



TOX TALK

PUBLICATION OF THE SOCIETY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS
1013 THREE MILE DRIVE • GROSSE POINTE PARK • MICHIGAN 48230-1412
DECEMBER 1987 VOLUME 11, No. 4

PRESIDENT

H. Horton McCurdy, Ph.D.
Division of Forensic Sciences
Box 370808
Decatur, GA 30037-0808
(404)244-2500

VICE PRESIDENT

Michael P. McGee, B.S.
Office of Chief Medical Examiner
520 First Ave.
New York, NY 10016
(212)340-0120

SECRETARY

C. Nicholas Hodnett, Ph.D.
Department of Labs and Research
Westchester County
Valhalla, NY 10595
(914)347-6213

TREASURER

James C. Valentour, Ph.D.
Bureau of Forensic Science
PO Box 999
Richmond, VA 23208
(804)786-8747

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alphonse Poklis, Ph.D.
Robert O. Bost, Ph.D.
Mark B. Lewis, B.S.
William H. Anderson, Ph.D.
Richard N. Phillips, Ph.D.
Rosemary L. Kincaid, Ph.D. ex officio

TOXTALK EDITORS

Yale H. Caplan, Ph.D.
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
111 Penn Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
(301)333-3299
and
Marina Stajic, Ph.D.
Office of Chief Medical Examiner
520 First Avenue
New York, NY 10016
(212)340-0123

1987 MEETING HOST

Leonard R. Bednarczyk, Ph.D.
Dade-Miami Criminal Justice Council
864 N.W. 23rd Street — Room 203
Miami, FL 33127
(305) 638-5765

TOXTALK is mailed quarterly to members of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc. For membership information contact Secretary C. Nicholas Hodnett at the address above. All members and others are invited to contribute to TOXTALK. Submit all materials (original plus 3 copies if possible) for publication consideration to: TOXTALK, 1013 Three Mile Drive, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230-1412. Deadlines to send items are February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15. For further information, contact Patricia Mohn-Monforte at (313) 884-4718.

Editorial:

FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY-EMERGING DEFINITIONS

by Yale H. Caplan, Ph.D., TOXTALK Co-Editor

It has become increasingly apparent that the new NIDA guidelines will affect all of us in toxicology. Of concern will be the impact on both the laboratory and its potential need to comply with the guidelines and on the working toxicologists and their need for certification.

At the recent S.O.F.T. meeting, concern was raised that the NIDA guidelines (designed for urine drug testing laboratories) may be applied either directly or indirectly to the conventional medical examiner's forensic toxicology laboratory, many of which are not otherwise certified or regulated. The urine drug testing laboratory is, on the one hand, concerned with only one specimen (and in generally large volumes) and a limited number of analytes whose presence in biological fluids cannot readily be further interpreted in pharmacologic terms. On the other hand, the conventional toxicology laboratory, usually dealing with a variety of specimen types and many analytes, is regularly engaged in pharmacologically interpreting the results of such findings, but often conducts analyses in relatively few samples at a given time. Therefore, it becomes clear that the requirements by which the urine drug testing laboratories need be measured may be substantially different from that necessary in the more comprehensive forensic toxicology laboratory although both would adhere to the common principles of forensic practice. At present the conventional forensic toxicology laboratory has in most cases no documented standard with which to conform. Perhaps the development of these should be a mission for S.O.F.T. Unless a laboratory can state that it follows some standard, it may otherwise be required to adhere to a standard which may not apply.

Attention needs also to be focused on the toxicologist. Recently the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT) recognized urine drug testing, when appropriately applied to legal issues, to be defined as forensic toxicology. Yet the group of scientists so engaged, although perhaps possessing the Ph.D. degree, practice within a limited sphere of forensic toxicology. On the other hand, becoming more prominent are a wider variety of toxicologists, generally associated with crime laboratories, who test several biological specimens and a number of analytes (as a result of increased DUID testing) and are often called upon to interpret such findings in a pharmacological context, yet lacking the doctorat degree will not be ABFT eligible.

This is an interesting time for us in forensic toxicology. It is a time, I believe, for the profession and the representative organizations to be considering new and emerging definitions. It is a time much like that in the early seventies in which events led ultimately to the development of the ABFT. It is a time to study and evaluate, to consider and act. It is a time like all times, it is how we respond to the times that counts.



IN THIS ISSUE . . .

REGULAR FEATURES

- †President's Message
- †Elmer Gordon Open Forum
- †Members On The Move
- †Career Opportunities
- †New S.O.F.T. Members

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- †Editorial: "Forensic Toxicology - Emerging Definitions" by Yale H. Caplan, Ph.D.
- †S.O.F.T. Election Results
- †Special Recognition Awards
- †Future S.O.F.T. Meeting Schedule
- †Report on S.O.F.T. 1987 Annual Meeting
- †E.R.A. Awards

TECHNICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- †"Vapor Phase Silation of Glassware" by Vickie Watts, B.A.
- †"Azacyclonol - A metabolite of Terfenadine (Seldane)" by Ricky P. Bateh, Ph.D.

