

# TOXTALK



VOLUME 43 • ISSUE 3

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



With the heat of summer upon us it is hard to believe that October will be here very soon, and with it our annual meeting in San Antonio. I hope everyone is making plans to attend. On

that note, we are still in need of volunteers for the meeting. Please contact Kayla Ellefsen or Mackenzie Dunn at [volunteers@soft-tox.org](mailto:volunteers@soft-tox.org) if you can assist.

Since my last message a few interesting things have transpired. For the last few years the SOFT Executive Board has met at the SOFT office in Mesa, Arizona, to discuss strategic planning. This year some of our travel plans were foiled by some rather bizarre weather and we had to resort to Plan B. That notwithstanding, the Executive Board had a very productive meeting by conference call in June. One of the more interesting things that came out of that meeting, and is already underway after full Board approval, is the transition of the physical SOFT Office to a virtual office. With the amazing technology we have at our disposal today, combined with the fact that Beth and CC must handle matters across multiple time zones, it was decided that it was a benefit to SOFT both financially and from a productivity and flexibility aspect to transition the SOFT office to a virtual office environment. Of course, we will still need storage for some physical assets of SOFT, but this transition will save approximately \$25,000/year in leasing of office space

while giving Beth and CC the maximum convenience and flexibility in handling daily business. There will be a change of mailing address, but otherwise the change should be completely seamless to all who deal with the SOFT office. In fact, if you have communicated with the SOFT office in the last few weeks you were already working with the virtual office and probably didn't notice.

On another note, I want to thank everyone who took the time to complete the SOFT survey. To refresh your memory, the survey was developed by Delta Think along with our input. The professionals at Delta Think used their expertise to develop a survey that will help us get a non-biased and accurate assessment of our organization, so we can meet the needs of our membership both now and in the future. The survey was sent by email to 3919 current members; people who are no longer members but had a membership in the past five years; and nonmembers who attended the meeting in the past five years. Our response rate for the survey was 26.8% which is a phenomenal participation rate. We have received the results and are working on presenting the highlights to the membership in the next few months.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. I look forward to seeing you all in San Antonio!

**Dwain C. Fuller, F-ABFT, TC-NRCC**  
**SOFT President**

## TOXTALK

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Time for the SOFT meeting is almost here! Online registration is still available; please visit the SOFT website for all meeting information including registration, workshops, hotel information and much more. Our meeting hotel this year is the Grand Hyatt, which is located in downtown San Antonio, close to many historic parts of the city as well as the famed River Walk. If you are flying into the city, the San Antonio International Airport (SAT) is only 9 miles from the hotel. Please keep in mind that the hotel does not offer transportation to and from the hotel and public transportation is also not a viable option. If you are driving, the hotel website has information on parking rates <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/texas/grand-hyatt-san-antonio/satgh/maps-parking-transportation>.

Weather in San Antonio in late October is said to be highs in the 80's and lows in the 60's. However, Texas weather can be unpredictable so be sure to check the weather forecast before the meeting.

The San Antonio Planning Committee has been working very hard to ensure we have an educational and fun meeting this year. We have a wonderful array of platform and oral presentations as well as many interesting workshops. Our program includes Dr. Silas Smith, a medical toxicologist from NYU Langone, as our plenary speaker, 52 platform presentations, 131 poster presentations, one full day workshop, 11 half day workshops and a fun night out to experience Old San Antonio. Not to mention our president's banquet where we will celebrate our current president, Dwain Fuller. With these many activities to keep track of, be sure to check out and download the SOFT app to stay informed.

There are also many things to see and do in the city. The hotel is located along the River Walk which gives access to many shops and restaurants. If the river is not your thing, there are many attractions close to the hotel to include museums, the Alamo, King William historic district, the Pearl and further south, the UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the San Antonio Missions. For ideas on things to do and events you can visit [www.visitsanantonio.com](http://www.visitsanantonio.com).

