



# ToxTalk

TM

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

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## ToxTalk Editor

Joseph R. Monforte, Ph.D., DABFT  
Ameritox Laboratories  
9930 W. Highway 80  
Midland, TX 79706  
email: DrMonforte@aol.com

Happy New Year to you and your family

from the SOFT Officers and Directors  
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## S.O.F.T. Administrative Office

P.O. Box 5543  
Mesa, AZ 85211-5543  
Phone/fax: 480-839-9106

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**SOFT 2005 Annual Meeting  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE  
(MUSIC CITY, USA)**

**October 17-21, 2005**

**Host: Louis Kuykendall  
SITE: Renaissance Nashville Hotel**

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.

## Website:

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

## Email:

[info@soft-tox.org](mailto:info@soft-tox.org)

**DEADLINES: Feb. 1, June 1, Sept. 1, and Nov. 1**

**NEXT DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2005**



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Daniel Isenschmid, Ph.D., DABFT

As I write this final President's message, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the membership of SOFT for giving me the honor to have served as an Officer and Director of the organization since 1996. I would particularly like to thank all of the Board members and Committee Chairpeople, past and present, for their commitment to SOFT and all of their help. In particular, I would like to thank Past Presidents Laurel Farrell and Amanda Jenkins as well as current Officers, Graham Jones, Diana Wilkins and Tim Rohrig for their assistance, advice and friendship.

One of the problems with thanking anyone by name is you run into the inevitable problem of not including everyone that you want to include. However, I would like to extend thanks to five people who helped shape my interest and appreciation for forensic toxicology. First, I would like to thank Jesse Bidanset. If he had not taught an elective course that introduced me to forensic toxicology, I probably would never have been writing this. I will always remember his take-home exam that not only asked for essays on "reverse tolerance" and "extraction flow charts" but also had us choose a phenothiazine and indicate the "possible" metabolites. For some reason, I chose chlorpromazine. (I think I came up with 168 possible metabolites). After this introduction to forensic toxicology I knew I wanted to pursue my graduate education in a setting that would also allow me to gain experience in a post mortem toxicology laboratory. Fortunately, under the direction of Yale Caplan, my mentor and friend, I had that opportunity – certainly one I thank him for. I was also very lucky to have had the opportunity to attend graduate school with great classmates – Donna Bush, Anthony Costantino and Bruce Goldberger. Trust me, it's easier to study for comprehensive examinations with friends.

In thinking about my final comments to you as President of SOFT, I realized that I felt it was important for me to convey that I love and respect the field of forensic toxicology. I enjoy the underpinning analytical aspects, but especially recognize the interpretive issues that invariably accompany a result. However, as I indicated during the annual business meeting, I have some concerns about some of the recent directions our field is going in.

There have always been new "challenges or issues" in forensic toxicology: postmortem redistribution, drug stability, amphetamine artifacts from ephedrine, poppy seed, hemp and coca-tea issues, and today pharmacogenomic issues. However, these are all either analytical or interpretive issues that involved us as forensic toxicologists. One of our current problems, however, is not a laboratory problem – but laboratories got stuck with it. That problem is not determining what drugs are in a urine specimen, but determining whether it is a urine specimen at all. Frankly, determining whether something is urine is not forensic toxicology. It's not that I don't think laboratories aren't capable of answering that question. However, they should not have to. Are we focused too much on administrative or technical minutia, which detract from our fundamental and principal role as interpretive scientists, explaining the why after determining the what? It is my hope that, down the road, this issue will be addressed, whether through the use of alternative matrices or through other means such as prohibiting the sale of adulterants, to ensure that laboratories receive a valid specimen so we can return to our primary purpose.

Thanks again to everyone for their support! This is a great organization, and I am proud to be a part of it. ☺

## 2005 SOFT/JAT Special Issue

Dr. Jeri Roper-Miller  
2005 Special Issue Editor

See flyer with this issue of  
**ToxTalk**

## TOXTALK CONTACTS:

**EDITOR** - Dr. Joseph R. Monforte at  
DrMonforte@aol.com

**"New Drugs"** - Daniel Anderson at  
Danderson@lacoroner.org

**"Drugs in the News"** - Dr. Andrew Mason at  
form6tox@aol.com

**"Case Reports"** - Dr. Matthew Barnhill at  
mbarnhilljr@worldnet.att.net

# A.B.F.T. NEWS

Submitted by Yale H. Caplan, ABFT President

The American Board of Forensic Toxicology has recently adopted this mission statement: *Forensic toxicology encompasses the measurement of alcohol, drugs and other toxic substances in biological specimens and interpretation of such results in a medico-legal context. The purpose of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology is to establish and enhance voluntary standards for the practice of forensic toxicology and for the examination and recognition of scientists and laboratories providing forensic toxicology services.*