INSERTS

- †QA/QC Survey Results

PRESIDENT'S (FAREWELL) MESSAGE

by H. Horton McCurdy, Ph.D., S.O.F.T. President

Through the efforts of its committees, officers, and members, the society has accomplished a great deal this year. Among these accomplishments have been a permanent address for SOFT, a vastly improved and professional-looking newsletter, a sorely needed set of guidelines for hosting and conducting our annual meetings, a new membership directory, and several new and productive committees for SOFT.

These have certainly been some interesting times for forensic toxicologists and for SOFT, especially with the guidelines set forth by HHS and NDA for urine drug testing. While this has undoubtedly created a hotbed of controversy, I think most would agree that the intent of the guidelines are quite admirable. Dick Prouty and his committee have worked hard in an effort to form a position statement as to the extent that the HHS guidelines should (or should not) have any direct bearing on postmortem forensic toxicology.

Speaking of postmortem forensic toxicology, I suppose many of us would still view this as forensic toxicology in the traditional sense of the word. Recently, however, there have been some radical changes in the traditional face of forensic toxicology. Forensic toxicology has today grown by far to include drug analysis in the living individual. Of course, it

was not uncommon for us to have included in the past the so-called police cases where driving-under-the-influence of drugs as (and still is) an extremely important issue. But now, forensic toxicology has grown in a major quantum leap to include probable cause testing and pre-employment drug testing in the workplace. This has also served to vastly increase the number of forensic toxicologists in the field, perhaps one day to overshadow (in terms of sheer numbers) those engaged in postmortem forensic toxicology. Whether or not the broadened scope of forensic toxicology is to everyone's liking, we can't ignore the fact that it has helped to thrust forensic toxicology into the limelight. Overall, I think that such extensive exposure of our profession is good. (At the very least, it might serve to make the term forensic toxicology a little less obscure to the general public.)

In closing, let me say that it has indeed been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as your president this year. The challenges to our profession and Society have been great, but I think we have done an admirable job in meeting those challenges. I owe many thanks to those who responded to willingly to the task that lay before us. Last, but not least, I owe a special thanks to our tireless, talented, and dedicated executive coordinator, Ms. Pat Monforte.

* * * * *

THANK YOU, MARINA

1988 S.O.F.T. OFFICERS

S.O.F.T. wishes to acknowledge the contribution of Dr. Marina Stajic who has served as co-editor of TOX-TALK for the last three years. Marina's untiring efforts have facilitated the development of TOX-TALK to the timely and informative publication it is today.

Elections were held at the SOFT Annual Business Meeting on October 1st in Key Biscayne, FL. Officers for 1988 are:

- PRESIDENT - Michael P. McGee, B.S.*
- VICE PRESIDENT - C. Nicholas Hodnett, Ph.D.*
- SECRETARY - Richard D. Pinder, Ph.D.*
- TREASURER - James C. Valentour, Ph.D.
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Robert O. Bost, Ph.D.
 - Mark B. Lewis, B.S.
 - William H. Anderson, Ph.D.
 - Richard N. Phillips, Ph.D.
 - Jeanne M. Beno, Ph.D.*
 - H. Horton McCurdy, Ph.D. (ex officio)

* newly-elected

VAPOR PHASE SILATION OF GLASSWARE

by Vickie Watts, B.A., Mesa Police Crime Laboratory, Mesa, AZ

Our laboratory has routinely silanized glassware to be used in methods designed for the detection of low levels (ngs) of drugs in blood. In the past we had immersed the pre-cleaned glassware in a solution of dichlorodimethylsiloxane to accomplish this task. Shortly over a year ago, we converted the silation process to the Vapor Phase Silation technique. At both the 1987 Academy informal toxicology session and the November, 1987, meeting of the California Association of Toxicologists there was strong interest by the attendees for the detailed steps of the Vapor Phase Silation technique.

Therefore, I am outlining the procedure we use in the Mesa (Arizona) Police Department Crime Laboratory for Vapor Phase Silation of glassware. The original procedure was that of Fenimore et al. (1) which has been modified by M. Peat and R. Foltz (2).

- *****
- * Exercise your responsibility as a SOFT member by *
 - * responding promptly to the position statement on NIDA *
 - * GUIDELINES which is being mailed to SOFT voting members *
 - * by the committee. *
- *****

PROCEDURE:

The silating reagent used is hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS). This can be ordered from Supelco, Inc. (Bellefonte, PA). The reagent is dispensed by a 25 ul glass leur lock syringe. Glassware is washed with common laboratory detergent, then rinsed with deionized H₂O, methanol, then hexane, and inverted to dry. The clean glassware is placed in a vacuum oven in aluminum glassware baskets. The vacuum oven must be capable of attaining 200°C. A modified fitting is placed on the exit vent to allow for a hypodermic syringe injection. This can be as easy as a septum placed in a 1/4 inch Swagelok fitting. With the oven inlet open, the temperature is increased to 200°C. The inlet valve is closed and a vacuum is drawn at -20 to -25 inches of Hg for 10 minutes. The vacuum valve is closed, and a 25ul hypodermic syringe filled with HMDS is inserted. The Swagelok fitting is loosened slightly and the 25ul HMDS injected. The inlet valve is then closed, and the glassware left at 200°C with a vacuum of -25 inches Hg overnight.