We look forward to seeing you all soon!  
-Brad & Veronica



### 2019 Meeting Hosts



Brad Hall, Ph.D., F-ABFT



Veronica Hargrove, Ph.D., F-ABFT

### Scientific Program Chairs

Peter Stout Ph.D., F-ABFT  
Dayong Lee, Ph.D., F-ABFT

### Workshop Chairs

Teresa Gray, Ph.D., F-ABFT  
Erin Karschner, Ph.D., F-ABFT

### Exhibitor Liaison

Liz Kiely

### Food and Beverage

Ann Marie Gordon  
Denice Teem

### YFT Chair

Kim Samano, Ph.D.

### Volunteer Coordinators

Kayla Ellefsen, Ph.D.  
MacKenzie Dunn

### Mobile Application

Rusty Lewis, Ph.D., F-ABFT  
Roxane M. Ritter, M.S., D-ABFT-FT  
Sunday Saenz

### Audio/Visual

Frank Wallace

### Fun Run Coordinators

Barbara Garcia  
Laurel Porter

### SOFT Staff

Executive Director  
Beth Olson  
Operations and Social Media Manager  
CC Watson

2019 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



### SEARCHING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The SOFT 2019 Volunteer Coordinators are searching for volunteers for SOFT 2019 in San Antonio, TX! There are several volunteer opportunities available. Please complete the Volunteer form if you would like to volunteer at SOFT 2019.

- Pre-Meeting Preparation (Sat)
- Registration (Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu)
- Workshop Registration/Monitor (Mon, Tue)
- Audio-Visual (Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri)
- Poster Session (Wed, Thu)
- Scientific Sessions (Wed, Thu, Fri)
- Fun Run (Thu)
- President's Banquet (Thu)

#### SOFT 2019 VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Kayla Ellefsen, Kayla.Ellefsen@traviscountytx.gov  
MacKenzie Dunn, mackenzie.dunn@bexar.org



SOFT is searching for volunteers for SOFT 2019! We have many wonderful volunteer opportunities available throughout the Annual Meeting.

Interested in volunteering? Please complete the **VOLUNTEER FORM**

Questions? Contact Volunteer Coordinators, Kayla Ellefsen and Mackenzie Dunn at [volunteers@soft-tox.org](mailto:volunteers@soft-tox.org)

Attending SOFT 2019? Join us on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 for NIOSITA! Enjoy dinner, drinks, music and a photo booth!

Access included for Full Meeting Registration, Exhibitor Registration, Student Registration and Accompanying Person Registration. Extra tickets can be purchased for \$150.

Need to register? Click [HERE](#)

**JOIN US FOR**  
*A Night in Old San Antonio*  
**NIOSITA**  
OFF-SITE EVENT, VENUE VILLITA  
401 VILLITA ST. SAN ANTONIO, TX 78205  
**WED, OCT. 16**  
**6:30-9:30 PM**

ACCESS INCLUDED FOR:  
FULL MEETING REGISTRATION  
EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION  
STUDENT REGISTRATION  
ACCOMPANYING PERSON REGISTRATION  
EXTRA TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED TO EVENT FOR \$150 EACH

Enjoy Dinner, Drinks, Music, and a Photo Booth!



**YOU'RE INVITED**  
TO  
**PRESIDENT FULLER'S Banquet**

**THURSDAY**  
**OCT. 17**  
**7:00 pm**

**LONE STAR BALLROOM**

Attending SOFT 2019? Join us on Thursday, October 17, 2019 for President Fuller's Banquet! Enjoy dinner, drinks, music and dancing!

Access included for Full Meeting Registration, Exhibitor Registration, Student Registration and Accompanying Person Registration. Extra tickets can be purchased for \$150.

Need to register? Click [HERE](#)

Suggested Attire: Cocktail

# Slate of Officers and Directors for 2020

The Nominating Committee's task is to provide a slate of Officers and Directors to the full membership of SOFT at least 30 days prior to the annual Business Meeting, to be held October 17, 2019 in San Antonio, Texas.