**CERTIFICATION PROGRAM** - New Diplomates in 2004 are: George Behonick, Diana Garside, Loralie Langman, Jeri Roper Miller, Ruth W. Winecker and John Wyman. Fourteen diplomates were requalified in 2004: William C. Bress, Bruce A. Goldberger, William D. Hemphill, George F. Jackson, Graham R. Jones, Raymond C. Kelly, Andrew P. Mason, Robert C. Meatherall, James E. Meeker, Lance C. Presley, Timothy P. Rohrig, Thomas G. Rosano, James A. Ruth and Karl G. Vereby. New Forensic Toxicology Specialists in 2004 are: Christopher Cording, Deborah Denson and Xiang Zhang. Currently there are 138 Diplomates, 21 Specialists and 24 Emeritus Certificants.

**LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM** - 16 laboratories have successfully completed the ABFT Laboratory Accreditation Program. The most recent laboratory in 2004 is Harris County Medical Examiners Toxicology Laboratory, Houston, TX, Ashraf Mozayani, Ph.D., DABFT, Director. The laboratory accreditation program requires re-accreditation every two years. The forensic toxicology laboratories completing re-accreditation in 2004 are Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office, New York, Suffolk County OCME, New York, Erie County OCME, New York, and OCME, Alberta, Canada. Several additional laboratory applications are under consideration, and we expect to reach 20 laboratories accredited in 2005.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM** - CE time is here. The annual submission form and instructions will arrive by mail during the first week in January and will also be available on the ABFT website at [www.abft.org](http://www.abft.org). The form is due March 1, 2005.

**ABFT BREAKFAST** - The 12<sup>th</sup> annual breakfast was held in conjunction with the SOFT/TIAFT/FBI meeting in Washington, DC. Over 60 Certificants attended.

**ABFT NOMINATING COMMITTEE** - Secretary Isenschmid is chair of the committee. Two new Diplomates appointed this year are Barry Levine and Richard Shaw. Additional members continuing are Michael Peat, Joseph Manno, and Michael Smith. ☺

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**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE SOFT WEB SITE [www.soft-tox.org](http://www.soft-tox.org)**

for the latest information regarding SOFT activities. *Unauthorized access or printing is protected by copyright laws.*

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## AAFS TOXICOLOGY SECTION NEWS

### Updated AAFS Drug Mass Spectral Library

Submitted by Graham R. Jones, Ph.D., DABFT, Chair, AAFS Mass Spectral Database Committee,  
[graham.jones@gov.ab.ca](mailto:graham.jones@gov.ab.ca)

Many of you will be pleased to know that a long-overdue update to the AAFS Mass Spectra Database has been uploaded to the web. The library now has about 2260 entries, an increase of about 400 over the previous version. New drugs include 5-methoxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine, 5-methoxy-N,N-dipropyltryptamine, atomoxetine, betaxolol, bisoprolol, colchicine, efavirenz, fexofenadine, fluconazole, flumazenil, modafinil, propofol and tioconazole. As before, the update is available as a standalone "update" library, and as the cumulative main AAFSDRUG library. The library is still housed at my account at the University of Alberta. However, we hope to provide a link from the SOFT web site in the near future.

The address of the web site is <http://www.ualberta.ca/~gjones/mslib.htm>

As before, one of the main difficulties in building a timely update to the library is obtaining standards of new drugs - especially of unusual or controlled drugs. If anyone can provide methanolic solutions of relatively new or unusual drugs (preferable), or electronic files of full scan MS data (Agilent/HP format), that would greatly facilitate providing timely updates. If you would like advice on how to save and transfer MS data files or spectra, please contact me.