1. D.L. Fenimore, C.M. Davis, J.H. Witford, and C.A. Harrington. Vapor-phase silylation of glassware. ANAL CHEM 48, 2289-2290 (1976).
2. Personal Communication. 1986, 1987.

AZACYCLONOL - A METABOLITE OF TERFENADINE (SELDANE^R)

by Ricky P. Bateh, Ph.D., Consolidated Laboratory Services, Jacksonville, FL

A 51-year-old white female was admitted to a substance abuse treatment center in compliance with a court-ordered evaluation of the woman's propensity to abuse drugs. During the evaluation, the client was interviewed to obtain information on recent exposures to drugs. Although the woman denied any recent drug ingestions, a urine sample was collected and submitted for a comprehensive toxicologic analysis.

The urine was analyzed for drugs using a combination of EMIT-dau assays (SYVA), thin-layer chromatography (TOXI-LAB, Marion/Analytical Systems), and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (Hewlett Packard 5890-5970B GC/MSD). The EMIT screens of the urine did not detect any drugs/classes of drugs. The TLC screen using TOXI-LAB yielded non-specific characteristics of an unidentified drug-like substance. Subsequent analysis of the urine by GC/MS gave a computer match of 98% with AZACYCLONOL (Frenquel, Merrell Dow). Refer to figures 1-3.

Franquel, classified therapeutically as a tranquilizer, was introduced for use in the USA in the late 60's and was withdrawn from the market in the mid-70's due to its poor clinical performance. Currently, Frenquel is manufactured in France and is available for distribution on the European market.

Given this information about Frenquel, the woman was again questioned about access to this drug. She vehemently denied having access to or ingesting Franquel. Finally, the woman admitted having a prescription for Terfenadine (Seldane, Merrell Dow), a selective histamine antagonist. The woman had failed to mention Seldane in her first interview because she did not consider Seldane to be a "drug of abuse."

Conferring with the medical affairs department of Merrell Dow about this case, we were informed that Terfenadine is primarily metabolized to azacyclonol. Hence, a rather safe and effective antihistaminic drug (terfenadine) described as having NO sedative effects is metabolized to another generic drug (azacyclonol) having minimal sedative effects.

This case is presented to illustrate an unusual finding in which a drug belonging to one pharmacologic class is metabolized to another drug categorized into a different pharmacologic class. Most recently, the terfenadine - azacyclonol issue has come under closer scrutiny by substance abuse treatment centers and by the International Olympic Committee.