Last year, the Bylaws Committee and Strategic Planning Committee put forth changes in SOFT's bylaws that were approved by the membership during last year's business meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The changes that impacted the make-up of the Board of Directors include changing the office of Vice-President to President-Elect. As a result, the office of President is filled by succession from President-elect. We also added an additional Director position to the Board for a total of six Directors. As a result, the slate of Officers and Directors for the membership to consider for the 2020 Board of Directors include President-elect, Secretary, and three Directors.

The 2019 SOFT Nominating Committee was comprised of Michelle Peace (Chair), Amanda Jenkins, and Dan Anderson. We respectfully submit the following slate to be considered by the SOFT membership.

## PRESIDENT-ELECT



Amy Miles, BS

## SECRETARY



Erin Spargo, Ph.D., F-ABFT

## DIRECTOR



Fiona Couper, Ph.D.

## DIRECTOR



Phil Kemp, Ph.D., F-ABFT

## DIRECTOR



Andre Sukta, MSFS

## Officers and Director Bios

**Amy Miles** is the Director of the Forensic Toxicology Program at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) and has over 20 years of experience in forensic toxicology. In addition to managing the Forensic Toxicology Program, Amy provides expert court testimony and interpretation of laboratory reports for Coroners, Medical Examiners, attorneys and law enforcement officers. Amy also provides expert consultation for drug impaired driving cases both locally and nationally. Amy has been involved in the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program for almost 18 years at both the State and national level. Amy is the toxicology representative on the IACP DRE Technical Advisory Panel.

Amy has given hundreds of presentations on the topic of drugs, alcohol and human performance at state and national conferences and in-service trainings and has contributed several newsletter articles to national publications and peer reviewed journals. Amy has been appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court as a Guest Faculty member of the Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Education and assists with the curriculum development as a toxicology subject matter expert. She is a member of several professional organizations and committees that pertain to public health, highway safety, alcohol, drugs and human performance. Amy is the Secretary for SOFT and recently completed a 5 year term as the Chair of the SOFT/AAFS Drugs and Driving Committee. In 2019, Amy received the Public Service Award from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for her expertise, leadership, and passion in support of State and national efforts to address drug-impaired driving.

**Dr. Spargo** is the Chief of Forensic Chemistry at the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences (SWIFS) in Dallas, TX. In this position, she oversees the Toxicology (postmortem, DWI/DUID, and DFC), Breath Alcohol, and Controlled Substances sections of the Institute. Originally from northwestern Pennsylvania, she completed her undergraduate studies in forensic chemistry at Ohio University, where she graduated magna cum laude. She earned her doctoral degree in toxicology from the University of Maryland at Baltimore. Erin performed her graduate research at the National Institute of Drug Abuse where she was the lead associate investigator on a controlled MDMA administration study. Her research at NIDA has resulted in more than 15 publications.

While in graduate school, Erin worked as an assistant toxicologist at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore. Upon graduation she moved to Seattle and spent a year working as a forensic scientist at the Washington State Toxicology Laboratory. In 2008, she joined SWIFS in Dallas as the Deputy Chief of Forensic Chemistry prior to being promoted to Chief in 2018. Dr. Spargo also holds an appointed assistant professor position at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Dr. Spargo currently serves on the SOFT Board of Directors and as the SOFT Awards Committee Chair; she has previously been a member of the Continuing Education Committee. She has been actively involved in the SOFT annual meeting over the years as a Workshop Chair, Workshop Coordinator, Scientific Program Chair, and 2016 Annual Meeting Co-host. In addition to SOFT, Dr. Spargo is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS), The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists, the Southwestern Association of Toxicologists, and the Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors. She has been a recipient of the Educational Research Award from

# Slate of Officers and Directors for 2020

SOFT and the June K. Jones and Irving Sunshine Awards from AAFS. She is a Fellow of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology, is a certified technical assessor for ANAB in the disciplines of toxicology and controlled substances, and is currently assisting the OSAC toxicology subcommittee in guideline development.