I am extremely grateful for the assistance of the toxicology staff of the RCMP Forensic Laboratory in Winnipeg, Bob Meatherall in Winnipeg and Dan Anderson in Los Angeles, for providing standards for the August 2004 update. ☺



# THREE CHEERS FOR SOFT VENDORS!

Submitted by Lisa O'Dell, SOFT Vendor Liaison

Extraordinary gratitude and considerable recognition must be given to the exhibitors, sponsors and advertisers for their financial assistance of the Joint Meeting of SOFT and TIAFT in Washington, DC. Together, they accounted for unparalleled contributions in financial and scientific support to this year's spectacular meeting. Their monetary contributions include leasing booths; sponsoring meals, breaks, and evening events; and advertising in the meeting program. In addition, many companies contribute quality science to the meeting by presenting papers, posters, and workshops. With their continued and generous assistance, the SOFT Annual Meeting firmly remains the most prestigious toxicology meeting in the world.

Please be sure to explore the following company hyperlinks on the SOFT website (soft-tox.org, 2004 Annual Meeting Exhibitors, Sponsors, and Advertisers) and when doing so, take a moment from your day to acknowledge these companies in some personal way.

Accu-Chem Laboratories	Draeger Safety Diagnostics	Quality Assurance Service
Aegis Sciences Corporation	Elsevier	Quality Forensics / FITZCO
Agilent Technologies	EnviteC-Wismar GmbH	Randox Laboratories
Alternative Biomedical Services	Excalibur Lab Specialists / DCI	Reichert, Inc.
American Bio Medica	Hamilton Company	Restek Corporation
American Solutions for Business	Humana Press	Roche Diagnostics Corporation
Applied Biotech	Immunoanalysis Corp.	Rudolph Research Analytical
Axiom Diagnostics	International Diagnostic Systems	Rudolph Research Analytical
Biochemical Diagnostics	Journal of Analytical Toxicology	Scientia International
Bio-Rad Laboratories	Lampire Biological Laboratories	Sciteck, Inc.
Branan Medical	Lawyers & Judges Publishing	Shamrock Glass Company
Campbell Science	Lin-Zhi International	Shimadzu Scientific Instruments
Capitol Vial	Lipomed	SPEware
Cerilliant Corporation	Lynn Peavey Company	Syntron Bioresearch
ChemWare	Microgenics Corporation	Taylor & Francis Books
Clinical Controls International	MicroLiter Analytical Supplies	Teledyne Tekmar
CMI, Inc.	National Medical Services	Thermo Electron
Common Cents Systems	Neogen Corporation	Toxicological Sciences
Cozart Bioscience	OraSure Technologies	United Chemical Technologies
Dade Behring	PerkinElmer Life & Analytical	UTAK Labs
Data Unlimited International	Sciences	Varian, Inc.
domnick hunter	Pharmaceutical Press	Venture Labs
	Porter Lee Corporation	VertiQ Software
		Waters Corporation

Companies interested in participating in the SOFT 2005 Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN should contact Lisa O'Dell at [NomadLee9@aol.com](mailto:NomadLee9@aol.com) for details. ☺

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## NEW TOXTALK EDITOR CONTACT INFORMATION - Reminder

Dr. Joseph R. Monforte, SOFT ToxTalk Editor, has left Arizona to join the staff at Ameritox Laboratories. It is recommended that materials for ToxTalk be sent via e-mail. If you must send items by mail, send to:

**Joseph R. Monforte, Ph.D., DABFT, Laboratory Co-Director**  
**Ameritox Laboratories, LLC, 9930 W. Highway 80, Midland, TX 79706**  
Phone: 915-561-5091 Fax: 915-561-8619  
email: [DrMonforte@aol.com](mailto:DrMonforte@aol.com)

Please continue to send material for ToxTalk directly to the appropriate Editorial Staff person.



**SOFT 2005 Annual Meeting**  
**MUSIC CITY, USA**  
**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**  
**October 17-21, 2005**

**HOST: Louis Kuykendall    SITE: Renaissance Nashville Hotel**

The 2005 SOFT conference will be held in the Renaissance Nashville Hotel, situated downtown in the very center of Nashville's dual-personality as "The Athens of the South" and "Music City, USA". The Renaissance Nashville Hotel (615.255.8400 or 800-HOTELS-1) will accept reservations as of November 10, 2004. For the \$149 single/double convention rate use meeting code "SOFT Conference". The meeting will consist of workshops on Monday and Tuesday (details below) with general sessions and posters Wednesday through Friday. An exciting social program will soon be finalized.

