Gordon Open Forum

Thursday October 24th

7:00 am – 8:30 am

ABFT Breakfast

8:30 am – 9:15 am

Plenary Session II

9:15 am – 12:00 pm

Scientific and Poster Sessions

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Plenary Session III

2:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Scientific Sessions

6:30 pm – 11:30 pm

SOFT President's Reception

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (<http://www.oms.edu/>)

Friday October 24th

8:30 am – 9:15 am

Plenary Session IV

9:15 am – 12:00 pm

Scientific Sessions

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Farewell Luncheon

W1: Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Threat: Challenges for the Toxicologist:

In our changing world, the threat of terrorism has changed the way we all look at things. As toxicologists, many of us have been asked what our role could or should be, should we have to face chemical and/or biological threats. The workshop presenters have faced these issues in the military and can provide unique insight into these areas. The following topics will be covered: The Chemical Weapons Threat, The Nuclear Threat (Nuclear Radiation); The Biological Weapons Threat; Chem/Bio During Desert Storm; Overview of the Chemical Weapons Efforts; The Theater Army Medical Laboratory-Deployable Detection; Overview of Detectors for Chem/Bio; Chemical Disasters and the Role of the Toxicologist; Training the Warfighter and Homeland First Responder; Forensic Analysis of a Chemical Weapons Incident/Accident.

W2: Forensic Toxicology of Metal:

This workshop will focus on the toxicology of selected metals. A discussion of what samples are most suited to analysis, when to ask for a metal screen and how to interpret results.

W3: Principles of Sample Preparation:

This will be an introductory workshop and review of considerations when preparing samples for analysis. The targeted audience is the newer forensic toxicologist or those newly facing the challenges of method development. Topics to be covered will include review of pH, pKa and buffer theory; tricks and techniques of liquid-liquid extraction, principles of solid phase extraction; developing and validating extraction methods; and practical applications of Solid Phase Microextraction (SPME).

W4: Practical Applications for LCMS in Routine Toxicology Testing :

This workshop will focus on the practical applications of LCMS in today's toxicology laboratory. Instructors will cover the basics of HPLC and how it has transitioned into LCMS. Specific details as to how to select the appropriate instrument to your applications will be discussed as well as a comparison of the MS detection methods currently available (Ion Trap, Triple Quad, Single Quad).

W5: Forensic Toxicology of Methadone

This workshop will cover the current issues facing toxicologists with the increasing number of cases involving Methadone. There will be a pharmacological review of Methadone; a discussion of Methadone treatment programs and alternatives to Methadone for the treatment of Heroin addiction; Methadone and its use in Pain Management; Certification of Methadone Deaths; Methadone and Driving and an update on illicit Methadone.

W6: Feeling Blue? Antidepressant Workshop!

This workshop is offered by the SOFT Continuing Education Committee. Complete discussions of first, second and third generation antidepressants will be covered. For each there will be a discussion of the pharmacology, pharmacokinetics and metabolism; analysis; side effects, toxicity and drug interactions; post mortem interpretation and the role these play in driving impairment.

W7: Preparation and Planning for Laboratory Accreditation by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT):

What are the benefits and advantages of professional certification and laboratory accreditation? What are the requirements for accreditation by ABFT? What happens during an inspection? How much does it cost? What are the critical elements of a quality control and quality assurance program? What are the elements of an acceptable corrective action policy? By answering these and other questions, this workshop is designed to prompt laboratories to consider accreditation, to remove some of the mystique surrounding that process and to hear the experience of laboratory managers who have recently gone through that process, how they prepared, how they dealt with problems that arose, and how going through the process made them a better laboratory. It will also feature presentations by inspectors on the issues which come up most frequently during inspections and how to resolve them. This workshop is sponsored by ABFT.

W8: Developments in Regulated Drug Testing:

This workshop will focus on the regulated drug testing programs with attention to the demographics of drug positives. It will also include reports of SAMSHA proficiency testing and the results or such testing. Also included will be a review of new technologies from a SAMSHA viewpoint.

W9: Toxicology in the Emergency Room:

Toxicologists are often asked to read or interpret medical charts and or EMT charts from the scene of an accident. Many of us struggle to provide answers to prosecutors, defense attorneys and police officers. This workshop will be taught by hospital medical personnel who will give us insight into how to interpret these medical charts. What considerations are taken when medically diagnosing drug intoxication and what clinical laboratory tests are ordered by physicians to diagnose poisoning will also be covered. A discussion of drugs administered in the emergency room and under what circumstances they are used will also be included.

W10: Developments in Pharmacology of Antiepileptic Drug:

This workshop will focus on the new AEDs and the off-market uses of both new and older AEDs, particularly as anti-psychotics. The analysis pharmacology, and toxicity of these drugs will be examined. Data on the effects of these drugs on driving will also be included.