



TOXTALK

ToxTalk Editors

Yale Caplan, Ph.D., DABFT
Vickie Watts, M.S.

Section Editors

Daniel Anderson, M.S.
Matthew Barnhill, Ph.D., DABFT
Dwain Fuller, B.S.
Donald Kippenberger, Ph.D.

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Marc LeBeau, Ph.D.
Sarah Kerrigan, Ph.D.

CAPLAN AND WATTS: NEW TOXTALK EDITORS

President Wilkins and the SOFT Board of Directors announce the appointment of Yale H. Caplan and Vickie W. Watts as the new Co-Editors of ToxTalk. Following his term of SOFT President in 1981 Yale served as Toxtalk Editor from 1983 to 1990. Vickie served her SOFT term as President in 1987, has served as Meeting Host for the 1993 and 2003 annual SOFT meetings and recently coordinates the SOFT annual meetings for the local hosts.



A modern new format for ToxTalk was introduced with the Dec 2006 issue. It features a more readable column format and is enhanced by a variety of color illustrations. ToxTalk Section Editors, Daniel Anderson, Matthew Barnhill,

Dwain Fuller, and Donald Kippenberger will continue to provide scientific articles and news. The entire ToxTalk editorial team is supported by the SOFT Administrative Assistant, Bonnie Fulmer who facilitates the production of the newly formatted look and Technical Assistants, Kayla Fulmer and David Watts.

S.O.F.T. LOGO & TRADEMARK STATUS

As of January 23, 2007, the SOFT logo has been officially registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for use in connection with our educational services and programs. According to our notification letter from the law offices of Pate, Pierce & Baird, it is strongly recommended that SOFT utilize "appropriate notice of registration" by displaying any of the fol-

lowing with the service mark: 1) the symbol "®"; 2) the words "Registered in U.S. Patent and Trademark Office"; or 3) the abbreviation "Reg. U.S. Pat. & Tm. Off." Therefore, members will see a slight change to the familiar SOFT logo (an ® in the lower right corner) to comply with these recommendations.

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SUNSHINE-RIEDERS SILENT AUCTION UPDATE

During the 2006 Nashville meeting, SOFT sponsored a memorial event to honor the recent passing of two illustrious leaders in Forensic Toxicology. The Sunshine-Rieders Silent Auction was born and communication is underway to possibly make it an annual event.

Michael Rieders, Chairman of the Forensic Mentors Institute of the Rieders Foundation sends his appreciation to all involved and reports that the Rieders half of the auction proceeds have been placed in an interest bearing account which will

provide seed money for travel fellowships to send Masters and High School students to future SOFT meetings. He anticipates that a team of FMI students will attend and also present at SOFT's 2007 meeting in Raleigh, NC. The Rieders Foundation believes that by sending students to present their complex research at a national professional meeting (SOFT), they will choose a career in Forensic Toxicology and also become productive contributing members of SOFT. Michael sends his thanks for the continuing support of this most worthy and beneficial program.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DIANA WILKINS, PH.D.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the 2007 President of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for allowing me to serve you in this important capacity. I am confident that I will be able to continue to draw upon the valuable advice and assistance of the entire SOFT membership, as well as the past and present members of the SOFT Board, as we move forward to meet the demands of our expanding organization. Together, we can continue to build upon SOFT's firm professional, scientific, and financial foundation. This year promises to bring continued growth and development to SOFT so watch for future issues of ToxTalk for important updates on new developments.

The current issue of ToxTalk contains some very important information about the upcoming 2007 SOFT Annual Meeting at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Chapel Hill, N.C. Mark your calendars now for the dates of October 15th-19th for a meeting program packed with both science and fun! Jeri Roper-Miller and Ruth Winecker, our local meeting hosts, have assembled a great team who are developing an exciting and unique scientific program. Vickie Watts and Lisa O'Dell, 2007 Meeting and Exhibitor Coordinators, respectively, are also working hard on your behalf to make the 2007 meeting memorable. Scientific abstracts are due by June 29th, so begin gathering together that data you've been waiting to present!

In addition to the scientific program, the 2007 Annual Meeting will include enjoyable social activities such as

the welcome reception, a night at the Historic Tobacco District, and of course, the Cerilliant® Nite Owl event. This year, a new educational outreach program called the "SOFT Student Enrichment Program" will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting. Over 100 students with an interest in forensic sciences from local area high schools and colleges will experience a full-day workshop and a laboratory tour. It is hoped that this will become a new SOFT tradition that will be repeated in future years to facilitate early exposure to the scientific discipline of forensic toxicology.

Deadlines have concluded for submission of papers to the SOFT Special Issue of the Journal of Analytical Toxicology. Many thanks are due to Sarah Kerrigan for agreeing to serve as the Guest Editor for this issue. I encourage everyone to consider submitting original research and case reports to this valuable resource for our members. As always, I am confident we can look forward to an exceptional issue.

Please also continue to submit your news items and articles for ToxTalk to our Editors, Yale Caplan, Vickie Watts, Dan Anderson, Matthew Barnhill, Dwain Fuller, and Don Kippenberger. They are always enthusiastic about receiving input for this important SOFT publication! Kudos to volunteers Kayla Fulmer, and David Watts for their invaluable ideas and assistance with content, article layout, and graphics. As always, ToxTalk continues its long-standing tradition of excellence and service to our members.

Along with SOFT's continued growth and development, comes both new



opportunities and challenging decisions. I am pleased to announce the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee for Long-Term Strategic Planning. Comprised of former SOFT Presidents and Treasurers, this committee has been charged with providing advice on the development of long-range planning goals and budget for SOFT. Many thanks go to Brad Helper for agreeing to serve as the first Chair of this committee.

As many of you know, it is the combined efforts of the many individuals who volunteer their time and talent that makes SOFT successful. Please consider becoming more active in SOFT and e-mail me with your ideas and desired area of interest. Alternatively, take a moment to look over the list of committees and contact the committee chair for more information on how to become involved. I look forward to this 2007 year, knowing that SOFT will continue its strong tradition of fostering constructive scientific dialogue, professional development, and educational outreach, among our diverse membership.

SCAVENGER HUNT

The SOFT Office has organized old archived records and has a historical need to acquire missing Program/Abstract books from some of the annual meetings. If you have any of the Meeting Programs that you would like to donate, please mail them to the SOFT Office in Mesa, Arizona. The Program Books that are missing and needed are:

1985 from Montreal, Quebec
 1991 from Montreal, Quebec
 1992 from Hartford, CT
 1994 from Tampa, FL
 2000 from Milwaukee, WI
 2001 from New Orleans, LA
 2002 from Dearborn, MI
 2005 from Nashville, TN

DID YOU PAY DUES?

As of March 1 there were still 70 SOFT members who have not paid their 2007 annual dues. Members with unpaid dues risk being dropped from membership per organization bylaws. If unsure of your status, call toll free (1-888-866-7638) to inquire, pay by charge card, or make changes to your address and contact information. A real person will answer the phone between 9 am - 1 pm M-F. If a phone call is too time consuming, jet an inquiry by email to: office@soft-tox.org. The process of applying for "reinstatement" is guaranteed to take longer!!!

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

of the

Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc.