**Dr. Couper** received her Ph.D. (Med) degree in Forensic Toxicology from the Department of Forensic Medicine, Monash University, Australia in 1997. Fiona has been working in the field of forensic toxicology for 27 years, focusing on the areas of postmortem forensic toxicology, human performance forensic toxicology and forensic laboratory quality management. Fiona is currently the State Toxicologist for Washington State and the Toxicology Laboratory Division Commander for the Washington State Patrol. Prior to moving to Washington State in 2008, she served as the Chief Toxicologist for 7 years at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Washington D.C.

For the last 20 years, Fiona has been an active member of the AAFS (past Toxicology Section Chair) and SOFT (past Director, Scientific Program Chair) and has served on committees such as the SOFT/AAFS Drugs and Driving committee (past Chair), DFSA committee, Awards & Scholarship committee, and Nominating committee. Fiona is also a current member of the OSAC Toxicology subcommittee, the AAFS Standards Board (ASB) Toxicology Consensus Body, and a prior SWG-TOX member.

**Dr. Phil Kemp** earned a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from Louisiana State University. He is a Fellow of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology. He has over 37 years of experience in the field of forensic toxicology that includes serving as Chief Forensic Toxicologist of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the state of Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, OK), and Laboratory Director for Analytical Research Laboratories (Oklahoma City, OK). Dr. Kemp is currently Manager of the Bioaeronautical Sciences Research Branch at the Federal Aviation

Administration's Civil Aerospace Medical Institute in Oklahoma City, OK. He has consistently contributed to the field of forensic toxicology by teaching, being active in scientific organizations, and authoring or co-authoring a variety of publications and presentations. He has been recognized for his work with awards such as the FAA's William E. Collins publication award and the William O. Gettler Award from the American Academy of Forensic Sciences for outstanding contributions to the field of Forensic Toxicology. He teaches Forensic Toxicology at the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center and holds an adjunct assistant professor appointment at the College of Forensic Sciences of Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences.

**Andre Sukta** is the Research and Development Coordinator at United States Drug Testing Laboratories, Inc. (USDTL). He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Benedictine University in Lisle, IL and his Masters of Science degree in Forensic Science from University of Illinois at Chicago.

Andre began his career in toxicology as a Forensic Scientist with the Illinois Racing Board Laboratory in 2002. Since then, he has worked with various toxicology groups, including University of Illinois at Chicago - College of Pharmacy, Indiana University - College of Medicine, and the Indiana State Department of Toxicology. Andre joined USDTL, a reference laboratory specializing in substance abuse toxicology, in early 2013 as a Laboratory Supervisor before taking on his current role in 2017.

Andre has co-authored several peer-reviewed research articles, including papers in the Journal of Analytical Toxicology and Forensic Science International and is an active member of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT), serving on the Young Forensic Toxicologists committee, co-hosting a regional workshop, and the planning committee for the 2017 and 2020 annual meetings. He is currently working with Past Pres-

ident Dr. Michelle Peace on a mentorship initiative within SOFT. Andre is also active in the Chicago Chromatography Discussion Group and the National Safety Council's Alcohol, Drugs and Impairment Division.

# Report of the Bylaws Committee



Submitted By: Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D., F-ABFT  
University of Florida, College of Medicine  
bruce-goldberger@ufl.edu

This year the Bylaws Committee was tasked by the SOFT Board of Directors with a review and minor revision of the SOFT Bylaws. Last year the SOFT membership approved the new membership category Emeritus Member, replacing the Retired Member status. An Emeritus Member is “A Full Member or Charter Member who has maintained membership in SOFT for at least 25 years and has reached the age of 65. The Emeritus Member has voting privileges but does not pay annual dues. Applications for Emeritus Member status must be submitted to

the Secretary of SOFT and approved by the Board of Directors” [SOFT Bylaws approved October 11, 2018].