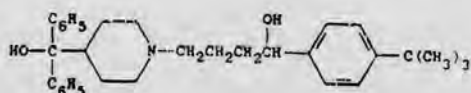


Figure 1: CHEMICAL STRUCTURE OF TERFENADINE

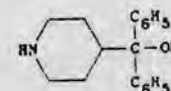


Figure 2: CHEMICAL STRUCTURE OF AZACYCLONOL

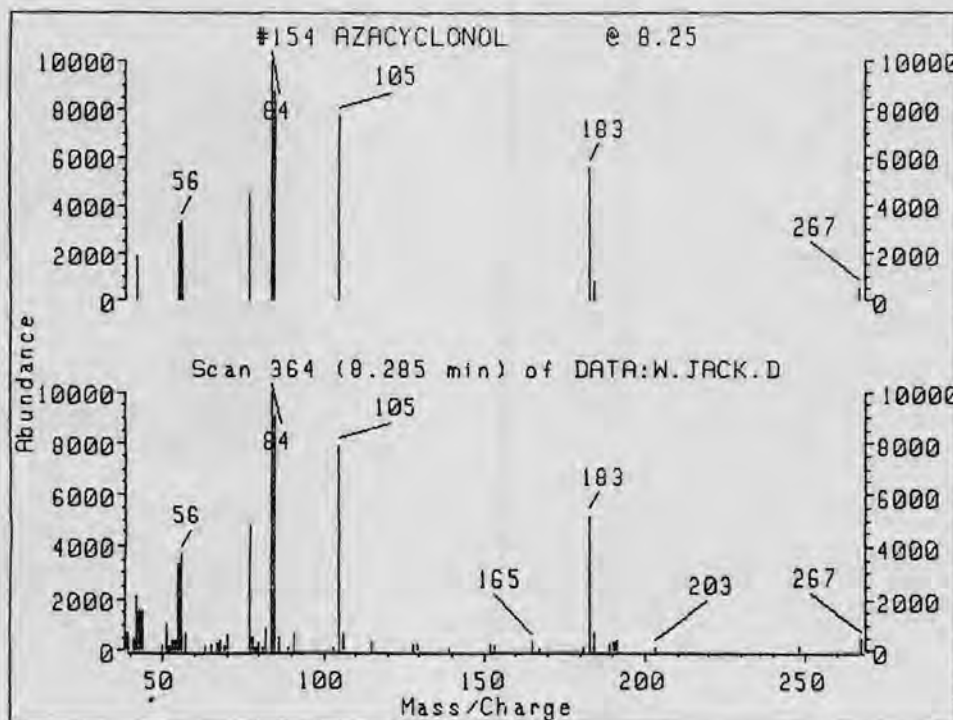


Figure 3: COMPUTER MATCH OF SAMPLE MASS SPECTRUM AND LIBRARY MASS SPECTRUM

1987 S.O.F.T. MEETING OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

The meeting opened with 128 persons attending the September 29th "Quality Assurance Workshop for Toxicology Drug Testing" co-chaired by SOFT members Drs. Robert Simon and LTC. John Jewell. A faculty of twelve presented many aspects of this timely topic and distributed a wealth of materials. Certificates were awarded to all attendees with a special designation for those choosing to take the optional comprehensive exam and passing with a score of 80% or higher.

Sally Stewart and other representatives from Abbott Labs were the perfect hosts at the Welcome Reception, the official meeting "kick-off" event. Thanks, Abbott Labs!

Wednesday morning began with opening remarks by the meeting host, Dr. Leonard Bednarczyk, and a formal welcome from the Honorable Marshall Ader, Chief Administrative Judge of the Dade County Courts. The scientific sessions, chaired by Dr. Joseph Balkon, included scientific papers, the traditional Elmer Gordon Open Forum, a DUI Committee report and selected posters. SOFT members who would like a copy of the submitted abstracts should send a stamped (39 cents), self-addressed, standard business size (no. 10) envelope to: SOFT 1987 Meeting Abstracts, 1013 Three Mile Drive, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230-1412.

Official peripheral events included an optional luau, Saturday's underwater expedition, and the annual President's Hospitality Suite. Many people also took advantage of numerous unofficial events including swimming, sailing, sunbathing, and enjoying the Miami sights.

The meeting officially concluded with the Awards Banquet on Friday afternoon which featured the presentation of certificates by President McCurdy to out-going officers Michael McGee (vice president) and Dr. C. Nicholas Hodnett (secretary), Dr. Joseph R. Monforte (JAT special issue editor), and ERA recipients Joseph Boni and Robert Fitzgerald. For his efforts in organizing the outstanding meeting, a certificate was presented to Dr. Bednarczyk who joined Dr. McCurdy in presenting certificates of appreciation to session chairmen Drs. Simon, Jewell and Balkon and the workshop faculty. Special recognition awards were presented to Dr. Everett Solomons and Ms. Vickie Watts for their outstanding service to SOFT. An award for Dr. Alphonse Poklis, who is completing his term as a member of the SOFT Board, was also announced. Dr. McCurdy recognized the representatives of Roche Diagnostic Systems which sponsored the banquet. We wish to thank Roche Diagnostic Systems for their generosity.

Fourteen corporations exhibited at the meeting. There were representatives from Abbott Diagnostics, Genetic Diagnostics Corp., Hewlett Packard, Preston Publications (JAT), Roche Diagnostics Systems, and Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, all of whom contributed for double space, and Diagnostic Products Corp., E.M. Diagnostics Systems, Inc., Finnigan MAT, I C N Biomedicals, Marion Laboratories, M.S.D. Isotopes, Perkin-Elmer Corp. and Radian Corp. Refreshment breaks were sponsored by the American Drug Use Testing Association, Biochemical Diagnostics, Inc. and ClinPath Labs. Corporate participation provides not only necessary funding but also an opportunity to see and discuss state-of-the-art products available today.

More than 200 persons participated in this meeting, including 169 registrants, guests, and corporate representatives. An unprecedented profit figure will make a substantial contribution to the E.R.A. fund. Thank you to all those who moderated, operated the projector, assisted with registration, or helped with the other details necessary to put on a meeting. Like every other successful effort, it was the result of countless hours of hard work and dedication. Congratulations, Dr. Bednarczyk, on a job well done!

* * * * *

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR FUTURE S.O.F.T. MEETINGS

The 1988 SOFT meeting will be held at the Hershey Hotel in downtown Philadelphia Wednesday, September 28th, through Saturday, October 1st. For further information, please contact:

Jane Speaker, Ph.D.
2122 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

SOLOMONS AND WATTS RECEIVE SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Dr. Everett Solomons and Ms. Vickie Watts each received special recognition awards this year during the Awards Banquet at the annual meeting in Key Biscayne. The awards were given in recognition of their hard work, dedication, and considerable contributions to SOFT.