## PRELIMINARY WORKSHOP PROGRAM

**#1 Forensic Toxicology of Pesticides** (1/2 day) Chair: Maria Martinez

This workshop will be a discussion of pesticides in forensic toxicology, including a general overview of pesticides, analytical methods, and interpretation of analytical toxicology findings. Pesticides are used extensively in agriculture, commercial and industrial applications, and some of them are resistant to degradation. As a consequence they are ubiquitous in our environment. Incidence of poisoning with these chemicals will be also considered. A series of clinical and forensic cases involving pesticide poisoning will be presented. Finally, diagnosis and treatment of pesticide poisonings will be discussed.

**#2 Interpretive Pharmacogenomics and Proteomics for Forensic Toxicology** (1/2 day) Chair: Steve Wong

The workshop is an update of a previous workshop. In addition to a brief introduction to molecular biology, the workshop will include basic principles of pharmacogenomics and the emerging proteomics. A survey of various methodologies will be included. The pharmacogenomics of drug metabolizing enzyme genes will be reviewed, with particular reference to those related to drugs often identified in death certification. The session might include pre-collection of attendees' whole blood with informed consent, followed by genotyping. The de-identified results will be included in the presentation in order to demonstrate mutation prevalency in a selected population – the attendees. The workshop will conclude with selected case review with pharmacogenomics.

**#3 Blood Alcohol Concentration Extrapolation Workshop** (1/2 day) Chair: Jennifer F. Limoges

This half-day workshop will cover all aspects of BAC extrapolation. The pharmacokinetics of ethanol will be reviewed in depth, including calculations for estimating BAC under a variety of circumstances. Factors that may effect BAC estimations will be covered, along with an update of the legal issues surrounding this type of testimony. The workshop will conclude with an open discussion on some challenging case scenarios. Extensive reference materials will be provided.

**#4 Receptor Site Theory and Drug Interactions** (1/2 day) Chair: Robert Sears

The SOFT Continuing Education Committee presents a Workshop on Receptor Site Theory and Drug Interactions. This workshop is designed for the toxicologist working in a post-mortem or human performance setting. The participant will have a better understanding of various receptor sites in the body, physiological effects mediated by these receptors, and which drugs act as agonist or antagonist at these sites. As a result the toxicologist will better be able to assist coroners, medical examiners, and prosecutors with interpretation of the toxicology results especially as these results relate to multiple drug interactions and prediction of adverse side effects. The workshop will include a review of information related to the characterization of select receptor sites, specific information as to the location and the physiological effects mediated by the receptor, information on specific drugs or poisons known to act at the receptor, and resultant physiological changes due to drug-receptor interactions.

**FOR INFORMATION ON MANY NASHVILLE  
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#### **#5 Oral Fluids – Research and Application (1/2 day)**

Chair: Mike Wagner

The focus of this workshop will cover such topics as basic physiology, drug transport mechanisms, time course profiles, interpretation issues (pharmacodynamic and behavioral observations), matrix correlations (oral fluid, blood, urine, and site contamination), analytical issues (stability, sample preparation, and instrumental analysis), and field evaluation studies.

#### **#6 Forensic Toxicology Update (full day)**

Chair: John Cody

This workshop will describe the analysis of drugs and alcohol from the perspective of post-mortem, DUID and workplace drug testing. The format will include a quick review followed by pertinent updates describing new information and techniques in the area. Topics covered will include each of the major drug classes and ethanol. Presentations will include a brief review of the pharmacology of the drug (class) followed by description of the analysis of samples and interpretation of results. Specific examples of particular interest to the forensic toxicology community will be presented by experienced practitioners providing insights borne of years of experience in the field. In addition, discussion of emerging procedures and technologies will provide a glimpse of the future of forensic toxicology.

#### **#7 From "Sample to Signal; Practical LC/MS<sup>n</sup>": An introduction to fundamental LC/MS/MS technologies and practical practices in Forensic Toxicology.** Chair: H. Chip Hs

This workshop provides an understanding of the key components of LC/MS<sup>n</sup> instrumentation, operation, advantageous features, and the information derived from analysis. The conversion of LC/UV methods to LC/MS<sup>n</sup> will be covered. Performance characteristics of mass analyzers and LC/MS<sup>n</sup> interfaces are described. Forensic applications of LC/MS<sup>n</sup> will be highlighted.