October 5, 2006

The Annual Business Meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc., (SOFT) was held on October 5, 2006 at the Hilton in Austin, Texas. President Timothy Rohrig requested that the Secretary establish a quorum. A quorum of greater than 62 Full members were present. President Rohrig called the meeting to order at 3:40 pm. Upon a motion duly made, seconded and passed, the agenda was approved. By a motion duly made, seconded and passed, the Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc., of October 2005 as published in ToxTalk, were approved by acclamation.

President's Report:

Timothy Rohrig, Ph.D.

President Rohrig reported that the affairs of the Society were in good order. Meetings were planned through to the year 2012. The administration of the Society was improved; of significance was the establishment of a dedicated SOFT Office in Mesa, AZ. A dedicated Administrative Assistant position was approved and filled on a half time basis. In addition to traditional tasks, the SOFT Office will provide assistance in the printing and distribution of ToxTalk. He thanked the officers and the various committee members for their excellent work over the past year. President Rohrig thanked Vickie Watts for her work in coordinating the Austin meeting and gave a special thanks to Rod McCutcheon who served as this year's Annual Meeting Host. Finally, President Rohrig thanked the members for attending the meeting.

Secretary's Report:

Anthony Costantino, Ph.D.

Secretary Costantino reported that status of the trademark application for the SOFT logo is still in progress awaiting public comment and final approval.

Treasurer's Report:

Christine Moore, Ph.D.

Treasurer Moore reported that SOFT is in sound financial condition with assets totaling approximately \$337,000 that includes \$50,163 in the reserve account and \$170,857 in the ERA fund.

Vice President's & Committee Reports:

Diana Wilkins, Ph.D.

Vice President Wilkins called on the committee chairs to give their reports:

A. Bylaws -

Yale Caplan, Ph.D.

Dr. Wilkins reported on behalf of Dr. Caplan. She read from the submitted report that there was no activity to report on in 2006.

B. Budget, Finance, & Audit -

Robert Turk, Ph.D.

The committee members include Dr. Turk, Dr. Diana Garside, Dr. George Jackson and Dr. Dean Fritch.

Dr. Turk reported that the committee had completed the review of the 2005/2006 SOFT Budget and Financial Reports. The financial data and reports appear to be complete and in good order.

C. Membership -

Anthony Costantino, Ph.D.

Dr. Costantino informed the membership that the current committee members included Dr. Peter Stout, Dr. Rebecca Jufer-Phipps and Ms. Jennifer Limoges. Membership of SOFT totaled 824, inclusive of 618 Full members, 143 Associate members, 14 Retired Charter, 24 Retired, and 25 Student members. Application and promotion forms are available on the SOFT web site.

D. ToxTalk -

Joe Monforte, Ph.D.

Dr. Monforte notified the membership that 2006 is the 30th Anniversary of ToxTalk. He thanked the Editorial Board for their assistance over the past years. ToxTalk continues to be published and distributed in a timely manner on a quarterly basis. The distribution continues to increase. The last mailing consisted of approximately 800 issues. The publisher continues to work with the meeting hosts and various committee members to ensure that meeting materials and other time sensitive information are mailed in a timely manner. As is usual, the second quarterly mailing of ToxTalk included the SOFT Directory. The size of each issue expanded from a typical 8 page format to a 16-20 page format. Although labor intensive, bulk mailing continues to save SOFT considerable mailing costs.

Special recognition and numerous certificates were distributed to those who have helped to develop and improve ToxTalk. A special recognition was given to the Publisher, Patricia Mohn-Monforte.

E. JAT Special Issue -

Marc LeBeau, Ph.D.

Special Issue Editor, Marc LeBeau, thanked the 54 reviewers and submitters for the SOFT Special Issue as well as JAT Managing Editor, Julie Weber Roarke, for their hard work in getting the issue ready. He reported that 19 original papers, 3 case reports, 3 technical notes and 1 short communication were received and published in the special issue. Publisher, Tinsley Preston presented a plaque to Marc LeBeau in recognition of his work.

F. Education Research Award & Young Scientist Meeting Award -

Philip Kemp, Ph.D.

Dr. Kemp reported that the committee received two ERA applications this year. The awardees were Erin Kolbrich (University of Maryland at Baltimore) and Stacy Smeal

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

(University of Utah, Center for Human Toxicology). Three Young Scientist Meeting Awards were distributed. The recipients were Matthew Juhascik (University of Massachusetts Memorial), Eucen Fu (Los Angeles County Coroner's Office) and Travis Curtis (Ameritox Laboratory).

G. Meeting Resource Committee -

2006 Austin, TX - Meeting host Rod McCutcheon thanked SOFT for having the meeting in Austin and invited everyone to the President's Reception at the Texas State History Museum.

2007 Raleigh-Durham, NC - The Meeting Hosts, Ruth Winecker, Diana Gar-side and Jeri Miller presented an overview of the current plans for the 2007 meeting. The committee members handed out pins, temporary tattoos and candies with the SOFT 2007 logo at the meeting. The meeting hotel will be the Sheraton Imperial. The North Carolina Historic Tobacco Campus has been secured for an evening event. There are currently three workshop proposals. The meeting dates are October 15-19, 2007. A short promotional tourism video was then shown.

Future meeting sites and hosts are:

2008 Phoenix, AZ

Vickie Watts / Norman Wade

2009 Oklahoma City, OK

Philip Kemp

2010 Richmond, VA

Michelle Peace / Lisa Tarnai Moak

2011 San Francisco, CA

Nikolas Lemos

2012 Boston, MA

Mike Wagner

H. Laboratory Guidelines

Lee Hearn, Ph.D.

The 2006 revision of the guidelines was approved by the Toxicology Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences at the annual meeting in February, 2006. The approved guidelines document was posted on the SOFT website. The committee met at the Austin SOFT meeting to discuss any additional revisions.

I. Drugs and Driving Committee -

Sarah Kerrigan, Ph.D.

The committee sponsored two DUID special sessions and one workshop. The first Special Session committee members will present 6 case studies and highlight the relative strengths and weaknesses of each case. A second Special Session will be held at the AAFS meeting in San Antonio in February 2007. A workshop entitled "Standardized Field Sobriety Tests-Principle and Practice" was held at the SOFT meeting on Tuesday, October 3, 2006. The workshop was well received.

The Training and Outreach Subcommittee is considering a proposal for a DUID testimony workshop at the 2007 SOFT meeting that would focus on how toxicology results are used in court. The Continuing Education Committee will coordinate the development of the workshop.

The survey of laboratories that support DRE was finalized and the results were presented at the 2006 AAFS meeting in Seattle. The results were distributed to the participating laboratories. The Laboratory Guidelines Committee has been asked to provide comment on IACP/DRE training materials for over-the-counter and prescription drugs.

The committee plans to use the SOFT website for the DUID website project. Progress will be reported at the 2007 AAFS meeting.

J. Policies and Procedures -

William Anderson, Ph.D.

Dr. Anderson reported that all minutes have been abstracted since the last annual meeting. The Policy and Procedures Manual has been reviewed to ensure that it is current. Copies of the manual will be available to Board Members who would like a hard copy.

K. Website -

Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D.