Dr. Solomons was honored as the Committee Chairman of the Year in recognition of his diligence, perseverance, and hard work in obtaining a grant to conduct research for his SOFT DUI-Drugs Committee. Dr. Solomons was also instrumental in obtaining a SOFT-sponsored ERA award for one of the committee's student members. Members of the DUI-Drugs committee also made outstanding presentations at the annual meeting.

Ms. Vickie Watts, a member of SOFT for only about one year, was recognized for her excellent contributions to ToxTalk this year. She has not only been an outstanding member of the writer/contributor staff for ToxTalk but was also instrumental in obtaining industry support to substantially help finance an issue of ToxTalk. Additionally, Ms. Watts is a valued and hard-working member of the Membership Committee. This award demonstrated that relatively new members can make significant contributions to SOFT.

* * * * *

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AWARDS ANNOUNCED

SOFT is pleased to announce the newest ERA recipients:

Joseph P. Boni, B.S.

and

Robert L. Fitzgerald, B.S.



Both are working with Dr. Robert V. Blanke at the Medical College of Virginia pursuing Ph.D. degrees. Robert L. Fitzgerald, who received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Loyola College in Baltimore, will be studying "The Stereochemical Aspects of the Metabolism of MDMA" using the rat as animal model. Joseph P. Boni, who received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Westchester State College in Pennsylvania, will be studying "The Kinetics of Cocaine Free Base Inhalation."

* * * * *

Subsequent SOFT annual meetings will be:

1989 - Chicago
1990 - New York City area
1991 - Canada (joint meeting)
1992 - Connecticut

Had a wonderful time in Key Biscayne...



The luau was great fun; L.B. crowned "Queen Betty" and "King Joe"...



The Board had a productive meeting...



... our 1987 officers...



It's the 1987 SOFT special issue of JAT...

There were wonderful exhibitors!



B. was praised for a job well done...



D.P. said some very nice things about other president...



The traditional passing the SOFT President's gavel...

... Looking forward to Philadelphia.

SOCIETY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS, INC.
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 1987
KEY BISCAVNE, FLORIDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President McCurdy at approximately 10:45 AM EDT. It was established by Secretary Hodnett that a quorum of Full Members was present. Those members in attendance are listed on the attached sheet.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

President McCurdy called for a motion for the approval of the agenda. Dr. Bidanset so moved, Dr. Reading seconded the motion and the motion carried. A copy of the agenda is attached to these minutes.

III. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE 1986 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were published in ToxTalk and not read at this time. Dr. McCurdy called for a motion for the approval of the 1986 Business Meeting minutes. Mr. Eberhardt so moved. Dr. Walls seconded the motion and the motion carried.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Valentour stated that the Financial statement for the past fiscal year has been published in the most recent issue of ToxTalk. The balance in the checking account as of September 30, 1987 was \$12,583.75 of which \$9,233.96 is allocated for the ERA fund. More dues and ERA contributions are anticipated.

Dr. McCurdy requested that acceptance of the Treasurer's Report not be made at this time, but be made following the report of the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee.

Dr. Valentour then presented the proposed budget for the fiscal year 1987-1988. The expected expenses are: \$2,800 for ToxTalk, \$150 for the President's expenses, \$150 for the Vice President's expenses, \$150 for the Secretary's expenses, \$150 for the Treasurer's expenses, \$500 for the annual meeting advance, \$400 for the Board of Directors' meeting, \$400 for the President's reception at the AAFS meeting, \$200 for legal fees, \$1,400 for the executive coordinator's fees and expenses, \$500 for additional meetings and teleconferences. It is also proposed that \$1,000 be awarded as Educational Research Awards.

A motion to accept the budget as read was made by Vice-President McGee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Reading and the motion was carried.

V. REPORT OF THE 1987 BOD MEETING

President McCurdy stated that the Board of Directors met once during the AAFS Meeting in San Diego, California, once this summer by telephone conference and again on September 30, 1987.

Much of the Board's attention has been focused on the rapid growth of urine drug testing as reflected by its activities relative to the NIDA/HHS guidelines and ADUTA. The Board of Directors' action in February, 1987 electing the President of SOFT to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Drug Use Testing Association was rescinded at the September, 1987 meeting to avoid any possible conflict of interest. It was felt that it would be better if the President only appoints a liaison to ADUTA who will not serve on the Board of Directors of ADUTA.

Because of the invaluable services of the Executive Coordinator toward the smooth running and overall operation of the annual meetings, the Board agreed that every year, SOFT would pay the expenses of the Executive Coordinator to attend the annual meeting.

ToxTalk, thanks to the efforts of its editors, Dr. Stajic and Caplan, the Executive Coordinator, Pat Mohn-Monforte, and the staff of writers and contributors, has been the most interesting and informative ToxTalk ever and a publication to be proud of. Due to increased size and production costs, the expense for ToxTalk has more than doubled. The Board of Directors is considering several options for reducing these costs.

At the request of the President, the joint meeting with the Canadian Society of Forensic Sciences has been postponed until 1991. Our 20th Anniversary Meeting is to be held in the New York area in 1990 which would have been the regular year for the meeting with the Canadians. The meeting site has not been decided yet, but it may be Ottawa.