The Bylaws Committee is recommending the reinstatement of the Retired Member status (note the 10 years membership requirement):

Retired Member: A Full Member who has maintained membership in SOFT for at least 10 years and less than 25 years and has reached the age of 65. The Retired Member has voting privileges but does not pay

annual dues. Applications for Retired Member status must be submitted to the Secretary of SOFT and approved by the Board of Directors.

A vote to approve the Bylaws revision as distributed in ToxTalk will be conducted on October 17, 2019 at the Annual SOFT Business meeting.

## AAFS Annual Meeting News



Preparations are officially in high gear for the 2020 Annual AAFS Meeting in Anaheim, CA, February 17-22, 2020 at the Anaheim Convention Center (adjacent to Disneyland) where the chosen theme is “**Crossing Borders**”. Keep the following website handy for updates to the program, meeting registration and hotel information!

<https://www.aafs.org/home-page/meetings/2020-aafs-annual-scientific-meeting/>

We are looking forward to a vast array of quality workshops, scientific sessions, breakfasts, and luncheons next year and will also continue the traditional special sessions on Drugs and Driving, Postmortem Pediatric Toxicology and our joint session with the Pathology/Biology Section. The Annual Toxicology Lectureship is being planned along with our annual Toxicology Section Luncheon. Please note: Luncheon ticket is **not included** in basic meeting registration and requires separate purchase available only during

pre-registration.

We extend our gratitude to all who submitted abstracts for oral or poster presentations, breakfast sessions or workshops. Our program’s strength is due in large part to your continued contributions. We also thank our volunteer abstract reviewers for their timely efforts as well as moderators and volunteers willing support our program. Please contact Program Chair Sabra Botch-Jones ([sabra@bu.edu](mailto:sabra@bu.edu)) if you’re still interested in volunteer opportunities. Official abstract acceptance letters from AAFS will be mailed in mid-November. Both the preliminary program and meeting registration will be available online in mid-late November.

You still have time to meet the **October 1, 2019 deadline for Membership and Promotion submissions**. Details for the application/promotion process are found on the AAFS website under the “Membership” tab. To encourage promotion within our membership, we will again provide **FREE basic registration fees for one randomly selected Applicant for Promotion** (Associate Member

to Member OR Member to Fellow). The meeting registration fee includes admittance into AAFS sessions starting with the Tuesday evening Welcoming Reception through the Saturday morning Scientific Sessions and a complimentary beverage ticket with all registrations except Student, Daily, and Workshop Only. (Note: Meeting registration excludes Special Functions).

Although the abstract deadline has passed, early career scientists and students can submit for the **Young Forensic Scientist Forum (YFSF) Poster Session**. The YFSF Poster Session will take place within the AAFS multidisciplinary poster sessions occurring Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday during the day. The YFSF abstract submission deadline for poster presentations is **November 1** and can be submitted through the AAFS submission portal, similar to those for Academy-wide scientific sessions, but please remember to designate your submission as an YFSF Poster.

Please mark your calendars now: See you in Anaheim!

# Continuing Education Opportunities



**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

## FAA Colloquium - Postmortem Forensic Toxicology in Aviation

The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) Civil Aerospace Medical Institute is again organizing the Arvind Chaturvedi Colloquium on Postmortem Forensic Toxicology in Aviation to be held during April 7-9, 2020 at the FAA Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA.

The meeting will be a scientific platform for medical examiners; pathologists; coroners; forensic toxicologists,

academics, and students; aerospace medicine scientists and specialists; regional flight surgeons; National Transportation Safety Board personnel and other accident investigation authorities, including employees of the FAA's Flight Standards District Offices and Office of Accident Investigation and Prevention.

The program will cover important topics such as sample processing; importance of chain of custody of samples; analyses of samples for combustion gases, ethanol, and drugs; analytical result interpretation; significance of

quality control/quality assurance; prevalence of drugs in aviation accident pilot fatalities; postmortem drug pharmacology; and litigation and expert testimony issues.

