



# ToxTalk

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

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A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!

From your SOFT Officers, Directors  
and ToxTalk

## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- ☠ President's Message
- ☠ Elmer Gordon Open Forum
- ☠ Career Opportunities
- ☠ Professional Calendar
- ☠ Drugs in the News: Ya-Ba (Kippenberger)

## INSERTS

- ☠ 2003 SOFT/JAT Special Issue Call for Papers

## SOFT 2003

October 20-24  
PORTLAND, OREGON

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

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

**NEXT DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2003**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Laurel J. Farrell, B.A.

Kudos to the crew in Dearborn!! Dan and Brad, you did a tremendous job as co-hosts. Your attention to detail showed in every aspect of the meeting. The hotel was superb, and the reception at the Henry Ford Museum was a wonderful (and educational) evening. We know that you didn't do it alone. I would also like to thank Amanda Jenkins for coordinating the scientific program, and the workshop chairs, the workshop speakers, and the session moderators for their help in making this a strong scientific program that ran smoothly. Lisa O'Dell - we owe a lot to you! SOFT has the happiest exhibitors and sponsors thanks to you. These vendors provide a tremendous amount of support to SOFT, which then allows us to have cost effective meetings. Please thank them for their support of SOFT whenever you get the chance. Dan and Brad, please pass on my thanks also to your registration desk staff - your family, friends and colleagues - they were the best! All were helpful, knowledgeable, and just plain nice. Lastly, my thanks to Chip - you brought back that old-time SOFT feeling to the hospitality suite.

There will be some exciting things happening in the upcoming months for SOFT. The Continuing Education committee, with Rebecca Jufer as Chair and Vince Papa as local host, will be putting on a "Review of Toxicology" course in San Antonio, Texas, in the near future. They hope to then move this course to two other locations. The web-site, with Bruce Goldberger as our web-master extraordinaire, will greatly increase capabilities over the next few months. You will soon be able to pay dues on-line, register and pay for meetings on-line, and also submit abstracts on-line. With close to 500,000 hits in the past three months we know that the SOFT web-site is a great asset to SOFT. Bruce, my thanks to you for the time that you spend week in and week out on the web-site.

It is with mixed emotions that I write my last President's message. I have considered it an honor to be an officer and director of SOFT for the past seven years. SOFT is a very strong, vibrant, well-run organization that offers a lot to its members - more than any other organization that I belong to. I have enjoyed working with SOFT officers and directors both present and past. Many of you have been my mentor, colleague, and friend all rolled into one. There are three other folks who deserve to be recognized for what they do for SOFT and to whom I need to say "thank you" as they have made my life much easier the past seven years. Joe and Pat Monforte for bringing us ToxTalk and sharing your wisdom - I wish you both a return to good health in the coming year. Bonnie Fulmer, the SOFT Administrative Assistant, you have saved me countless hours over the years - I hope that we get a chance to meet in the future. Lastly, to my family - you are the best, and I appreciate your support in everything I do.

I look forward to staying active in SOFT by working on committees and volunteering where needed. My best to all of you. Please keep in touch. See you in Portland in 2003! ☺

## HAVE YOU CHECKED THE WEB SITE LATELY?

Visit the SOFT web-site at [www.soft-tox.org](http://www.soft-tox.org) for the latest information on items of interest to SOFT members. Current posting includes the 2002 SOFT/AAFS Forensic Toxicology Laboratory Guidelines and the cocaine and marijuana monographs. Web Master Bruce Goldberger welcomes comments. Sections limited to SOFT members, such as SOFT's on-line membership directory and drugs and driving pages, may be accessed by typing the username: **drugs** and password: **#cocaine!** Unauthorized access or printing is protected by copyright laws.

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

# SOCIETY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS

## 2003 ANNUAL MEETING

### OCTOBER 20 - 24

## DOUBLETREE INN, PORTLAND, OREGON

The 2003 SOFT Annual Meeting Committee (Kent Johnson, Barry Logan, and Ann Marie Gordon) is extremely excited and honored to host the 2003 Annual Meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists at the spacious Doubletree Hotel Portland-Lloyd Center, conveniently located near the Portland Convention Center and downtown Portland, Oregon.