Dr. Goldberger reported that he maintained the SOFT web-site content including annual meeting papers and the employment exchange. With the assis-

tance of Vickie Watts and Paul Lubbers he facilitated the on-line registration for the 2006 SOFT annual meeting. This includes the development of enhanced on-line merchant transaction functionality for registrants and exhibitors. The new on-line registration system and Access database are stable and will be used in future years.

The on-line membership database maintenance duties were transferred to Bonnie Fulmer. Off-line and on-line membership databases are now fully synchronized. In addition, a new email address will be established for routine SOFT business including membership issues; Ms. Fulmer will monitor messages.

The Verisign and Wells Fargo merchant account transactions were monitored and a report of activity was prepared for the Budget, Audit and Finance Committee.

L. Continuing Education Committee -

Ann Marie Gordon.

Ms. Gordon reported that the committee presented two workshops at the Austin SOFT meeting. One was a basic course on Opioids and the other was entitled "How Does Your QA/QC Program Measure Up?". The committee has committed to working with the SOFT/AAFS Committee on Drugs and Driving Outreach Subcommittee to develop a training program for toxicologists in the area of drug impaired driving. This committee now has 9 workshops that are available for regional offerings. They are looking for a greater number of volunteers to host them. Dr. Jufer will host one in the Baltimore, MD area.

M. Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault Committee -

Marc LeBeau, Ph.D.

Dr. LeBeau reported that the committee has been very active. They published maximum detection limits for testing for common compounds for DFSA in urine specimens. There is also a survey to be completed by laboratories that are performing testing in cases of DFSA. This is posted on the SOFT website. There were a number of special sessions at the

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

2006 SOFT meeting including several papers on DFSA. They will sponsor a workshop at AAFS in 2007 as well as one at SOFT in 2007.

N. Ethics Committee - No report was given.

O. MS/MS Guidelines Committee - John Cody, Ph.D.

Dr. Cody reported that this is a newly established committee whose purpose is to develop guidelines for the identification of compounds of forensic toxicological interest using MS/MS. Three groups represent the committee.

- 1) committee members from the SOFT membership,
- 2) advisors to the group consisting of individuals who were involved with the development of MS guidelines for another organization or work under those guidelines and
- 3) consultants that are drawn from the vendor community who are willing to provide information on instrument capabilities and weaknesses that will allow the committee to understand the capabilities and limitations of multi-stage mass spectrometry.

P. Nominating Committee - Graham Jones, Ph.D.

The Nominating Committee consisted of Graham Jones (chair), Laurel Farrell and Jean Beno. Nominees for 2007 Officers were:

Diana Wilkins, President
Christine Moore, Vice-President
Brad Hepler, Treasurer
Marc LeBeau, Director 3-year term
Sarah Kerrigan, Director 3-year term

Liaison Reports: Timothy Rohrig, Ph.D.

AAFS - Peter Stout, Ph.D.

Peter Stout will be the Program Chair for the Toxicology Program at the 2007 meeting in San Antonio, TX.

TIAFT and ICADTS - Marilyn Huestis, Ph.D. and Ann Marie Gordon

Ms. Gordon reported on the ICADTS /TIAFT joint meeting in Seattle in August of 2007. Dr. Huestis reported that there are 16 Young Scientist Awards. Eight are from developing countries.

CAT - Jim Bourland, Ph.D.

Dr. Bourland announced that the next CAT meeting would be March 2-3, 2007 in Redondo Beach, CA.

ABFT - Yale Caplan, Ph.D.

Dr. Caplan announced the names of the newly qualified Diplomates.

The certification exam will be offered to international members. The exam will be offered in English and will be offered at the 2007 SOFT meeting in North Carolina.

Unfinished Business:

President Rohrig asked if there was any unfinished business. There was no unfinished business.

New Business: Timothy Rohrig, Ph.D.

Awards and Recognition:

President Rohrig thanked the outgoing officers and directors of SOFT and presented each of the following individuals with a plaque:

Board of Directors, Brad Hepler, Ph.D. and Ruth Winecker, Ph.D.

Treasurer, Christine Moore Ph.D.

Vice President, Diana Wilkins, Ph.D.

President Rohrig also presented a plaque to Rod McCutcheon in recognition of his participation as Meeting Host for the 2006 meeting.

Rod McCutcheon presented some additional awards to those who helped with the Austin Meeting.

Jeri Roper-Miller presented various awards as recognition for contributions to the workshops.

Nominations and Elections:

No nominations for SOFT officers or directors were received from the floor. Motions were made and seconded to accept the nominations for each position as submitted by the Nominating Committee. All Officers and Directors were elected by acclamation. The newly elected 2007 SOFT Officers and Directors are as follows:

Diana Wilkins, President
Christine Moore, Vice-President
Brad Hepler, Treasurer
Marc LeBeau, Director 3-year term
Sarah Kerrigan, Director 3-year term

Incoming President's Remarks:

Newly elected President, Diana Wilkins, presented outgoing President Rohrig with a commemorative plaque on behalf of the members, in recognition of his service to SOFT.

She continued by asking for a moment of silence to honor the memories of Dr.'s Fredric Rieders and Irving Sunshine who had passed away since the 2005 SOFT meeting.

Dr. Wilkins indicated her continuing support for graduate education, and in particular the ERA and YSMA awards. She will continue to support SOFT's strong tradition of fostering strong constructive scientific dialogue among the diverse membership.

Dr. Wilkins announced that the Guest Editor for the next SOFT JAT Special Issue will be Dr. Sarah Kerrigan.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony G. Costantino, Ph.D.
SOFT Secretary, 2006-2007

Minutes are subject to final adoption at the 2007 SOFT Annual Business Meeting.



SOFT 2007 Annual Meeting

Raleigh / Durham / Chapel Hill,

North Carolina

October 15 - 19, 2007



CALL FOR PAPERS AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS JUNE 29, 2007

General Information

The Program Committee solicits abstracts on all forensic toxicology topics including postmortem toxicology, forensic urine drug testing, analytical toxicology of drugs, pharmacology as related to forensic toxicology, pathology as related to forensic toxicology, pediatric and geriatric case reports, and the relationship between drug concentrations and performance impairment. Scientific papers selected for presentation will be divided into two groups: fifteen-minute platform presentations and poster presentations. The Program Committee will select appropriate abstracts from those **submitted by the June 29, 2007 deadline**. The presenting authors of all papers will be required to register for the meeting. Only abstracts written in English will be considered. The format for the preparation of the abstracts is on the submission form.

Platform (Oral) Presentations

ONLY 35-mm slides or LCD (PowerPoint) presentations will be accepted. Each presenter will be provided with 10 minutes to present their material and 5 minutes to answer questions. Platform presentations must cover the material reported in the abstract. Regardless whether 35 mm slides or LCD projection are used, information on the slides must be kept simple with plenty of open spaces between lines. Limit information on each slide to seven lines or less. Do not crowd the slide. Avoid backing up in slide lectures. If you need a slide twice, make duplicate slides. White on black, white on blue, blue on yellow or yellow on blue project best. Avoid red and blue or other non-contrasting color combinations. If using 35mm slides, it is highly recommended that you provide your own carousel.