The Board of Directors has decided to begin the implementation of meeting policy guidelines to help protect SOFT's interests particularly during joint meetings. The goals of the Meeting Policy Committee are to make our meetings professionally rewarding AND financially successful.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. By Laws

No report

B. Budget, Finance and Audit

Dr. Anderson reported that the committee met and audited the SOFT records supplied by the Treasurer. The business records are in excellent shape and the committee collectively would like to thank the Treasurer for his efforts.

A motion to accept the report of the committee was made by Dr. McBay, seconded by Mr. Prouty and the motion carried.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Mr. Prouty, seconded by Mr. McGee and the motion carried.

C. ERA

Dr. Caplan reported that the Board reviewed two applications for 1987 awards which were approved by the Board of Directors. They are for Robert I. Fitzgerald and Joseph Boni; students of Dr. Blanke at the Medical College of Virginia. The awardees were in attendance at the meeting. The awards are \$500 each.

There are no other applications pending.

D. ToxTalk

Dr. Stajic thanked all the contributors and Pat Monforte for their help in producing the issues of ToxTalk.

E. DUID

Dr. Solomon's committee's reports were given during this morning's scientific session by the committee members.

F. Grants and Endowments

Dr. Phillips reported that an article describing the activities and plans of the committee is in the most recent issue of ToxTalk. The committee has requested that the Treasurer include a place on the dues notice for members to indicate that they wish to make a ERA contribution above and beyond the normal amount.

Once the ERA fund is at \$10,000, awards will be funded from the interest on the principle. Corporations will then be solicited for contributions.

The committee has requested that the maximum size of the award be increased to \$2,000 and suggested that the awardee make a presentation about the funded research at the following SOFT meeting.

G. Quality Assurance Survey

Dr. Childs reported that the recent issue of ToxTalk contains an QA survey and our replies and comments will be appreciated.

H. Meeting Site

Mr. Lewis reported that plans are underway for the 1988 meeting in Philadelphia to be held at the Hershey Hotel, September 28th through October 1st.

Meeting sites are planned through 1992 and they are

1988-Philadelphia, PA

1989-Chicago, IL

1990-New York City Area

1991-A joint meeting with the Canadian Society of Forensic Sciences, the location has yet to be selected.

1992-Hartford, CT

Under review are potential meeting sites for 1993, 1994.

Mr. Lewis thanked those who have submitted applications to host meetings.

I. Membership

Dr. Hodnett reported that the committee has processed thirty three applications for new membership. The committee has accepted eleven Full members and fourteen Associate members. There were five promotions from Associate to Full membership and one promotion to Retired membership. The total membership of SOFT is 269.

J. Publications

Dr. Monforte reported that thirteen papers were submitted for publication in the special SOFT issue of the Journal of Analytical Toxicology. One paper was rejected and twelve of the papers were published in the special issue. A paper was included in the special issue that was not submitted through SOFT. Dr. Monforte thanked, in addition to the committee members, Eric Espe for his help in putting the issue together.

K. Safety and Health

No Report

L. Nominating

Dr. McCurdy in the absence of Dr. Kincaid announced the slate of nominees recommended by the Nominating Committee for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer and three year term Director of SOFT. They are:

For President - Mr. Michael P. McGee

For Vice President - Dr. C. Nicholas Hodnett

For Secretary - Dr. Richard Pinder

For Director - Dr. Jeanne Beno

Dr. Rieders moved that the report of the Nominating Committee be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. McBay. The motion carried.

VII. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Hodnett reported that a membership directory will be produced in the next two months. He is still accepting membership profiles from those who have not sent them in yet.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. ADUTA

President McCurdy restated that SOFT has no direct involvement in ADUTA, but he thought it would be useful to have a brief presentation and then discussion about ADUTA. Mr. Mat Low from Tech Law, the general council for ADUTA, gave a short presentation about ADUTA. Questions followed concerning ADUTA and clarification of the functions of the SOFT liaison to ADUTA.

B. OTHER

Mr. Prouty made a motion that the current President appoint a committee to develop a position statement or response to the HHS regulations and guidelines for urine drug testing laboratories as to how they may or may not be considered to be representative as standard guidelines for all forensic toxicology testing and that there be a timely response by this committee prior to the end of this calendar year to the Board and the membership through a mailing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eberhardt. A lengthy discussion of this motion followed. An amendment to Mr. Prouty's motion was made by Dr. F. Rieders stating that the chairman of the Quality Assurance Committee is to be a member of this committee. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Prouty and the amendment was accepted. The amended motion carried.

X. NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no nominations from the floor. Dr. F. Rieders moved that the nominations be closed and the motion was seconded by Dr. Reading. The motion carried.

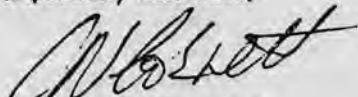
XI. ELECTIONS

Dr. F. Rieders moved that the recommendations of the Nominating Committee be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eberhardt and the motion carried.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

President McCurdy asked for a motion for adjournment. The motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Dr. Osiewicz. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:35 AM EDT.