The meeting will feature workshops on Monday and Tuesday with scientific sessions Wednesday through Friday. The all-inclusive meeting, with continental breakfasts and lunches during the week, will be capped off with a fun-filled President's Reception at the nationally acclaimed OMSI Science Museum. This finale evening will include dinner, entertainment, and a presentation at the OMSI Max Theatre.

Hotel Accommodations: The Doubletree Hotel Portland-Lloyd Center offers SOFT convention rates:

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

Suites are also available at greatly reduced rates for SOFT. For reservations, call the hotel directly at (503) 281-6111 or access on-line via the SOFT website ([www.soft-tox.org](http://www.soft-tox.org)).

Airport and Transportation: The newly renovated Portland (PDX) airport is about 10 miles from the Doubletree. The hotel provides a free shuttle service every 30 minutes from 5:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. There is also light rail service from the airport that makes a stop directly at the hotel and currently costs \$1.55. This convenient light rail service, once at the hotel, is free anywhere within the major Portland downtown area. Rental car service is available at the airport and also at some rental car services near the hotel.

Weather and touring: The local weather should be a pleasant 40 to 68 degrees. Dressing in "layers" is advised, especially if you wish to tour the mountains or coastline, where heavier clothing may be required. You will be within 70 miles of Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens, and the Oregon coast. The local wine country, fruit and berry farms, numerous markets and scenic waterfalls are all popular places to explore. Oregon's largest mall is right across the street from the hotel. There's something for everyone to enjoy!

Vendors: SOFT enjoys the support of vendors representing companies which offer the latest products and services utilized in the field of forensic toxicology. Vendors interested in participating in the 2003 annual meeting should contact SOFT Vendor Liaison Lisa O'Dell (e-mail [nomadlee9@aol.com](mailto:nomadlee9@aol.com), phone 303-477-5976, fax 303-561-3803).

IMPORTANT deadlines, registration form, call for papers, and other meeting-related information will be posted on the SOFT website and included the the March issue of **ToxTalk**.

The SOFT 2003 committee members welcome your input and volunteers. Contact:

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Fax</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Kent Johnson, Meeting Host	503-413-2069	503-413-4621	<a href="mailto:kent.johnson@attbi.com">kent.johnson@attbi.com</a>
Barry Logan, Ph.D. Program Chair	206-464-5302	206-389-2738	<a href="mailto:blogan@wsp.wa.gov">blogan@wsp.wa.gov</a>
Ann Marie Gordon, Program Co-Chair	206-464-5435	206-389-2738	<a href="mailto:agordon@wsp.wa.gov">agordon@wsp.wa.gov</a>

# PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR 2004 SOFT/TIAFT MEETING

The 2004 FBI Laboratory Forensic Toxicology Symposium & Joint Meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) and The International Society of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) will take place from August 28 to September 3, 2004, at the JW Marriott Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC. Topics under consideration are:

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

More information is available at the SOFT web site under Annual Meeting or contact:

Marc A. LeBeau, FBI Laboratory, Phone: 202-324-8472 Fax: 202-324-4633 E-mail: [mlebeau@fbi.gov](mailto:mlebeau@fbi.gov)

## 2003 SOFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION RESULTS

The following SOFT members were elected to the 2003 Board of Directors at the 2002 SOFT Annual Meeting.

### PRESIDENT

AMANDA JENKINS, Ph.D., D-ABC, D-FTBC

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## REVIEWERS SOUGHT FOR SOFT/JAT SPECIAL ISSUE

Karla Moore, the 2003 guest editor for the SOFT Special Issue of the Journal of Analytical Toxicology, requests the assistance of SOFT scientists to serve as reviewers. With a favorable response, this would amount to one or two, papers to review. So, if you're willing to take on the challenge (and the possibility of reaping a complimentary beer in Portland!!!), please e-mail Karla Moore at [kamoore2@juno.com](mailto:kamoore2@juno.com) as soon as possible. Also, please include a listing of topics/subjects/procedures you consider yourself to be especially knowledgeable or familiar with so papers can be "targeted" to the right person. Thanks to everybody in advance for your anticipated help and support!!! ☺



