



# ToxTalk

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

VOLUME 27 No. 4

DECEMBER 2003

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**AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 3, 2004**  
**WASHINGTON, DC**

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.

MODIFIED DEADLINES Feb. 1, June 1, Sept. 15, and Nov. 1

**NEXT DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2004**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

A "Happy New Year" to all members and colleagues! This is the last time you shall be receiving a President's Message from me. This issue normally goes out in December but has been delayed. Therefore, as outgoing President I wish to encourage you to support your officers and Board in the coming year.

Our Society membership currently stands at 649, according to the report of the Membership Committee of October 2003. This includes 484 full members. The year 2003 was productive in several ways for our Society. The Continuing Education Committee hosted 2 seminars this year, in San Antonio and Raleigh-Durham. In addition, the committee conducted a workshop on antidepressants at this year's SOFT annual meeting. The Drugs and Driving Committee also presented workshops or special sessions this year - at the AAFS meeting in February on medically prescribed drugs and at SOFT in Portland. The ERA committee for the first time awarded the Young Scientist Meeting Award to Justin Poklis of the North Carolina ME Office. This new award is available to all bench level scientists, so laboratory directors and supervisors please take note and encourage your subordinates to apply. The ERA committee is also working on establishing formal evaluation criteria for awarding the ERA and YSMA.

Thanks to Drs. Karla Moore and Barry Levine for producing another worthwhile issue of the JAT/SOFT Special issue. The issue featured 23 articles on subjects ranging from urine testing for cocaine abuse to buprenorphine in drug facilitated sexual abuse. Ongoing projects which require further work include incorporating the Board's revisions into the SOP of the Ethics

Committee, revising and updating the Policy and Procedure (P&P) manual and undergoing a thorough review of the same by the P&P Committee and the Bylaws Committee.

The annual meeting in Portland was a success due largely to the extraordinary efforts of the hosts Kent Johnson and Vickie Watts. In addition, Dr Barry Logan and Ann Marie Gordon spent many hours working on the scientific program. This was the first meeting to offer on-line registration, and, although several individuals experienced problems, the webmaster and meeting hosts did their best to resolve them in a timely manner. All new technology is not trouble free so this was a learning experience for all and will result in a smoother ride in 2004.

The Board made several decisions at its meeting in October. Issues which were brought to the notice of members during the Business meeting include - The Board is investigating registration or copyrighting the SOFT logo; meeting cancellation insurance and liability protection (bonding) for SOFT officers. In addition, I appointed an ad hoc committee, chaired by Dr Joseph Monforte, to investigate ways we can include students in our meetings and promote the interest and participation of the young in forensic toxicology.

In closing, I wish to thank the officers, directors and other members of SOFT who have helped and supported me this past year. It has been an honor to serve as your President, and I hope the Society continues to build on its firm professional, scientific and sound financial foundation. ☺

## SOFT/JAT SPECIAL ISSUE

**DEADLINES:** February 9 for Abstracts, February 23 for completed papers

2004 Guest Editor: Peter Stout [pstout@aegislabs.com](mailto:pstout@aegislabs.com)

# SOFT OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2004

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## CALL FOR ToxTalk MATERIAL

**CASE NOTES:** Your case note should be about 1/2 page in length, no more than a full page is necessary.

**DRUGS IN THE NEWS:** Submit a few lines about a newspaper or Internet article. *Submit to Andy Mason at [form6tox@aol.com](mailto:form6tox@aol.com)*

**NEW DRUGS:** Communicate experiences with new drugs. Submit to Dan Anderson at [danderso@co.la.ca.us](mailto:danderso@co.la.ca.us)

**ELMER GORDON OPEN FORUM:** This is an opportunity to share items of personal interest with your SOFT friends.

**OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST ARE ENCOURAGED:** Share your experience and knowledge with your colleagues.

**DEADLINES:**

Do to the early 2004 SOFT meeting dates, the deadlines will be modified as follows:

**FEBRUARY 1    JUNE 1    SEPTEMBER 15    NOVEMBER 1**

Unless otherwise noted, submit materials to Joseph Monforte, Ph.D., DABFT, **ToxTalk** Editor at [DrMonforte@aol.com](mailto:DrMonforte@aol.com)

# 2004 FBI Laboratory Symposium on Forensic Toxicology and Joint Meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) & The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT)



**Washington, DC, United States of America  
August 28 – September 3, 2004**

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) are pleased to announce an FBI Laboratory Symposium on Forensic Toxicology to be held concurrently with the 2004 Joint Meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) and The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT). We invite you to attend this unique educational experience August 28 - September 3, 2004, in Washington, DC.