Respectfully Submitted,



C. Nicholas Hodnett, Ph.D.
Secretary, SOFT, Inc.

ELMER GORDON OPEN FORUM

NEW S.O.F.T. MEMBERS

EQUIPMENT PARTS NEEDED for Perkin Elmer AS-41 solid injector; Perkin Elmer PEP data reduction system; Perkin Elmer F-40 head space analyzer; and Perkin Elmer MS-41 solid injector. If you have any parts or are aware of any source for parts for this equipment, please contact:

Joseph R. Monforte, Ph.D.
Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office
400 East Lafayette
Detroit, MI 48226
telephone (313) 224-5626

* * *

Qualified firms interested in receiving RFP for a Quality Assurance Program for the Dade County, Florida, employee drug testing program reply to:

W. Lee Hearn, Ph.D.
Laboratory Director
Dade County Medical Examiner Dept.
1050 N.w. 19th Street
Miami, FL 33136

* * *

CONGRATULATIONS to Tim Rohrig and his bride on their recent marriage.

* * * * *

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have a position available that may be of interest to SOFT members? Please submit the information to ToxTalk. There is no fee for this service.

FORENSIC/CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY OPENINGS in well-equipped laboratory. Requires minimum B.S. (science) with 20+ chemistry credits, experience desired. Salary range \$21,000 to \$38,000. Contact:

Thomas J. McGimpsey
Department of Labs and Research
Westchester County
Valhalla, NY 10595.

* * * * *

FULL MEMBERS:

Ian M. Davis, M.S., CompuChem Labs, Research Triangle Park, NC
Amiya KantilDhar, D.Sc., Bayside, NY
Anna L. Ezeil, M.S., Miss. Crime Lab, Jackson, MS
Carol Fletterick, M.S., S. Windsor, CN
Giri Giridhar, Ph.D., MetPath, Teterboro, NJ
Joseph J. Saady, Ph.D., Richmond, VA
Donald R. Wilkinson, Ph.D., Delaware St. College, Dover, DE

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

George F. Jackson, B.S., Richmond, VA
Sam L. Howell, B.S., Miss. Crime Lab, Jackson, MS
Brian O'Rourke, B.S., Westbury, NY

PROMOTIONS:

Michael A. Duskotz, M.D., to Full Member
Teri L. Stockham, Ph.D., to Associate Member

* * * * *

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

WILLIAM H. ANDERSON, Ph.D., Sierra Nevada Laboratories, 888 Willow Street, Reno, NV 89502 (702) 786-4414

MICHAEL R. BAYLOR, 200 Coventry Lane, Cary, NC 27511

Moving? Be sure to notify Richard D. Pinder, Ph.D., SOFT Secretary, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Box 427, Farmington, CT 06034-3980

* * * * *



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
TO ALL!!

NEW S.O.F.T. MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES
WILL BE MAILED OUT SOON. BE
SURE TO PAY YOUR DUES SO WE CAN
MAIL A COPY TO YOU!

PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

February 5, 1988: LABORATORY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP, San Francisco/San Jose, CA. Contact Halle Weingarten, Santa Clara County Laboratory of Criminalistics, 2837 Little Boy Lane, San Jose, CA 95148

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TOXICOLOGISTS 1988 quarterly meetings: February 6 - San Francisco/San Jose, CA; May 7 - Orange County, CA; August 6 - Northern California; November 5 - Los Angeles. Contact: Paul Sedgwick, Orange County Sheriff-coroner, Forensic Science Services, P.O. Box 449, Santa Ana, CA 92702 (714) 647-7481.

June 27-30, 1988: THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS, Groningen, The Netherlands. Scientific program includes a special one-day session on "Interpretation of Analytical Results." One day a parallel session is planned on mass spectrometry and mass sele... detention together with the Department of Clinical Chemistry, Section Mass Spectrometry of the University Hospital Groningen. All... aspects of forensic toxicology will be covered in proffered papers and posters. On request round table conferences can be held. Contact: Dr. Donald R. A. Uges, Chairman, University Hospital Groningen, P.O. Box 30.001, NL-9700 RM Groningen The Netherlands; telephone: (0)50 61.4080; Telex: 53942 AZGN NL

September 28 - October 1, 1988: S.O.F.T. 1988 ANNUAL MEETING, contact Jane Speaker, Ph.D., 2112 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

*27 responses were received by 23 November, 1987.***
 Not all respondents answered all questions.