## SOFT-WEAR

If you ordered but did not receive your SOFT shirt or hat, contact Bob Zettl at [jrzettl1@msn.com](mailto:jrzettl1@msn.com). Anyone interested in purchasing SOFT logo items should also contact Bob. ☺

# Update from the Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault Committee

Submitted by Marc LeBeau, Committee Chair

The Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault (DFSA) Committee organized a workshop entitled "Club Drugs & Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault" that was held during SOFT 2002. Comments from the participants lead us to believe that the workshop was an educational success. Thanks to the co-chairs of the workshop (Sarah Kerrigan, Adam Negrusz, and Laureen Marinetti) and all of its speakers.

The committee held a meeting during SOFT 2002 in Dearborn. To improve our efficiency, a decision was made to limit the committee to a membership of twelve plus an additional liaison member from the DFSA Subcommittee of the United Kingdom Forensic Toxicology Forum. The core membership consists of Marc LeBeau, Teri Stockham, Laureen Marinetti, Lee Hearn, Adam Negrusz, Fiona Couper, Sarah Kerrigan, Madeline Montgomery, Amanda Jenkins, Tim Rohrig, Joseph Saady, and Chip Walls. David Osselton serves as the UK liaison member.

The mission of the DFSA Committee is to 1) Train fellow toxicologists, healthcare professionals, and law enforcement on the toxicological issues surrounding the successful investigation of DFSA, 2) Collate and disseminate data on DFSA issues; 3) Facilitate the development and promotion of research topics relevant to DFSA toxicology issues. To fulfill this mission, we have created three subcommittees:

**1) Education & Outreach:** This subcommittee's focus is on identifying the interdisciplinary agencies we work with to liaison with them for education; keeping educational materials/presentations current; and logging the activities of the DFSA Committee.

**2) Guidance:** This subcommittee is collating pharmacokinetic data for the most commonly encountered DFSA drugs for dissemination to the SOFT membership.

**3) Research:** The current goal of this subcommittee is to revisit the idea of surveying the field to find out what toxicology laboratories are detecting in their DFSA cases. This will be used to help guide the DFSA Subcommittee in future areas of concern.

While these are what the membership considers to be important topics at the present time, suggestions of other areas of concern from SOFT members are welcome. Further, if you have an interest in assisting with one of these subcommittees, please contact Marc LeBeau (MLeBeau@FBI.gov). ☺



## CALL FOR CASE NOTES

***We need your contribution! This need not take much time.***

Your case note should be about 1/2 page in length, no more than a full page. Material and/or a disk (arial font, size 10, Microsoft Word 6.0 preferred) may be submitted to:

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

**E-mail: [DrMonforte@aol.com](mailto:DrMonforte@aol.com)**

*Other items of interest to SOFT members are also welcome.*

# DRUGS IN THE NEWS

## Dangerous New Club Drug: "YA-BA"

*Submitted by Donald Kippenberger, Ph.D.*

A more potent form of methamphetamine is being imported almost exclusively into the Sacramento, CA, area and is expected to quickly spread throughout the United States. "Ya-Ba" is the latest drug to hit the streets and has been primarily targeted at youths. The potent, but flavorful-smelling, drug often has a grape flavor and is more potent than ecstasy. It is a combination of high concentrations of methamphetamine and caffeine. According to authorities, the chewable tablet is exploding in popularity in Southeast Asia. Drug enforcers in Thailand estimate that hundreds of millions of tablets are being produced each year. Ninety per cent of all Ya-Ba imports are targeted for Sacramento. It is sometimes smuggled inside dead bugs.

Narcotics agents note that the drug has not yet hit the mainstream drug scene, but it has started to appear at some rave parties. Ya-Ba is considered to be highly addictive and one of the most devastating drugs ever to appear in the US.

Cheap and easy to produce, Ya-Ba is a synthetic drug made from easy-to-find chemicals in labs and requiring small investments in equipment. In Thailand it costs \$1 to \$3. "The Crazy Drug" is a pseudonym. The highly effective distribution channel often includes giving Ya-Ba to kids free as long as they bring them to school to give to other kids.