#### **#8 The Postmortem "Blood Drug Screen": Analytical and Managerial Approaches (full day)** Chair: Alphonse Poklis

In the modern postmortem toxicology laboratory, the "Blood Drug Screen" is the most important analytical scheme to identify drugs that may be the cause of death or significantly influence the circumstances surrounding a death. This workshop will present in detail the analytical procedures in seven major postmortem toxicology laboratories. Formal lectures will address specific immunoassay tests and chromatographic methods including sample preparation, chromatographic conditions, calibrations and quality control procedures. At the completion of these presentations a round-table discussion will address the managerial rationale of how each laboratory applies its particular analytical scheme in meeting the service objective of the laboratory. The round-table discussion will focus on management issues

such as: result reporting criteria, personnel and laboratory resources, turn-around time and other issues.

#### **#9 Post Mortem Interpretation (full day)**

Chair Ann Marie Gordon & Rebecca Jufer

The SOFT Continuing Education presents a Workshop on Post Mortem Interpretation. The workshop is designed for the toxicologist working in a post-mortem setting, and the participant will better be able to assist coroners and medical examiners with interpretation of the toxicology results. The workshop will include a review of pharmacokinetics, including how to calculate total body burden and what to do with the numbers. A discussion of post-mortem redistribution and other post-mortem changes will include an emphasis on newer antidepressants and opioids as well as how to compare the numbers in Baselt and Winek with data produced by your own lab. A review of drug-drug interactions will emphasize these phenomena in drug combination deaths. Also included will be a discussion of alternative tissues, which tissues are likely to yield the best information for different kinds of investigations and how to interpret the data obtained from these tissues.

#### **#10 Case Studies in DUID: Numbers, Signs, Symptoms and Beyond (full day – 2 full-day sessions)** Chair: Michelle Spirk & Sarah Kerrigan

Driving under the influence of drugs (DUID) is of growing concern among the scientific, legal, law enforcement and public health communities. Although statutory schemes vary from state to state, toxicologists are often called upon to provide interpretive testimony in DUID cases. Pharmacology and behavioral toxicology studies provide the foundation for this, and these areas have been the focus of many earlier workshops and seminars on DUID.

The purpose of this workshop is to highlight common interpretive issues using actual case studies. The presenters will *apply* their knowledge of drug pharmacology and behavioral toxicology in a case-oriented fashion. Driving behavior, observed effects and toxicology results will be presented for commonly encountered drugs including cannabinoids, methamphetamine, cocaine, opioids and central nervous system depressants. The workshop is intended to bridge the gap between the scientific literature and actual DUID casework. Toxicologists must be able to apply the scientific knowledge that exists to uncontrolled and non-scientific surroundings encountered in casework (urban and rural roadways) where environmental factors, injuries, drug combinations and other challenges are commonplace. Presenters will outline how to implement best practices and discuss interpretive limitations relating to matrix, delay in specimen collection, qualitative versus quantitative data as well as field observations and evaluations. Interpretive strategies and approaches will be discussed in addition to laboratory policies and guidelines that facilitate scientific testimony in a fair, objective and scientifically justified manner. ♀

**MEETING DEADLINES WILL BE POSTED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOXTALK AND ON THE SOFT WEB SITE**



## CALL FOR CASE NOTES:



*Editorial Staff: Matthew "Barney" Barnhill, Ph.D.  
mbarnhilljr@worldnet.att.net*

If you have previously contributed a case note, thank you again. If not, this is your golden opportunity. In either event, I am soliciting notes on any cases you might have encountered involving methadone, either alone or (especially) in combination with other drugs of any description. These seem to be popping up with increasing frequency, and I hope to concentrate on this topic in the next issue of ToxTalk. Dosing and timeline information will be particularly interesting if you can provide it. The usual guidelines apply: around half a page to a page, preferably in Microsoft Word, obviously more for more cases; if you are too busy to write a formal report send me the information and I will write it for you. Submit your material to [mbarnhilljr@att.net](mailto:mbarnhilljr@att.net). Thank you very much for your time and cooperation. I look forward to hearing from you.