If you are interested in attending, please respond by January 31, 2020. For more information and registration, please visit this Web site: <https://ca-mi-colloquium.eventbrite.com/>



SOFT is co-sponsoring the 2019 ACMT Seminar in Forensic Toxicology. Seminar topics include Criminal Poisoning & Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault: Forensic, Legal, and Medical Aspects. The seminar will be held at The Wink Hotel in Washington, DC from December 9-10, 2019.

received within two weeks of registering via email to [info@acmt.net](mailto:info@acmt.net) or fax to (844) 226-8333. Attention: 2019 Forensic Course.

### REGISTER HERE:

[https://www.acmt.net/cgi/page.cgi/\\_evtcal.html?evt=551](https://www.acmt.net/cgi/page.cgi/_evtcal.html?evt=551)

Early Bird Rates are available until 11:59pm on November 18, 2019. Fees increase to the Regular Rate after this date, no exceptions.

Proof of student and resident status is required to confirm this rate. Proof consists of a copy of your student ID or a letter from your institution's Registrar verifying student or resident status. Documentation must be

### Course Fees

Registration Category	1-Day Rate Mon. (12/9) or Tues. (12/10)	Full Seminar Early-Bird Rate* Deadline: November 18, 2019	Full Seminar Regular Rate November 19-December 10, 2019
ACMT Member	\$395	\$575	\$725
Students & Resident**	\$95	\$275	\$375
Fellows-in-Training & SPI	\$195	\$375	\$525
Non-Member (Federal, State or City Government Employee)	\$295	\$475	\$625
Non-Member (Lab Mgr/Tech, NP, PA, RPh, RN)	\$295	\$475	\$625
Non-Member (MD, PhD, PharmD, JD)	\$525	\$800	\$950

Continuing Medical Education is a flat fee of \$125



Like us on Facebook for the latest SOFT News, Annual Meeting Updates, and Networking!

February 1 for March Issue  
 May 1 for June Issue  
 August 1 for September Issue  
 November 1 for December Issue

**TOXTALK Deadlines for Contributions**

Year	Location	Dates	Host(s)
2019	Grand Hyatt San Antonio, San Antonio, TX	October 13–18, 2019	Veronica Hargrove and Brad Hall
2020	Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina, San Diego, CA	September 21–25, 2020	Denice Teem and Dani Mata
2021	Gaylord Opryland, Nashville, TN	September 26–October 1, 2021	Jennifer Colby and Erin Karschner
2022	Huntington Convention Center, Cleveland, OH	October 30–November 4, 2022	Doug Rohde
2023	Gaylord Rockies, Denver, CO	October 29–November 3, 2023	TBD

## FUTURE SOFT MEETINGS

Awards	Erin Spargo, Ph.D., F-ABFT	IT	Matthew Juhascik, Ph.D., F-ABFT
Culture, Values and Diversity	Samantha Tolliver, Ph.D., Gail Cooper, Ph.D.	JAT Special Issue	Kayla N. Ellefsen, Ph.D.
ConEd Workshops	Robert D. Johnson, Ph.D., F-ABFT	Meeting Resource	Sumandeep Rana, Ph.D.
Designer Drugs	Dani Mata, D-ABFT-FT	Membership	Amy Miles, B.S.
Drugs & Driving	Curt E. Harper, Ph.D., F-ABFT	Nominating	Michelle Peace, Ph.D.
Drug Facilitated Crimes	Laureen Marinetti, Ph.D., M.S., F-ABFT	Policy & Procedures	Amy Miles, B.S.
Ethics	Jennifer Limoges, M.S., DABC	Publications	Matt Slwason, Ph.D.
Finance	Robert Sears, M.S., F-ABFT	YFT	Kim Samano, Ph.D.

## 2019 SOFT COMMITTEE CHARIS

TOXTALK® is the official publication of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc. (SOFT) It is published quarterly for its members. To submit articles please email CC Watson at [cc@soft-tox.org](mailto:cc@soft-tox.org)  
 For advertising opportunities please email Beth Olson at [beth@soft-tox.org](mailto:beth@soft-tox.org)

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