As with all FBI Laboratory symposia, there is no charge for the attendance of registered participants. This will greatly reduce the cost of your presence at this meeting, so we encourage you to take advantage of this exciting opportunity. *There is a registration fee for the 2004 SOFT/TIAFT Meeting.* SOFT and TIAFT meetings have traditionally served as the field's lead venues for education in forensic toxicology. Furthermore, these meetings provide opportunities to discuss the challenges and successes of your colleagues in other states or countries.

We look forward to having you as our guest, **The 2004 Planning Committee**

## **Conference Location**

Washington, DC, is our Nation's Capital and was founded in 1791 as the world's first planned national capital. The site was selected by George Washington and designed by Pierre-Charles L'Enfant. The city's attractions include first-class theaters, music, parks, monuments, history, and the numerous museums of the Smithsonian Institution.

The conference venue is the JW Marriott Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue. This elegant facility is the flagship hotel for the entire Marriott Hotel chain. Situated in the heart of Washington, it is just blocks from the White House, FBI Headquarters, National Mall, Ford's Theatre, and other major tourist attractions. Further, the hotel's close proximity to the Metrorail system, allows for easy transportation around the city and surrounding areas.

To reserve your room at the JW Marriott Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue for the symposium and joint meeting, visit the JW Marriott website (<http://marriott.com/property/propertyPage/WASJW>) and "Reserve a Room". Enter your dates of arrival and departure. At the bottom of the screen type "fbifbia" in the "Group Code" box. Then click "Check Rates & Availability" and proceed through the rest of the reservation process.

## **Key Dates**

- May 3, 2004:** Deadline for receipt of abstracts, application to FBI Laboratory Symposium, and early registration for SOFT/TIAFT
- June 21, 2004:** Notification of acceptance or rejection of abstracts
- Aug. 6, 2004:** Deadline for discounted rate at conference hotel

## **MEETING REGISTRATION and ABSTRACT FORMS/SUBMISSION**

**will be accepted only on the SOFT and TIAFT  
websites**

[www.soft-tox.org](http://www.soft-tox.org)

*The usual inserts will not appear in **ToxTalk***

## FBI Laboratory Symposium on Forensic Toxicology

The FBI Laboratory Symposium on Forensic Toxicology will be limited to 900 participants. Participants will be reimbursed for three nights lodging at the symposium hotel and four days meals at the 2004 government rate. Reimbursements will occur within 45 days of the conclusion of the symposium.

To be considered for the FBI Laboratory Symposium on Forensic Toxicology, please complete the online application form found on the SOFT and TIAFT websites. Selection criteria will favor practitioners or students in the field of toxicology or affiliated with a forensic toxicology educational facility. Additionally, the number of candidates from a single institution will be limited.

The following workshops will be available to the selected applicants of the FBI Laboratory Symposium:

- Basic Principles of Forensic Toxicology – Parts 1 – 3
- Statistics and Method Validation
- The Toxicological Hazards of Clandestine Methamphetamine Synthesis
- New and Unique Technologies for Forensic Toxicology Laboratories
- Poisons and Poisoners: What a Toxicologist Needs to Know
- Advanced Mass Spectrometry Theory and Interpretation
- Overview of the Forensic Sciences
- Chemical Terrorism for the Forensic Toxicologist
- SOFT/AAFS Guidelines & Forensic Toxicology Laboratory Accreditation
- Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault
- Drug Recognition Experts and Forensic Toxicology

### 2004 Joint Meeting of SOFT & TIAFT

The Scientific Program for the *2004 Joint Meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists and The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists* is divided into six categories of forensic toxicology, as follows:

- Analytical Methods
- Alternative Matrices
- Behavioral Toxicology
- Clinical & Environmental Toxicology
- Forensic Urine Drug Testing & Adulteration
- Postmortem Toxicology

Platform presentations and posters will be assigned to one of the above topics and fall within that scientific program.