Although **ToxTalk** may feature cases dealing with specific subject matters, other case notes are always encouraged and welcome. Material from non-members is also considered. Material should be submitted in Microsoft Word to me at [mbarnhilljr@worldnet.att.net](mailto:mbarnhilljr@worldnet.att.net)

Other items of interest to SOFT members are also welcome and should be submitted to the appropriate Editorial Board member or Joseph R. Monforte, Ph.D., DABFT, **ToxTalk** Editor, at [DrMonforte@aol.com](mailto:DrMonforte@aol.com)

*NOTE: The case note that was to appear in this issue was, literally, deleted moments before printing when it was discovered that the article has been previously published. IF you submit any scientific paper to **ToxTalk** for publication consideration, you must note if it has been submitted for publication elsewhere.*

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

## NEXT DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>



## DRUGS IN THE NEWS

*ToxTalk editorial staff:  
Andrew P. Mason, Ph.D., DABFT, DABCC-T*



**Send your media items of interest to Dr. Mason at [fornt6tox@aol.com](mailto:fornt6tox@aol.com)**

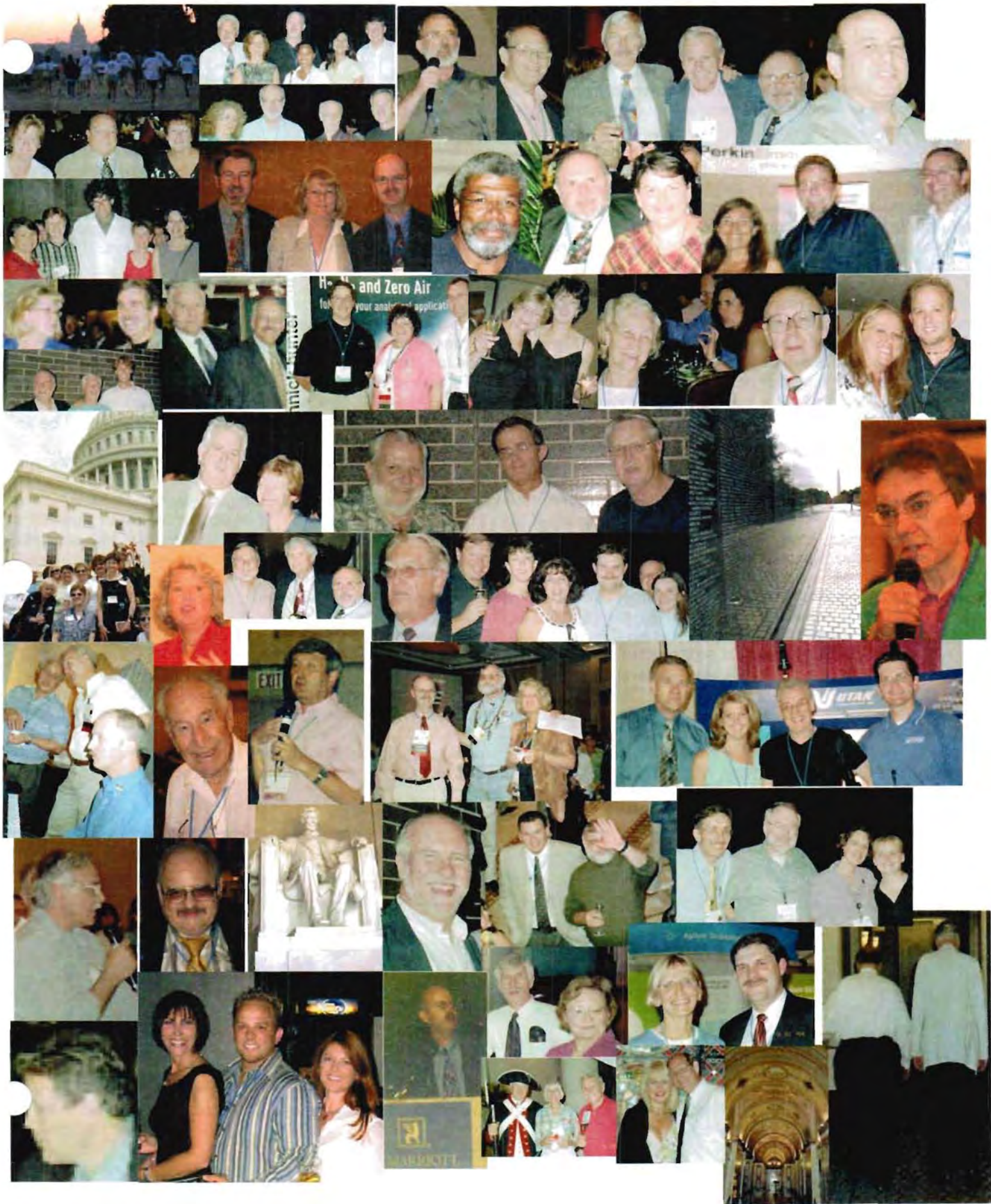
I have not received any recent "Drugs in the News" submissions. Please submit items that you feel may be of interest to the membership directly to me at [fornt6tox@aol.com](mailto:fornt6tox@aol.com). Thank you.