LCD Projector – Policies and Procedures

An LCD projector will be available for use at this meeting. Any LCD format platform presentation **MUST** be submitted in advance (**Deadline September 21, 2007**) on 3.5-inch disk or by E-mail in Microsoft PowerPoint (IBM format only) to the Program Chair (contact information on abstract submission form). There will be **NO** exception to these requirements. All presentations will be pre-loaded and tested on a computer (and backup computer) provided by SOFT. You may bring your own laptop as an additional backup, however in order to improve flow between presentations this will only be used in the event of unexpected

technical problems. Slide projectors will be available for presenters who do not meet this deadline, or format requirement.

Poster Presentations

Each author selected for poster presentation will be provided with a 4' x 8' tack board on which to display material related to his or her presentation. Presenters must bring their own tacks. Authors have complete freedom to choose ways of displaying their information in figures, tables, text, photographs, etc; however, they should avoid crowding too much information into a limited space. The poster should be readable from a distance of 3 feet. Posters will be kept up for the designated period they are scheduled. Please be sure your poster is mounted prior to the presentation session and leave it mounted until the session ends. It will only be necessary for the author to be present at the poster for the presentation period noted in the program.

Abstract Submission

1. Online, through the SOFT website at <http://www.soft-tox.org>. The abstract itself is to be provided in Microsoft Word **ONLY** using the format described on the next page.
2. Electronically by e-mail at rhipps@phipps.ws. Be sure to provide all the information required in the body of your e-mail text. Be sure to type **ONE** of the disclosure statements in your-email. By submission of your abstract electronically, no signature is required for the disclosure. The abstract itself is to be provided as an attachment in Microsoft Word **ONLY** using the format described on the next page.

Disclosure Information (Please Read Carefully)

In order for AACC ACCENT credits to be provided for attendees to the SOFT 2007 Annual Meeting by the TDM/Toxicology Division of AACC, each speaker must provide disclosure of potential bias or conflict of interest. This information is provided to any attendee who requests information concerning possible bias, conflict of interest or commercialism of any presentation. Please complete the information as it applies to you on the submission form.



SOFT 2007 Annual Meeting

Raleigh / Durham / Chapel Hill,

North Carolina

October 15 - 19, 2007



Information to be provided with the Abstract

Please complete the following information only if you cannot submit your abstract by e-mail or on the website:

Presenting Author Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Fax Number _____

E-mail _____

Co-author(s) Name(s) and Address(es) _____

Attach additional pages if necessary

Has this paper been presented before? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, where and when? _____

Select your presentation preference:

Platform _____ 35-mm () Powerpoint () or Poster _____

Format of the Abstract

Type the title in upper and lower case letters. Separate the title from the authors by single blank line. Type the name(s) of the authors and, followed by the address(es) (affiliation, city, state, country) of the authors. For multiple addresses use a numerical superscript after the name. Use an asterisk (*) to identify the presenting author. Separate the author's names from the body of the abstract by a single blank line. Identify three key words at the bottom of the abstract. See example below:

The Analysis of Oobleck from Precipitation Collected in the World of Dr. Seuss

Cindy Lou Who^{*1}, Yertle Turtle², and Bartholomew Cubbins². ¹Whoville University, Whoville, MI, U.S.A.; ²Mulberry Street Consulting Group, Prairie of Prax, MN, U.S.A.

Indent each paragraph three spaces. Type the entire abstract single-spaced. Do not type in all capital letters. Capitalize and punctuate exactly as you wish the abstract to appear in the program. Do not double space after a period. The abstract should be limited to one 8 ½ x 11-inch page using Times New Roman font, size 12.

The abstract must contain the following information: (1) author(s) name(s) and affiliation, city, state, country; (2) short specific title; (3) statement of paper's objective; (4) statement of methods, if relevant; (5) statement of results; (6) statement of conclusion; (7) key words (three).

Key Words: Oobleck, Seuss, Precipitation

NOTIFICATION: You will be notified of receipt of your abstract within two weeks of submission. If you do not receive notification in this time frame, please contact the Program Chair to make sure your abstract was received. Correspondence from the Program Chair will be with the presenting author only. Acceptance notification will be made by August 28, 2007.

AACC Policy on Disclosure of Potential Bias or Conflict of Interest

AACC requires that all speakers in accredited Continuing Education Activities disclose any possible bias or conflict of interest regarding the topic that is being presented. A conflict of interest is defined as any financial interest of the speaker in a company's products or services discussed in the presentation. For example, if the speaker (1) holds stock in the company, (2) is paid salary or consultant fees by the company, (3) has grant support from the company and/or (4) has received support for travel expenses, honoraria, etc. from the company, a conflict of interest exists regarding this topic and must be reported. If the speaker has a financial interest in a company *but is not discussing a product or service of that company*, no conflict of interest must be disclosed.

Please place an X next to ONE of the DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS indicated below:

_____ I have read the above statements and I declare that neither I nor any member of my immediate family has a financial interest in a company as defined in AACC policies on conflict of interest.

_____ I have read the above statements and I declare that I have (or a member of my immediate family has) a financial interest in a company as defined in the AACC policies on conflict of interest.

Please indicate the nature of the conflict of interest: (Grant /Research Support ____; Salary/Consultant ____; Stocks/Bonds____; Honoraria/Expenses ____) and the Source (Company) providing financial support _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

By submission of this abstract by e-mail no signature is required for the disclosure. You must, however, type the applicable disclosure statement in your e-mail text.

Submission Address:

Rebecca Jufer Phipps, Ph.D., SOFT 2007 Program Chair
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YOUR SOFT-2007 MEETING SOCIAL CALENDAR

Submitted By Diana Garside, 2007 Events Coordinator

We are very excited to be hosting SOFT 2007 in the beautiful Triangle, NC area (www.visitnc.com). In addition to the vibrant autumn leaf colors that will be visible during your time with us, there are many other activities to keep you from being idle in the unlikely event you have



spare time from the scientific and social program we have organized for you. With an anticipated registration of over 600, SOFT 2007 will be returning to the traditional format and intimacy of years past.

After two days of stimulating workshops there will be a fitting welcome to North Carolina at the Reception on Tuesday evening. You will be treated to the taste of the local fare by way of a pig pickin' barbecue, including slaw, mac 'n cheese, potato salad, southern fried



chicken, Brunswick stew, and hush puppies all washed down with your choice of microbrew, sweet tea, wine, soda and other tipples of your choice.



In keeping with the historic theme of this being the site where the first officially incorporated SOFT meeting occurred in 1974, we have organized an evening of music, dance, and relaxation at the historic Tobacco Campus of Durham. The Campus, pictured above in 1930, has been beautifully restored (see below), keeping the easily recognizable red brick architecture and Lucky Strike smoke stack as local icons of the former years of the tobacco industry.



With a variety of music from local bands, you may choose to 'shag', North Carolina style, or relax on the lawn soaking-up the sounds. To inspire the dancer in you, a short dance lesson will be provided at the beginning of the evening so you can work off some of the luscious food you have consumed. Buses will take you on the short ride to and from the Campus.



The SOFT Fun Run, organized for Thursday morning, will take you through a beautiful 3-mile jogging trail around the hotel

grounds. For those ambitious folks, you may take advantage of this trail at any time during your stay.