The format for the preparation of the abstracts must conform to the instructions on the online Abstract Submission Form. Abstracts that do not conform to the required format will be returned for reformatting. Due to limitations in the number of platform presentations and posters that can be given in the allotted time of the meeting, only one abstract per presenting author will be accepted. **If any submitted abstract is not accepted and, as a result, the author is unable to attend, the registration fee will be refunded in full.**

All accepted abstracts for the *2004 Joint Meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists and The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists* will be published in *Forensic Science Communications (FSC)*. FSC is a peer-reviewed journal published quarterly on the FBI Internet site. The journal is a means of communication between international forensic scientists. It may be viewed at [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov).

Abstracts must be submitted by May 3, 2004. Complete the online version of the abstract submission form found on the SOFT and TIAFT websites. After proofreading the abstract, press the submit button. You will immediately be notified by email that your electronic submission of the abstract was received. If you do not have internet access that allows you to submit an abstract online, please contact Meeting Chairman Marc LeBeau ([mlebeau@fbi.gov](mailto:mlebeau@fbi.gov)).

Payment for the 2004 Joint Meeting of SOFT and TIAFT must accompany online registration. Register on or before May 3, 2004 for a discounted registration and a free 2004 FBI/SOFT/TIAFT t-shirt. Online registrations will only be allowed until August 1, 2004. The presenting authors of all posters and presentations will be required to register for the meeting.

#### Registration Fees for the 2004 Joint Meeting of SOFT & TIAFT (\$US only):

	On or Before May 3, 2004	After May 3, 2004	On-Site
SOFT/TIAFT Members	\$495	\$595	\$695
Non-members	\$625	\$725	\$825
Student	\$175	\$275	\$375
Accompanying Persons	\$375	\$375	\$475

Registration fees will be refunded after the deduction of \$75 (US) administrative fee if cancellation is received in writing on or before July 1, 2004. No refund will be made after this date, but all conference documentation will be sent to the registrant. ☺



# DRUGS IN THE NEWS

## **RETURN OF ROBOTRIPPING** *Submitted by Vincent M.Papa, Ph.D., Forensic Toxicologist, Brooks City-Base, TX*

**USA Today** reports in a recent issue that "robotripping" is on the return nationwide among youth and is being reported in emergency rooms and schools across the country. They state that dozens of overdoses have been reported with at least five deaths in which abuse of over-the-counter medications, which contain dextromethorphan (DXM, Robitussin), are becoming popular as recreational drugs.

In the past decades, some youths ingested cough syrup to get a high from codeine and alcohol. Today, most cough medicines no longer contain alcohol and codeine is only available through prescription. However, a recent review of the PDR showed that over 120 cold medications contain dextromethorphan, including Vicks, Nyquil and Formula 44. There are no legal restrictions on the purchase of this drug nationwide; however, the DEA lists it as a drug of concern. Internet greatly aids spreading the news and fueling the trend.

Symptoms of abuse include sweating, elevated body temperature, dry mouth, and dry, itchy or flaky skin. High doses up to 360 mg can cause hallucinations, delusions and numbness of toes and fingers. A normal therapeutic dose of dextromethorphan is 15-30 mg. Mind-altering effects can occur with as low as 100 mg.

The recommended dose is 1/6-1/3 of an ounce of extra-strength cough syrup. At doses of 4 or more ounces of cough syrup, DXM results in effects similar to the use of PCP or the anesthetic ketamine including hallucinations, depressed breathing, elevated blood pressure and irregular heartbeat. Overdoses can cause seizures, coma or death.

Some youth ingest it as an alternative to methamphetamine or ecstasy. DXM is particularly of concern when taken with MDMA or MAOIs. These can cause onset of the "serotonin syndrome" involving muscle tremors, blood pressure abnormalities and changes in mental state. Some drug manufacturers (Wyeth) are exploring changing the packaging to make it more difficult for concealment in backpacks.

Cross-reactivity of current screening tests for DXM is low. The cross reactivity at the USAF drug testing laboratory is < 5 %. Forensic drug testing laboratories and experts must be prepared to differentiate therapeutic use from abuse and overdose situations.