The signs and effects include a warm and gentle feeling, energizing of the body, a sensual and optimistic feeling, and partiers can dance for days without inhibitions. Ya-Ba engages the users so thoroughly that binges can last for days until your body or your mind gives out. The addiction level is extremely high, and the "comedown" can be "mind bending and suicidal". Often times, users become suicidal, slash their own throats or someone else's in a fit of paranoia.

Ya-Ba information is available on the Internet., including [www.nctimes.net/news/2002/20020922/53808.html](http://www.nctimes.net/news/2002/20020922/53808.html).

Source: PoliceOne; KCRA News; BBC (Forwarded from the International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners)

## Cocaine: An Unauthorized Biography by Dominic Streatfield, St. Martin's Press, \$27.95)

*Submitted by Patricia Mohn-Monforte*

While reading the Detroit News (8/10/02), my attention was caught by Jim Haner's review. Mr. Haner, of the Baltimore Sun, stated "...it is a sane and sober review of a vast body of accumulated knowledge dislodged from forgotten archives, obscure texts, government records, definitive histories and human sources with impeccable credentials." Although lacking footnotes, the reviewer felt this book "is replete with source citations ....(but) none but the most determined scholar will have the patience to plow through 500 pages in search of the book's many buried jewels." ☺

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## ToxTalk NETWORK: *Sharing problems and solutions*

### RESPONSE TO 6-ACETYL MORPHINE FINDINGS

*(Ref. ToxTalk, September 2002)*

Leo Glass responded to the question from Keith Williams concerning the detection of 6-acetylmorphine in the absence of other opiates. He had also encountered the situation when he was at the Cleveland Veterans' Hospital. Twin brothers in a narcotic recovery program would both confirm for 6-AM with morphine under 300 ng/mL. The results were reproducible until they were able to kick.

Dr. Glass presented the findings at the Denver SOFT meeting, and a write-up appeared in the following SOFT special issue of JAT. ☺



# IN MEMORIAM



## ARTHUR McBAY, Ph.D., DABFT

*Submitted by Jeri D. Roper-Miller, Ph.D.*

Dr. Arthur J. McBay, 83, a retired, charter member of SOFT, died at his home on September 19, 2002.

During World War II, he served as a Captain in the 487th Bomb Group in England. Dr. McBay received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and his Doctorate degree from Purdue University. Dr. McBay moved to Chapel Hill from Massachusetts to accept the position of Chief Toxicologist for the state of North Carolina in 1969, where he retired after 20 years of service.

In 1974, Dr. McBay hosted the fifth meeting of SOFT, contributing to the foundation upon which the Society of Forensic Toxicologists was formed. His interest, support and involvement with SOFT never waned, rarely missing an annual meeting. He also attended AAFS annual meetings routinely and recently received the prestigious Toxicology Section Rolla Harger Award. Art McBay's participation in the profession is further exemplified by the fact that he was among the first group of forensic toxicologists to be certified by the American Board of Forensic Toxicologists.

Dr. McBay often presented at professional meetings. Examples of areas of his interests are the analysis of cannabinoids and propoxyphene in biological specimens. Additionally, he often shared his experiences of the incidence of drugs in automobile fatalities in North Carolina.

SOFT expresses its deepest sympathy to Dr. Arthur McBay's family and friends. He will be missed. Condolences may be sent to Art's wife: Avis McBay, V-306 Caroline Meadows, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. ☞

## KENNETH HABBEN, Jr., B.S., D-FTCB

*Submitted by Demi Garvin*

SOFT member Kenneth (Ken) Habben, Jr., died in Columbia, South Carolina on September 11, 2002, weeks before his 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday. He was diagnosed with cancer in June and, after a lengthy hospitalization, chose to spend his few remaining weeks at home, attending to his affairs and spending his remaining days among family and friends.