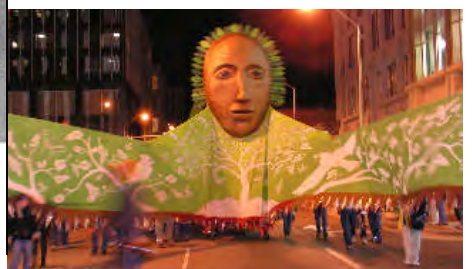


For your last evening with us, we have some marvelous dinner theater for your enjoyment. Inspired by their love for the earth and their belief in justice, equality, and peace, local artists, Paperhand Puppet Intervention, will perform for you. Giant puppets will rove above your dinner tables and take your breath away with their unique entertainment.



Of course, no SOFT meeting would be complete without the hospitality of Cerilliant's Nite Owl Reception, a guaranteed good time.

One thing you can be sure of, SOFT 2007 will be a meeting to remember. See you there!



WELCOME TO THE TRIANGLE

Golf: There is not enough space here to go into detail about the golfing opportunities in the Triangle. We suggest you visit www.triangleteetimes.com/ and www.sheratonrtp.com/golf.html for all the information you need.

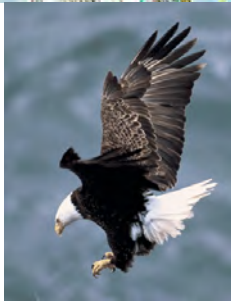


North Carolina State Fair: You want what deep fried? You name it and chances are you'll find it deep fried at the NC State Fair. Located just 10 minutes away from the hotel. www.ncstatefair.org/2006/

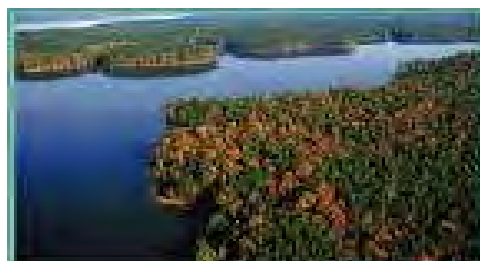


Wildlife and Nature:

Do you want to see a Bald Eagle? Maybe you just want to take a hike and see the beautiful changing of the leaves. Then Jordan Lake is the place you want to be. Located just 35 minutes from the hotel you are also welcome to wet a line here.



ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jord/home.html.



The Sarah P. Duke Gardens, on Duke University Campus, offers 55 acres of landscaped and woodland gardens with more than 2,000 kinds of plants and 5 miles of beautiful pathways (www.durham-nc.com/things/nature_places.php).



There is also the Duke Lemur Center, home to 250 prosimian primates (<http://lemur.duke.edu/>), the Carnivore Preservation Trust, a wildlife sanctuary (www.cptigers.org/default.asp), and the North Carolina Zoo (www.nczoo.org/).



Nightlife: Franklin Street, Ninth Street, and Downtown Raleigh. If nightlife is your thing, then head to one of the cities that form the Triangle and enjoy!

Education & the Arts: The Triangle area has many museums in which you can while away the time. The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, the North Carolina Museum of Art, Exploris, the North Carolina Museum of Life and Science, the North Carolina Museum of History, and the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center.

Historic North Carolina: Depending on your travel schedule you can visit renowned university campuses of Duke,

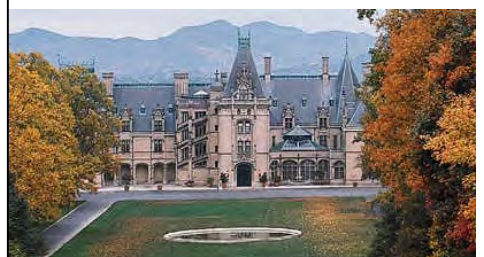


UNC, and NC State; see what it was like to live and work in past times by visiting Old Winston-Salem, Biltmore Estates, or the unique American Tobacco Historic District. In addition, the State Capitol of Raleigh can be toured by trolley or by foot, both guided and unguided.

If you tend to like the road less traveled, you may wish to see the Galloway cows grazing at Ferrington Village, find the



historic mill town of Bynum (home of folk artist Clyde Jones), visit Seagrove for its Carolina pottery, or visit the heart of North Carolina wine country in Yadkin Valley. All are a refreshing must see on any visit to the Triangle.





SOFT STUDENT ENRICHMENT PROGRAM LAUNCHES IN NORTH CAROLINA

Submitted By: Andrew Mason, Ph.D., DABCC, DABFT 2007 SSEP Committee Chair
Jeri Roper Miller, PhD, DABFT 2007 SOFT Co-Host
Ruth Winecker PhD, DABFT 2007 SOFT Co-Host

North Carolina is known for its hospitality and higher education. Just this year, U.S. News and World Report ranked 3 of 4 of North Carolina's Universities in the Top 30 National Universities (http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/brief/t1natudoc_brief.php). North Carolina boasts more than 50 colleges and universities and more than 450 high schools. Many of these schools at both educational levels already provide coursework focusing on forensic sciences, but exposure remains limited. A goal of SOFT is to promote continuing education and training in forensic toxicology. In support of SOFT's mission and goal and our own traditions, the SOFT 2007 Planning Committee has developed a student educational outreach program that will take place Monday, October 15, 2007 in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center.

This new program, named the SOFT Student Enrichment Program (SSEP), is now inviting high school and college students to participate in a one-day educational program to learn about the field of forensic toxicology. For one-half day, the students will attend lectures that will educate them about the field of forensic toxicology and the other half day the

students will attend a tour of a local forensic laboratory. A lunch will be provided and the students will be invited to mingle with SOFT attendees in an informal setting to promote more knowledge sharing and gathering among the groups. The SSEP will be limited to 100 students, 50 high school and 50 college students. The purpose of SSEP is to foster education among our future forensic scientists and to give students an educational opportunity they may not otherwise experience.

Students will be chosen through an application process. Students demonstrating a high academic achievement in the sciences, especially with an indicated interest in forensic sciences, can apply to the SSEP. Students are responsible for their own transportation to SSEP and lodging, if needed. All costs associated with the day-long event



itself, including lunch, will be covered by SOFT and its sponsors. Current sponsors include the following North Carolina organizations, RTI International, State Bureau of Investigation Crime Laboratories, and LabCorp Inc. of Research Triangle Park. Interested students should download application and instructions from the SOFT website (www.soft-tox.org) and complete the application which includes submission of an essay and a teacher recommendation. The SSEP committee will review all applications and choose attendees based on consideration of all applications.

SSEP Schedule - 8:00 am to 5:00 pm EST

- Student Arrival and Registration
- Transportation to Laboratory
- Half-day Laboratory Tour
- Lunch w/ Informal Discussion Groups of Students and SOFT Members
- Half-day Forensic Toxicology Seminar w/ Practicing Forensic Toxicologists
- Questions & Answers
- Dismissal

Applications available:

www.soft-tox.org
form6tox@aol.com
jerimiller@rti.org

Application Period:

May 1, 2007 to September 14, 2007

Acceptance Notification:

September 24, 2007

E.R.A. THANKS

S.O.F.T. has long sponsored an Educational Research Award (ERA) to encourage studies in Forensic Toxicology. In 2006, S.O.F.T. additionally began a second similar program called the Young Scientist Meeting Award (YSMA) targeting graduate students and young scientists.