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## **DESIGNER STEROIDS** *Submitted by Vincent M.Papa, Ph.D., Forensic Toxicologist, Brooks City-Base, Texas*

Recently PBS and other media have reviewed the emerging trend of designer steroids. Reports of athletes using tetrahydrogestrinone (THG) have surfaced. Until recently, there was no test for THG. However, during the last month the UCLA Olympic laboratory announced development of an analytical procedure to test for THG.

After analysis of the product, FDA has determined that it cannot be legally marketed in the US without FDA approval. It is represented as a dietary supplement, but it is a designer steroid. The US Anti-Doping Agency disclosed use of THG by athletes as an alternative to anabolic steroids. It is structurally related to two other synthetic anabolic steroids: gastrinone and trenbelone. Like other anabolic steroids, THG builds muscle mass and has long-term health consequences.

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## **BLUE? FISH** *Submitted by Daniel S. Isenschmid, Ph.D., DABFT, Wayne County MEO, Detroit, MI*

This was a recent e-Alert from the Health Sciences Institute's website: [www.hsibaltimore.com](http://www.hsibaltimore.com): "Lake Lewisville in Dallas, Texas, is quickly becoming Lake Placid."

Bryan Brooks, a Baylor University toxicologist, has discovered traces of fluoxetine in the tissue of blue gill fish in Lake Lewisville. Brooks speculates that the fluoxetine somehow made its way from the urine of Prozac users, through a water treatment plant, and into the lake. Meanwhile, there's no word yet on whether the fish are overcoming bouts of depression. Also no word on whether they're experiencing headaches, dizziness, insomnia, anxiety, drowsiness, sweating, nausea, weight loss, joint pain, or sexual dysfunction. (All are Prozac side effects listed as "frequent" by Eli Lilly).

I wonder if there are any complimentary and alternative streams in Texas where St. John's Wort flows freely? ☺

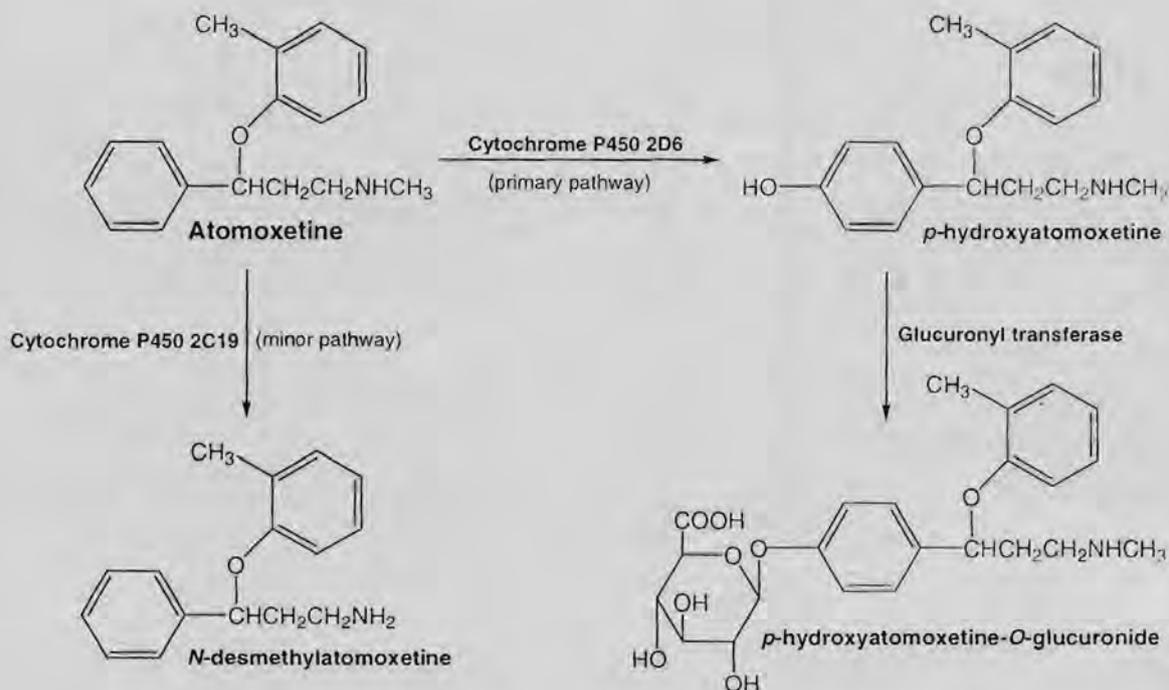
# NEW DRUGS: more on Atomoxetine (Strattera™)

Submitted by: Lauren L. Richards, B.S., Marshall University, Forensic Sciences Graduate Program, Huntington, WV and James C. Kraner, Ph.D., Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, South Charleston, WV.