I recently "googled" the web for the term "Drugs in the News" and found the following site: [www.norchemlab.com](http://www.norchemlab.com) (NorCem Drug Testing, Flagstaff AZ). Click on the tab for "Drug Reference Library", and there are several choices, including "Drug Testing Information" and "Drugs in the News." The "Drug Testing Information" has some useful information on pharmaceuticals that result in false-positive results in screening and confirmation tests. The "Drugs in the News" area is divided into six sub areas, including: 1) Drug Testing - Drug Information, Urinalysis; 2) Club Drugs - Ecstasy, GHB, Ketamine; 3) Stimulants - Amphetamines, Methamphetamines, Cocaine; 4) Hallucinogens - Cannabinoids, LSD, Mescaline, Phencyclidine, Psilocybin; 5) Depressants/Sedatives/Hypnotics - Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Methaqualone; and 6) Narcotics/Analgesics/Opioids - Meperidine, Methadone, Opiates, Propoxyphene. These areas contain links to news articles that generally are related to their indicated subject material. There is some unrelated stuff also, but that is not surprising.

Another useful site for news on pharmaceuticals is [www.pharmacist.com](http://www.pharmacist.com). Click on the "News" tab. This site contains information on FDA drug approvals, new approved uses, medical devices, etc.

Does anyone have a list (or lists) of other sites that they believe that others should know about? Send me your links and I'll compile a list for distribution. Thanks. ☺





# UNIVERSITY FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY PROGRAMS

Submitted by Patricia Mohn-Monforte, SOFT Publisher

A request for information on academic forensic toxicology appeared in the last issue of ToxTalk. I also contacted many members whose e-mail address ends in .edu requesting input. Alternate pathways were also solicited. Many thanks to those who responded.

**The George Washington University**, through The Department of Forensic Sciences, offers 2 graduate degree programs - the MSFS (thesis) and MFS (non-thesis) in which students may pursue a forensic toxicology track. The forensic toxicology track includes courses in forensic toxicology, analytical toxicology, medicinal chemistry and law. Additional courses may include biochemistry and physiology. Extended internships in forensic toxicology laboratories and research opportunities are available. Interested students should contact Dr. Nicholas T. Lappas at ntl@gwu.edu for further information. (Nicholas Lappas)

**Reddy's Forensic Page.** <http://www.forensicpage.com/new05.htm>

From Clinton Frazee: Although a children's hospital, at the Children's Mercy Hospital we perform comprehensive forensic toxicology testing for the Kansas City area police departments and medical examiners. My training and education in the field of toxicology did not come from Kansas City, however. I was formerly employed by the Illinois State Police and worked in toxicology with the ISP for six years. The **Illinois State Police** provides an 18-month forensic toxicology training program to new hires. Their training program includes lectures and exams on both theory and application. In addition, they contract with the University of Illinois for further training opportunities (e.g. pharmacology courses). A new trainee must maintain an average of 80 % or higher to pass the training program and be retained as an employee. Sue Vondrak (vondras@isp.state.il.us) would be an excellent contact at the Illinois State Police if you have further questions about their training program.

**University of Illinois at Chicago** has a forensic science program and forensic tox is a big part of it. The web address is <http://www.uic.edu/pharmacy/depts/forensicsci/>. (Adam Negrusz)

The **University of Central Oklahoma** (Edmond, OK) offers both a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science and a Master of Science in Forensic Sciences degree program. B.S. in Forensic Sciences at UCO is designed to provide students a strong foundation in basic sciences (chemistry, biology, physics, math) with emphasis in chemical analysis and specialty courses in forensic sciences. Graduates will be prepared to work in various crime labs, medical examiner labs, and private-service labs as well as continue their education in graduate studies. M.S. in Forensic Sciences program is designed to provide students advanced training in Forensic Nursing, Technical Investigations and Criminalistics and prepare them for employment in various law enforcement agencies, criminal investigation laboratories, medical examiner offices, related labs, private service labs, etc. Dr. David von Minden is the Program Director for the BSFS program (dvonminden@ucok.edu, 405-974-5467) and Dr. Robert Bost (rbost@ucok.edu, 405-974-5519) is the Program Director for the MSFS program. Our MSFS web site is: <http://www.chemistry.ucok.edu/Masters/Masters2.htm>.