S.O.F.T. members individually donate small and large amounts of money to fund these prominent honors that encourage young scientists to delve into the field of Forensic Toxicology. So far this year the following S.O.F.T. members have generously contributed into the ERA fund:

William Anderson
David Andrenyak
Timothy Appel
Michael Baylor
Robert Blanke
Dea Boehme
Stuart Bogema
Rudolf Brenneisen
William Bress
Donna Bush
Paula Childs
Richard Cohn
Edward Cone
Anthony Costantino

Timothy Eastly
Laurel Farrell
Michael Fowler
Albert Fraser
Walter Hrynkiw
Marilyn Huestis
Rebecca Jufer-Phipps
Linda Juliano
James Kraner
Marc LeBeau
Nikolas Lemos
Barry Levine (of MD)
Elizabeth Marker
Maria Martinez

Andrew Mason
Samuel Mathews
Joel Mayer
Diane Mertens-Maxham
John Mitchell
Adam Negrusz
Miranda Nolan (Crowe)
Robert Osiewicz
Richard Pinder
Wayne Ross
Robert Sears
Theodore Siek
Robert Simon
Michael Slade

Michael Smith
Elizabeth Spratt
Robert Turk
Karl Verebey
Vickie Watts
Robert White
Susan Williamson
Charles Winek
John Wyman

More information on the ERA and YSMA such as eligibility and application instructions can be found at the S.O.F.T. web site (soft-tox.org).
Persuade a talented co-worker or student to apply for one of these prestigious recognition awards. Applicant need not be S.O.F.T. member.



**SOFT 2007 ANNUAL MEETING
RALEIGH-DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL
October 15 – 19, 2007**

Co-Hosts: Jeri Roper-Miller / Ruth Winecker
Site: Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Durham, North Carolina



PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Sunday, October 14, 2007

- Satellite Organization Meetings
- NSC Executive Board (11:30 am—1:30 pm)
- Registration Opens (2:00 pm—6:00 pm)
- NLCP Inspector Training (2:00 pm—6:00 pm)

Monday, October 15, 2007

- Continental Breakfast (7:00 am—8:30 am)
- Registration (7:00 am—6:00 pm)
- Workshops (8:00 am—5:00 pm)
- SOFT Student Enrichment Program (8:00 am—5:00 pm)
- ABFT Exam Committee (noon—6 pm)
- Dinner—on your own

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

- Continental Breakfast (7:00 am—8:30 am)
- Registration (7:00 am—6:00 pm)
- Workshops (8:00 am—5:00 pm)

****Specific Workshops and Other Meetings still need to be scheduled.**

- ABFT Examination (8 am—noon)
- ABFT Accreditation Committee (9 am—noon)
- ABFT Board Meeting (noon—6 pm)
- Exhibits Set-up (noon—5:00 pm)
- Exhibits Open (6:30 pm—8:00 pm)
- Welcoming Reception in Exhibit Hall (6:30 pm—8:00 pm)
- Elmer Gordon Forum (8:00 pm—10:00 pm)
- Nite Owl Reception (10:30 pm—12:30 pm)

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

- Continental Breakfast (7:00 am—8:30 am)
- Registration (7:30 am—5:30 pm)
- Scientific Session (8:30 am—10:00 am)
- Exhibits Open (9:30 am—3:30 pm)
- Poster Session 10:30 am—noon
- Lunch w/ Exhibitors (noon—1:30 pm)
- Scientific Session (1:30 pm—3:00 pm)
- SOFT Business Meeting (3:30 pm—5:00 pm)
- Exhibitor's Happy Hour (5:00 pm—6:30 pm)
- Historic Tobacco Evening Dinner and Dance (6:30 pm—10:30 pm)

Thursday, October 18, 2007

- SOFT Fun Run/Walk (6:30 am—8:00 am)
- Continental Breakfast (7:00 am—8:30 am)
- Registration (7:00 am—5:00 pm)
- Exhibitor Feedback Mtg. (8:00 am—9:30 am)
- Exhibits Open (9:30 am—1:30 pm)
- Scientific Session (8:30 am—10:00 am)
- Poster Session (10:30 am—noon)
- Lunch w/ Exhibitors (noon—1:30 pm)
- Exhibits Breakdown (1:30 pm—3:30 pm)
- Scientific Session (1:30 pm—3:00 pm)
- Poster Session (3:30 pm—5:00 pm)
- ABFT Certificat Reception (5:00 pm—6:00 pm)
- President's Reception (6:30 pm—10:30 pm)

Friday, October 19, 2007

- Continental Breakfast (7:30 am—9:00 am)
- Closing Scientific Session (9:00 am—11:00 am)

NORTH CAROLINA VENUES BECKON SO-SOFT MEMBERS

Submitted By Becke Baylor

Hey y'all SO-SOFT members! This is your first official welcome to our beautiful state of North Carolina! We are excited to know that you will be attending the SOFT meeting Oct. 14 - 19, here in Research Triangle Park (RTP), NC.

There are many things to do and see here, and to help you perhaps decide on some fun and interesting outings, we encourage you to read further and let us know what you might like to do. Some of the things might require additional transportation, a separate cost from SOFT registration.

Winston-Salem, NC is about 90 miles from RTP. It is a beautiful town in the upper Piedmont region, and home of Old Salem (www.oldsalem.org). Below is a summary of what you might experience in Old Salem.

From the website:

Old Salem Museums & Gardens is America's most comprehensive history attraction. Our four museums - the Historic Town of Salem, the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA), the Old Salem Children's Museum, and the Old Salem Toy Museum - engage visitors in an educational

and memorable historical experience about those who lived and worked in the early South.

If there is enough interest in this venue, NC-SOFT leadership will research the cost associated with bus rental to and from Winston-Salem. Whether or not an organized trip is planned for Winston-Salem, you might want to put it on your "list of things to do" during your stay.

Seagrove, NC is another wonderful option, but given its very rural location, a caravan of cars is the best option. We highly recommend taking a trip to this wonderful region of NC (www.discoverseagrove.com).

From the website:

"The Seagrove area is one of the largest communities of potters with the longest continual history of pottery making in the United States. Today visitors can explore the rural landscape by back roads and visit the potters in their workshops and studios. The area is home to more than 100 potters who offer a full spectrum of pottery and ceramic art. With a diversity of talents, Seagrove has something to offer both

the serious collector and the casual buyer. The Seagrove area offers the visitor an opportunity to learn about North Carolina's ongoing pottery culture.

For those of you who are readers of mystery books, Margaret Maron a well known author, lives in NC and writes mystery stories through her heroine, Deborah Knott. One of her more famous books is "Uncommon Clay". This novel takes its storyline in the small community of Seagrove, NC! Read it before you come or bring it along and experience "the read" right here in NC.

Of course, you cannot miss a trip to Duke Chapel and Duke Gardens. Both are spectacular sights to behold, and only a short 20 minute ride from RTP. There are plenty of shopping opportunities here, including the Carolina Outlet Center about an hour from RTP.