Born in Edmond, Oklahoma, Ken made Columbia his home since 1973. After serving four years in the US Air Force, he graduated from the University of South Carolina with a B.S. in Chemistry. Ken served as the chief toxicologist for the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) for 25 years. Upon his retirement from state government he founded Carolina Consulting Laboratory (CCL), a forensic consulting firm. He was a longstanding member of SOFT, the AAFS Toxicology Section and the Southern Association of Forensic Scientists (SAFS). He also served as an inspector for the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD).

Ken was instrumental in establishing the Forensic Toxicology Certification Board (FTCB) serving as its president and as a board member. Ken's love for the art and science of toxicology continues on through the many toxicologists he trained and mentored over the years. He will be missed as a great resource and supervisor.

Condolences may be sent in care of The Habben Family, 108 Bent Bough Circle, Columbia, SC 29212. ☞



# ELMER GORDON OPEN FORUM

## AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL DIALOGUE

**ToxTalk** extends a special "thank you" to Bill Kennedy, Redex Industries (the maker of "Udderly Smooth" cream, [www.undercream.com](http://www.undercream.com)) for saving the day. Since the **ToxTalk** editor and publisher were undergoing medical treatment at the Cleveland Clinic, the last issue of **ToxTalk** was distributed utilizing Cousin Bill's mail permit.

From **ToxTalk** Editor Joseph Monforte: I would like to thank all my colleagues who took the time and effort to contact me following my knee replacement surgery at the Cleveland Clinic and subsequent hospital rehabilitation. Your cards, e-mails and telephone calls were most welcome. A special expression of gratitude to Dr. Irving Sunshine who visited me often, distracting me with his constant reminders of my mediocre career in forensic toxicology and his superior mobility, despite our age differences. Seriously, there could be no better mentor, and our stimulating conversations were always welcome and appreciated.

Send items for this section to Editor Joseph Monforte: [DrMonforte@aol.com](mailto:DrMonforte@aol.com)

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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

**PhD level RP** for a CAP/AACC FUDT certified laboratory located in Jackson, Tennessee. This is an excellent opportunity to significantly influence an established FUDT program. Recent graduate with experience or training acceptable. The Jackson area offers a family friendly, laid back lifestyle with abundant educational opportunities with seven universities and a junior college within a 45-mile radius. Contact Leo Serrano, FACHE Executive Director - Laboratory Services by phone (701-425-6049), fax (701-421-4304) or e-mail ([leo.serrano@wth.org](mailto:leo.serrano@wth.org))

Employment opportunities are also listed on the SOFT website. For more information, go to [www.soft-tox.org](http://www.soft-tox.org)

## PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

**SOFT MEETINGS:** October 20-24, 2003, Portland, OR - Kent Johnson

2004 - Washington, D.C. - Marc LeBeau  
2005 - Nashville, TN - Louis Kuyendall

2006 - Austin, TX - Rod McCutcheon  
2007 - Chapel Hill, NC - Ruth Winecker

**"The Effects of Drugs on Human Performance and Behavior":** Course offered March 16-19, 2003, Indiana University. Contact [dilindsay@indiana.edu](mailto:dilindsay@indiana.edu)

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

**Midwest Association For Toxicology and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring:** May 8-9, 2003, East Lansing, Michigan. For more information go to [www.midwesttox.org](http://www.midwesttox.org) or e-mail Lauren Marinetti at [LMarinetti@aol.com](mailto:LMarinetti@aol.com)

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

**8<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring & Clinical Toxicology:** September 7-22, 2003, Basel, Switzerland. Contact [www.ictdmet2003.ch](http://www.ictdmet2003.ch)

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

12-19-02 Pat





# CALL FOR PAPERS

## SOFT/JAT SPECIAL ISSUE



The 23rd annual October special issue of the *Journal of Analytical Toxicology* will be published in collaboration with the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT). The guest editor for this issue is Karla Moore.

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

Karla Moore  
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner—Toxicology Laboratory  
111 Penn Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201  
Telephone: (410) 333-3240 • Fax: (410) 333-3248  
E-mail: kamoore2@juno.com

**Deadlines for submission:**  
**March 14, 2003, for Abstracts**  
**March 28, 2003, for Completed papers**

Complimentary copies of this issue will be distributed during the 2003 SOFT meeting (October 20–24, Portland, Oregon).

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