S.O.F.T QA/QC COMMITTEE SURVEY: FALL 1987

01. Laboratory Type: Primary[1], Secondary[2] Function (1) (2)
 Forensic [Solid dose,Criminalistics] 3 3
 Forensic [Biological] 18 4
 Clinical [Toxicology/Pharmacology] 9 2
 Clinical [TDM] 5 1
02. How many samples does your laboratory analyze monthly?
 11 - (1-1000); 11 - (1001-10,000); 3 (>10,000);
03. How many analytes does your laboratory routinely test for?
 5 - (1-10) 7 - (11-50) 13 (>50)
04. Could you determine the mean, standard deviation, bias, etc on a set of values if they were given to you? Y-24 N-1
05. Does your laboratory have a documented QC program for the various analytical procedures it performs? Y-21 N-6
06. Are all assays (save EtOH) performed in your laboratory QC'ed, i.e. are QC specimens incorporated into every analytical batch and are the results of these analyses checked before reporting out results?
 Y-19 N-6
07. Does your laboratory have an internal QC program? Y-24 N-2
08. Does your laboratory have a "blind" QC program? Y-11 N-14
09. Does your laboratory participate in an external QC program(s)?
 Y-26 N-0
10. Does your laboratory prepare its own QC material? Y-23 N-4
11. Where does your laboratory procure its primary standards?
 Pharmaceutical Mfg., USPC, MIDA, RTI, NBS, Radian, Sigma, EPA, Alltech, Roche, Applied Science
12. Does your laboratory routinely validate the purity of its procured primary standards? Y-12 N-13
13. Are standards [as well as all reagents] dated, initialled and does each bear an expiration date? Y-21 N-6
14. Does your laboratory follow Standard Operating Procedures SOP's? Y-24 N-3
15. Do your laboratory's SOPs include:
 Chain of custody [sample handling and security]. Y-24 N-2
 Procedure section, including a detailed description of all steps involved in the processing, analysis and reporting of a result. Y-22 N-5
 Policy for handling out of control analyses, i.e QC doesn't meet acceptance criteria. Y-17 N-6
 Policy and procedures for confirmation activities. Y-21 N-6
 Indications of continuous review. Y-18 N-6

16. Are all analyses in your laboratory performed in a secured area?
 Y-22 N-5
17. Does the Laboratory Director or Technical Supervisor certify the accuracy of all test results before they are reported? Y-19 N-8
18. Does each analytical batch performed in your laboratory contain negative, positive and detection level controls along with appropriate standards?
 Y-19 N-8
 Are these controls prepared in the same biological matrix as the specimens being analyzed? Y-20 N-4
19. Are the 'raw' data from all analyses kept for some period of time in a prescribed location?
 Y-27 N
 How long? 1 yr. -> indefinitely
20. Do all quantitative assays, specifically chromatographic, performed in your laboratory utilize internal standards? Y-25 N-1
21. Are all new methods (developed internally or taken from the literature) thoroughly evaluated and validated [range, linearity, precision, accuracy, interferences and recovery] before they are used to provide results?
 Y-24 N-4
 Are the data kept on file and updated as necessary? Y-21 N-5
22. Does your laboratory have a maintenance log for all equipment, analytical and otherwise describing and documenting all preventive maintenance and major repair or service? Y-21 N-5
23. Does your laboratory comply with the NIDA guidelines? Y-5 N-16
 Will your laboratory comply with the NIDA guidelines? Y-9 N-10
24. Do you support the concept of laboratory accreditation? Y-24 N-0
 If so, who should the accreditation process be administered by:
 a: the government, b: professional organization(s), c: private groups, picked by bid, d: other []
 a: 1 b: 16 c: 1 a+b: 4 a+c: 1
25. Do you feel that some agency should accredit Forensic Toxicologists at various levels? Y-21 N-1
26. Do you feel that all positive results must be confirmed?
 Confirmed on site Y-22 N-3
 Confirmed by GC/MS Y-18 N-4
 Y-14 N-10
27. Does your laboratory have a GC/MS? Y-20 N-6
 If not, does your laboratory have access to a GC/MS? Y-7 N-1
28. How would you rate your laboratory's QC program [1=poor, 5=excellent]?
 Average = 4
 Range: 1 - 5

OPTIONAL: *20 respondents answered these questions:

29. What do you think constitutes a minimally acceptable QA/QC program?

| Questionnaire items | Use of Internal Standards |
|--|---------------------------|
| Independent QA review | |
| Following CAP guidelines | |
| Written SOP s | |
| Legally defensible analytical procedures | |
| Competently trained staff | |
| AAFS guidelines | |
| Documentation of procedures | |
| Certification of results | |
| QC samples in each batch | |
| External and Blind Testing Samples | |

30. What areas of QA/QC are most pertinent to the Forensic Toxicologist?

Documentation of items above
Chain-of-custody
QA Policy

Use of Standards and Controls
Analytical - specificity, accuracy, precision, interferences, instrument maintenance
Full Spectrum GC/MS for each compound
Internal blind QC

31. What areas of QA/QC do you think the S.O.F.T QA/QC committee should address?

Information, Education, Consultation
Setting Reasonable Guidelines for Q.A./Q.C. and Assistance in Implementation
Provide Control Material Proficiency Testing
Laboratory Accreditation through S.O.F.T.
Standardize Reporting Formats
Validation of Procedures