Please let us know if there is any interest in an organized trip to Winston Salem by sending us an email to: blh@rti.org or jerimiller@rti.org. Once you visit, you'll want to come back and explore our state even more!



NEW DRUG - PREGABALIN (LYRICA®)

Submitted By Section Editor Dan Anderson, M.S.

By: Sara L. Kegler, Los Angeles County Department of Coroner, Email: Skegler@lacoroner.org

The Food and Drug Administration approved Pregabalin in December 2004

for the treatment of nerve pain associated with diabetes and shingles. Pregabalin, developed by Pfizer, has a novel mechanism of action that works by reducing the number of signals that are sent out from the damaged nerves. This provides fast and sustained relief from neuropathic pain often characterized by a "pins and needles" feeling. Pregabalin has also been approved for the relief of partial onset seizures in adults with epilepsy. It is prescribed in capsules of 25, 50, 75, 100, 150, 200, 225, and 300 mg doses.

Pharmacokinetics

Pregabalin is readily absorbed orally, and its oral bioavailability is equal to or greater than 90%. It has a half-life of about 6 hours. Pregabalin reaches a peak plasma concentration (means range from 0.04 to 9.5 ug/mL) within 1.5 hours. Following single-dose (25-300 mg) and multiple-dose (75-900 mg/day) administration, maximum plasma concentrations increase linearly, with steady-state levels reached within 24 to 48 hours. Patients taking the recommended dosages have shown steady state concentrations up to 10 ug/mL. Pregabalin has a volume of

distribution of 0.5 L/kg. Approximately 90% of the dose is excreted unchanged in the urine. The N-methylated derivative of pregabalin is the major urinary metabolite, accounting for only 0.9% of the dose.

Chemistry

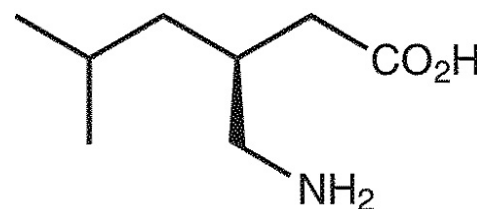
Pregabalin has a molecular weight of 159.23 (C₈H₁₇NO₂). It has two pK_a values, 4.2 and 10.6, corresponding to the carboxylic acid and the amine groups, respectively. It is freely soluble in water and both basic and acidic aqueous solutions. A reference standard, provided by Pfizer Global Research & Development, was dissolved in methanol to create a working standard of 1 mg/ml.

Pregabalin was analyzed by protein precipitation of samples with acetonitrile and detection by LC/MS/MS. Multiple Reaction Monitoring (MRM) mode was utilized with one transition for qualification and one for quantification. Separation was achieved on a C-18 column using a gradient elution with methanol and water. Calibrators in the concentration range of 1.0 to 25 ug/mL were used for quantitation. The Los Angeles County Department of Coroner Toxicology Laboratory has analyzed case-work with postmortem blood levels ranging from 2.7 to 22 ug/mL.

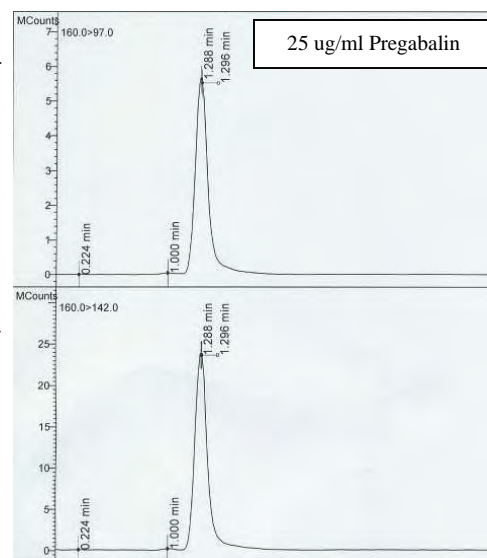


IUPAC name:

(S)-3-(aminomethyl)-5-methylhexanoic acid



Reference: Thomson Micromedex® Healthcare Series, 2007



KRATOM

Submitted By Section Editor, Donald Kippenberger, Ph.D., ToxiLogic, Vol. 30 (1), Summer 2005 pg 16

Narcotics Digest Weekly, Volume 4, Number 16 April 2005 recently reported that Kratom (herbal drug from Southeast Asia) has significant abuse potential in the US where it is legal. Dried Kratom leaves



and plants are available on the internet. The cost of the dried leaves is \$10 to \$40 per ounce. Kratom is typically abused by chewing the dried leaves or by making a tea. Some abusers have been known to smoke the dried leaves. This drug is banned in Australia, Burma, Malaysia and Thailand. The primary active alkaloid is mitragynine. Other alkaloids are present and account for a variety of dose dependent effects.



Low doses produce stimulant effects while higher doses produced sedative and euphoric effects. Effects begin with 5 – 10 minutes post ingestion and last about 6 hours. Chronic abusers tend to be thin, with darkened skin (especially the cheeks) and they experience dry mouth, constipation and frequent urination. Withdrawal symptoms can include muscle and joint pain, hostility, aggression, eye watering and spastic limb movements. Users who combine Kratom with nervous symptom depressants can experience respiratory depression which can cause them to stop breathing.

HYPONATREMIA: A CASE IN POINT FOR PARACELSUS

Submitted By Section Editor, Dwain Fuller, B.S., D-FTCB, TC-NRCC

Whenever I give a presentation to students or other lay-persons about forensic toxicology I first explain that toxicology is the study of poisons and their effects. The very next thing I discuss is "What constitutes a poison?" This question leads to a discussion of Paracelsus and his profound words: "*Alle Ding' sind Gift und nichts ohn' Gift; allein die Dosis macht, dass ein Ding kein Gift ist.*" If your German is rusty, as is mine: "All things are poison and nothing is without poison, only the dose permits something not to be poisonous." Forensic Toxicologists, being men (and women) of few words, we often shorten this to "Dose alone makes the poison." For the incredulous folks in my audience, I always demonstrate this point with a discussion of hyponatremia, sometimes referred to as water intoxication. Now I know that this is the "Drugs in the News" section, and perhaps water is not a drug, but it can be a poison and it is in the news. The point that Paracelsus and I wish to make is: Water = Good. A lot of water = Bad.

This point was brought home rather tragically a few days ago to a Sacramento, California radio station. KDND 107.9, rather ironically referred to as "The End", due to the sound of their call letters, staged a contest in which the contestants were to see how much water they could drink without going to the bathroom. The winner of the contest was to receive a Nintendo Wii video game system, thus the name of the contest was "Hold Your Wee for a Wii." One of the contestants, 28 year old Jennifer Strange, placed second in the contest. After leaving the radio station, Ms. Strange reportedly called the supervisor of her job and stated that she was on her way home and that "her head hurt really bad." Jennifer Strange's mother later found her daughter's body at her home in the Sacramento suburb of Rancho Cordova. The coroner ruled the death due to hyponatremia.^{1,2} It was later reported that she had consumed almost two gallons of water.