**General:** Atomoxetine was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in December 2002 for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in both children and adults. Its mechanism of action results from the selective inhibition of norepinephrine reuptake. Atomoxetine was developed by Eli Lilly and Co. and is the first new drug for the treatment of ADHD in several decades. Capsules contain atomoxetine hydrochloride equivalent to 10, 18, 25, 40 or 60 mg of atomoxetine. It should be noted that atomoxetine has also been referred to as "tomoxetine" in the medical literature. The name was later changed in order to avoid confusion with tamoxifen and possible dispensing errors.

**Chemical:** Atomoxetine hydrochloride has a formula weight of 291.82; (C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO·HCl). It is a white powder which is soluble in water to 27.8 mg/mL and has a pKa of 10.1. IUPAC name: (-)-N-Methyl-3-phenyl-3-(*o*-tolylloxy)-propylamine hydrochloride.

**Pharmacokinetics:** Atomoxetine reaches peak plasma concentration in 1 to 2 hours and has a volume of distribution of 0.85 L/kg. Atomoxetine is 98% protein bound, primarily to albumin. Elimination is principally mediated by cytochrome P4502D6 oxidation to *p*-hydroxyatomoxetine followed by glucuronidation to *p*-hydroxyatomoxetine-*O*-glucuronide. Those with the P4502D6 poor metabolizer phenotype have a 10-fold higher AUC and 5-fold higher peak concentration compared to extensive metabolizers. The poor metabolizer phenotype occurs in 7 to 10% of Caucasians and at a lower frequency in Black and Asian populations. Oxidative demethylation is catalyzed by cytochrome P4502C19 and forms *N*-desmethylatomoxetine, which has little pharmacological activity. Less than 3% of the initial dose is excreted as parent compound with urinary excretion of the glucuronide accounting for 80% of the dose.



SEND YOUR "NEW DRUGS" MATERIAL TO DAN ANDERSON AT  
[danderson@coroner.co.la.ca.us](mailto:danderson@coroner.co.la.ca.us)



# CASE NOTES:

## A FATAL CASE OF ETHANOL AND HEROIN USE

Submitted by: John Jemionek, Ph.D., Aaron Jacobs, Ph.D., MSC, USA, David Lesser, Ph.D., MSC, USN, Tom Bosy, Ph.D., MSC, USN, Justin Holler, and Craig Mallak, M.D., MC, USN, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, 1413 Research Blvd., Rockville, MD 20850

**Case History:** An individual between the ages of 20-25 was found deceased. The individual appeared to be in good physical condition. There were no significant findings at autopsy. A general toxicological screen was conducted with an emphasis on CNS depressants.

**Postmortem Toxicology:** Postmortem vitreous humor and whole blood ethanol concentrations of 160 mg/dL and 140 mg/dL were measured, respectively. Typically, these ethanol concentrations would not result in such severe CNS depression as to be the cause of death (1). Screening tests were conducted on whole blood using two different methods. First, solid phase extracts of whole blood were examined by GC/NPD-GC/MS. By this method, only cotinine was detected. Second, an enzyme immunoassay (EIA) conducted on whole blood was negative for benzodiazepines, cocaine, amphetamines, barbiturates, THC, PCP and opiates. Close examination of the EIA data for opiates, however, suggested the presence of opiates in whole blood at a concentration just below the screening cutoff of 0.1 mg/L. It should be noted that the above two mentioned screening assays were not conducted on urine because it was limited in volume. Subsequently, GC/MS assays were conducted with the results shown below:

SPECIMEN	MORPHINE (mg/L)	CODEINE (mg/L)	CODEINE/MORPHINE
BLOOD	0.07	ND	-
URINE	1.8	0.09	0.05

The blood and urine concentrations for morphine and codeine are consistent with either the use of morphine or the consumption of poppy seed. Urine concentrations as high as 2.0 mg/L for morphine were measured after the ingestion of 15 grams of poppy seed (2). The blood and urine morphine concentrations were not suggestive of recent use of heroin.