**University of Utah and CHT.** The University (<http://www.pharmacy.utah.edu>) of Utah and CHT have a graduate program. (<http://www.pharmacy.utah.edu/cht/>) It is in toxicology and not directly in forensic tox, but is flexible. We also can have post-docs and visiting scientists. (Dennis Crouch)

If you have information on current university toxicology programs or similar opportunities for students, please submit to Pat Monforte, 5304 Widener Strip, Midland, TX 79707. We hope to include more educational programs in future issues and plan to post the information on the SOFT web site. ☺

## YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE FUTURE OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY AND SOFT



Awards Committee Chair, Dr. Phil Kemp, presents certificates to some of this year's awardees as President Isenschmid offers his congratulations.



>> please copy and post <<

# 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.

## 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 2005 SOFT Annual Meeting (Nashville, TN, Oct. 16-21, 2005)

**Deadline:** **April 3, 2005**  
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 Awards Committee Chairman  
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
901 N. Stonewall, Oklahoma City, OK 73117

# ELMER GORDON OPEN FORUM AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL DIALOGUE



Condolences to SOFT Administrative Assistant **Bonnie Fulmer**, whose parents were involved in a tragic accident which claimed her father's life.

Most of the **photographs** in this issue were taken by Pat Monforte. Sorry if they did not all print so well – but I wanted to try. Thanks Dick Pinder, John Kucmanic and Veronique Dumestre-Toulet for also submitting photos from the 2004 meeting.

We had the privilege of meeting two of **Elmer Gordon's** daughters at the 2004 meeting (see photo to left). ☹

## Invitation from the Society of Toxicologic Pathology

The Society of Toxicologic Pathology (STP) is a non-profit association of pathologists and other scientists whose principal aim is the advancement of pathology as it pertains to changes elicited by pharmacological, chemical and environmental agents, and factors that modify these responses.

**The Society's Vision:** Be an international leader for improvement of human and animal health using an interdisciplinary scientific approach based in pathology and toxicology. This vision will be

accomplished through 4 primary goals: recruitment, advocacy, globalization and collaboration. STP Forum is a communication tool for discussion of toxicologic pathology and scientifically-related topics. The STP Forum invites your participation – membership is not required. To engage in a scientific discussion of issues in toxicology or toxicologic pathology with other experts, go to [stp@toxpath.org](mailto:stp@toxpath.org). Note: SOFT has no further information regarding STP and offers this information only as a courtesy to its members. ☹

## PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

- SOFT MEETINGS:**
- 2005 Nashville, TN – Louis Kuykendall October 17 – 21, 2005  
Renaissance Nashville Hotel**
  - 2006 Austin, TX – Rod McCutcheon**
  - 2007 Chapel Hill, NC – Ruth Winecker**
  - 2008 Phoenix, AZ – Vickie Watts**
  - 2009 Oklahoma City, OK – Phil Kemp**

**Nov 4-6, 2004: SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF TOXICOLOGISTS**, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Spring 2005 - Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas

**December 5-10: R. F. Borkenstein course** "Alcohol and Highway Safety: Testing, Research and Litigation." Indiana University. Contact Darlena Lindsay [dlindsay@indiana.edu](mailto:dlindsay@indiana.edu)

**February 21-26, 2005: American Academy of Forensic Sciences**, New Orleans, LA

**March 11-12: California Association of Toxicologists**, Workshop tentatively "Medical Conditions Affecting DUI," Sacramento, CA. Tentative future meetings -Summer - Orange County, CA; Winter - "Alternative Matrix" workshop - Las Vegas, NV

**August 21-26, 2005: 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences**, Hong Kong, China. Call for papers. Submission Form and Details at [www.iafs2005.com](http://www.iafs2005.com). For further enquiries, please contact **Conference Secretariat** Tel: (852) 2559 9973, Fax: (852) 2547 9528, email: [info@iafs2005.com](mailto:info@iafs2005.com)