After consulting with the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, we performed GC/MS assays for 6-acetylmorphine (6-AM) on whole blood, urine, and liver. The results are shown below:

SPECIMEN	6-AM (mg/L)
BLOOD	ND
LIVER	ND
URINE	0.3

6-AM was found in the urine at 0.3 mg/L, with no discernible trace found in either whole blood or the liver.

**Discussion:** The cause of death was reported as mixed opioid and alcohol intoxication resulting from the combined synergistic effects of ethanol and heroin. The above data show that an opiate screening assay with specificity for morphine, and little cross-reactivity with 6-AM, may lead to an incomplete toxicological picture. We raise this issue to heighten your awareness not only regarding this specific screening assay, but also screening assays in general, that negative screening results should be thoroughly scrutinized in the context of the case history provided. If not, important clues relating to the cause of death may be missed.

### References:

1. B. Levine. *Principles of Forensic Toxicology*. AARC Press, 170-184, 1999
2. H.N. ElSohly, and M.A. ElSohly. *Poppy Seed Ingestion and Opiates Urinalysis: A Closer Look*. *J. Analytical Toxicology*, 14:308-310, 1990

The opinions contained herein are not to be construed as official or as reflecting the views of the Department of Defense.





# Society of Forensic Toxicologists

## AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

### 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.

**Award:** An award of **\$1,000 plus a complimentary basic SOFT meeting registration fee** will be made to offset travel expenses to the 2004 SOFT Annual Meeting (Washington, DC, 8/28-9/03)

**Deadline:** **April 3, 2004**  
Successful applicants will be announced by June 1<sup>st</sup>.)

**Application Materials:** **SEE THE SOFT WEBSITE FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMS**  
**[www.soft-tox.org](http://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

### 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.

# AMERICAN BOARD OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS News

Submitted by Yale H. Caplan, Ph.D., DABFT, A.B.F.T. President

ABFT presented its first distinguished service awards at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual breakfast at the SOFT meeting in Portland. The new award recognizes three prior directors/officers for "promoting and exemplifying the practice of certification in forensic toxicology" and their long standing commitment to the field and the Board. These are:

**Kurt M. Dubowski**, Ph.D., DABFT, one of the original directors (1975-2003) and President, 1975-1978

**Joseph Monforte**, Ph.D., DABFT, Director, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer, 1986-2001

**Richard Shaw**, B.S., DABFT, Director and Secretary-Treasurer, 1982-2003

Fourteen forensic toxicology laboratories have successfully completed the ABFT accreditation process. The most recent laboratories accredited by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology are:

**Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, DC (L-011)**  
**Westchester County, New York, Division of Forensic Sciences (L-012)**  
**Cuyohoga County Coroner's Office, Cleveland, Ohio (L-013)**  
**Montana State, Forensic Sciences Division, Missoula, Montana (L-014)**

To date over 330 persons have applied to the Board for certification. Currently there are 134 Diplomates, 19 Specialists and 25 Emeritus. The following were certified in 2003 :

**Diplomates – Requalified:** Stuart Bogema, Leland McClure, Daniel Brown, Angela Springfield, Donna Bush, Edward Stern, Donald Hoffman, John Vasiliades, Phillip Kemp, Wagdy Wahba, Reng-lang Lin and Mark Young

**Diplomates – New:** Michael Corbett, David Roberts, Uttam Garg, Peter Stout and Brad Hall

**Emeritus:** Leo DalCortivo and Fredric Rieders

**Forensic Toxicology Specialists:** Michael Frontz and Carl Linden

Beginning January 1, 2004, the ABFT will require all Diplomates and Specialists to participate in and document continuing education in the field of forensic toxicology. The board will accept a wide variety of activities including traditional continuing education (meetings, workshops, etc.), professional/technical development (research, publication, reviewer, etc.), leadership (organizational officers, committees, etc.), teaching (university, workshop, etc.) and other activities (practice alternatives, awards, etc.). The program will utilize a point system. At the beginning of the year, all certificants will receive a notice with full details of the program. Activities will be collected during 2004 and reported in 2005 and annually thereafter. The 5-year requalification cycle will be maintained and continuing education credits will be collected over the 5 year period. New certificates will continue to be issued every 5 years.

The nominating committee for 2004 will be comprised of Secretary Dan Isenschmid, chair, with members Michael Peat, Joseph Manno, Ronald Backer, Tim Rohrig and Michael Smith.

Be sure to check the ABFT web site at [www.abft.org](http://www.abft.org) for a list of current certificants, materials related to all certification and accreditation programs, board contacts and current news. ☺

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE SOFT WEBSITE**

**[www.soft-tox.org](http://www.soft-tox.org)**

for the latest information regarding SOFT activities, including the 2004 FBI/SOFT/TIAFT meeting!  
Meeting registration and abstracts will be accepted only through the website!

*Unauthorized access or printing is protected by copyright laws.* ☹

# ELMER GORDON OPEN FORUM

## AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL DIALOGUE

Stop the presses! **CARL SELAVKA** has been in a very severe auto accident. For details, access [www.drselavka.com](http://www.drselavka.com), a website established to track Carl's progress. Cards may be sent to: Carl Selavka, 9 Hollywood Dr., Charlton, MA 01507 ☎

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

*Positions available are listed for the consideration of SOFT members. There is no fee for this service. The information will be repeated in the next issue only if the person who submitted it confirms the information. If you have a job position available, e-mail ToxTalk Editor Monforte at [DrMonforte@aol.com](mailto:DrMonforte@aol.com).*

**TOXICOLOGIST:** BS + minimum 6 mo. training in tox under qualified director. ASCP, AMT or CLS accreditation for toxicology/medical technologists, training and experience as a Certifying Scientist and additional certifications is preferred. Previous experience in a reference/clinical high through-put toxicology lab is highly desirable. Legacy Health System, full time Wed-Sat, night shift to work in our Portland, OR, Metro Lab., a full service, DHHS/SAMHSA and CAP certified, 24/7 tox lab. Contact Véronique Lhote [vlhote@lhs.org](mailto:vlhote@lhs.org) or 866-888-4428x5 (toll-free). ☎

## PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

### SOFT MEETINGS:



**August 28 - September 3, 2004**  
**Washington, D.C.**

*Details will be included with the March issue of **ToxTalk** and are posted on the SOFT website.*

**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 Robert Borkenstein Course on Alcohol and Highway Safety: Testing, Research and Litigation:** May 9-14, Indiana University. For details contact the Center for Studies of Law in Action, Indiana University, at [www.indiana.edu/~lawactn](http://www.indiana.edu/~lawactn) or Darlene Lindsay at [dlindsay@indiana.edu](mailto:dlindsay@indiana.edu).

**American Academy of Forensic Sciences:** February 16-21, Dallas, TX.

**California Association of Toxicologists: Exotic Drugs and Toxins Workshop and Semi-Quarterly Meeting:** March 12-13, Oakland, CA. For information, contact Host Kenton Wong at [kwong@co.sanmateo.ca.us](mailto:kwong@co.sanmateo.ca.us) ☎

All members and others are encouraged to contribute to **ToxTalk**. Please submit your contribution to: Joseph R. Monforte, Ph.D., DABFT, ToxTalk Editor, at [DrMonforte@aol.com](mailto:DrMonforte@aol.com)





# CALL FOR PAPERS

## SOFT/JAT SPECIAL ISSUE

The 24th annual special issue of the *Journal of Analytical Toxicology* will be published in collaboration with the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT). The guest editor for this issue is Peter Stout.

*Original manuscripts to be considered for publication should be directed to*

**Peter Stout**

Aegis Sciences Corporation

345 Hill Avenue • Nashville, Tennessee 37210

Telephone: (615) 255-2400 ext. 615 • Fax: (615) 255-3030

E-mail: [pstout@aegislabs.com](mailto:pstout@aegislabs.com)

**Deadlines for submission:**  
**February 9, 2004, for Abstracts**  
**February 23, 2004, for Completed papers**

Complimentary copies of this issue will be distributed during the 2004 SOFT meeting (August 28 – September 3, Washington, D.C.).

For prompt consideration, submissions should follow *Journal* format. For a copy of the *Journal's* Guide for Authors, contact the editorial office at (847) 647-2900 ext. 1302 or see our webpage at [www.jatox.com](http://www.jatox.com).