Hyponatremia is the condition in which serum sodium levels drop to a point such that the cells of the body start to swell from osmotic absorption of the excess water in the system. Hyponatremia is usually brought about by excessive loss of sodium through sweating or by the intake of excess water or both. This condition may result in nausea, abdominal cramping, vomiting, headache, edema, muscle weakness and/or tremor, paralysis, disorientation, slowed breathing, seizures, coma, and death. Hyponatremia most often occurs in babies, the elderly, people with heart and liver problems, and marathon runners. As a runner who is now training for a marathon, I can tell you that the prevailing advice in marathon train-

ing manuals is to avoid dehydration during the race by hyperhydrating prior to the race and drinking at most of the fluid stations along the way. These fluid stations are often at each mile along the 26.2 mile course. This intake is coupled with the fact that a large quantity of salt is lost through sweating during the run. Most of the marathon runners afflicted with hyponatremia tend to be inexperienced runners who enter races to raise money for charity. The condition, for unknown reasons, tends to effect women runners more than men.³ Furthermore, in at least one study of seven runners suffering from hyponatremia, all had a history of using NSAID's.⁴ (Editor's note: Those of us who run long distances on a regular basis can tell you that almost all runners have a history of NSAID use!)

By far the most dangerous cases of hyponatremia, however, are those cases that come from the deliberate drinking of large quantities of water during hazing or stunts. A quick check of the internet yields several cases



of death or injury to young people in this respect. On March 12, 2003 Walter Dean Jennings died of hyponatremia after being forced to drink large quantities of water during a fraternity hazing ritual at Plattsburgh State University of New York.⁵ Braylon Curry was in critical condition for several days following a November 2003 fraternity hazing at Southern Methodist University where he was forced to drink an unknown amount of water.⁶ Twenty one year old Matt Carrington died in February 2005 as a result of a fraternity hazing at California State University Chico where members kept him up all night, ordering him to do pushups, splashing him with cold water and forcing him to drink gallons of water.

One further aspect of hyponatremia which is of particular interest to toxicologists is the connection between hyponatremia and MDMA use. Users of MDMA are often engaged in the "rave" scene in which the participants dance for hours, many times in clandestine venues without the benefit of air conditioning. The exertion and elevated temperature can lead to dehydration; many ravers have been cautioned to drink large amounts of water to avoid this. As a result, there have been sporadic reports, chiefly on the internet, of accidental hyponatremia in MDMA users. One well-documented case is that of Leah Betts of Latch-

ingdon in Essex, England. Upon her 18th birthday, Ms. Betts and her friends celebrated by using a MDMA, several alcoholic drinks and marijuana. Ms. Betts



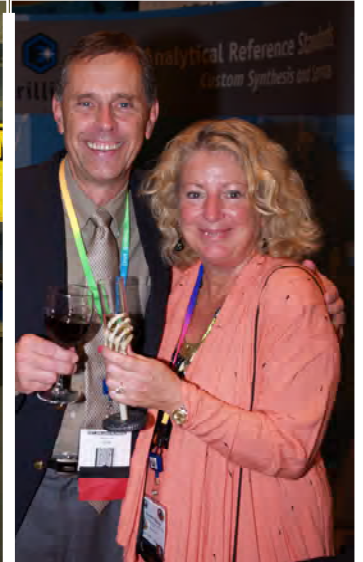
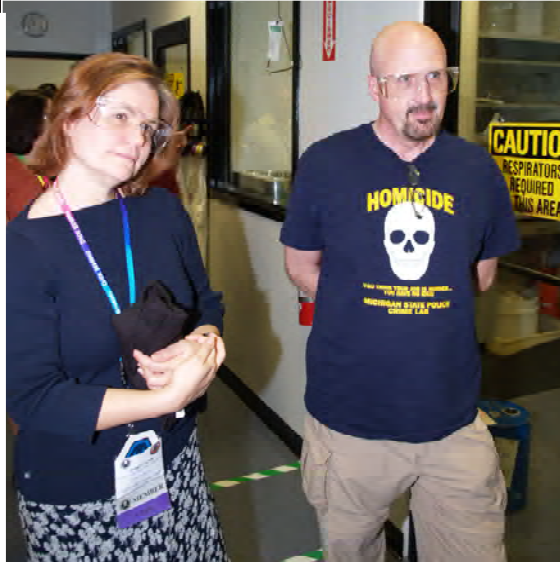
had taken MDMA on three to four occasions previously. At some point Ms. Betts reportedly began to wonder if something was wrong and if she might be having a heatstroke, although she was at home with friends and not dancing. Ms. Betts reportedly consumed 7 liters, almost two gallons, of water resulting in hyponatremia and cerebral edema. Although she was taken to the hospital and placed on a ventilator, the resulting brain damage was irreversible and she was pronounced dead a few days later.^{8,9} It has been suggested by some that MDMA causes hyponatremia by inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion.¹⁰ If this is true, then this would exacerbate the problem, but in the case of Ms. Betts the ingestion of a large quantity of water was clearly the major factor.

Paracelsus is right, the dose alone makes the poison. The majority of those killed or injured by hyponatremia are young people, who have heard of the dangers of acute ethanol poisoning, but in the hubris of youth, do not realize that they can be harmed by simply drinking water. Let's get the word out to those who will listen.

References:

1. Woman Dies After Water Drinking Contest, Jan. 13, 2007, MMVII The Associated Press
2. KDND, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KDND>
3. Susan Gilbert, When Too Much Water Hurts a Runner, November 2, 1999, <http://www.waterindustry.org/hyponatremia.htm>
4. Elizabeth Quinn, Water Intoxication, <http://sportsmedicine.about.com/cs/hydration/a/aa051200.htm>
5. Anna Jolly, 11 in Fraternity Charged, 05/01/03, http://archive.pressrepublican.com/Archive/2003/05_2003/050120031.htm
6. SMU Pledge Critical After Water Stunt, Nov. 17, 2003. The Associated Press
7. C.W. Nevius, In hazing, dumb stunts can be fatal, Feb. 8, 2005. <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/02/08/BAG61B7D341.DTL>
8. Leah Betts, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leah_Betts
9. Hyponatremia ("Water Intoxication"), <http://thedeia.org/hyponatremia.html>
10. R. Zeneberg, DS Goldfarb, Evaluation of hyponatremia associated with use of Methylenedioxymethylamphetamine (MDMD), *Int J Med Toxicol* 2000; 3(5): 30

FOND MEMORIES OF AUSTIN



NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Submitted By Laura Liddicoat, J. Robert Zettl

The NSC/COAOD met February 19th in San Antonio, TX. Incoming officers include: Jerry Landau as Chair, Mack Cowan as Vice Chair and Laura Liddicoat continuing as Secretary. The agenda included the normal business of this long standing Committee and several technical subcommittee reports.

The Action Programs Subcommittee invited Dr. Dennis Burian of the FAA to talk about their latest project, "Molecular Marker Discovery in Aerospace Medicine". A technical name for a preliminary study they completed to determine genes and bio-

chemical pathways response to fatigue. The FAA is looking to go beyond the normal battery of toxicological testing they now do on every deceased pilot in airplane crashes. The FAA is interested in developing additional diagnostic factors that affect aviation safety. One study looked at the correlation between gene expression and human performance or impairment and if they can interpret the causation of an accident using cellular information.

The committee also heard from Arizona Senator Linda Gray on new laws she is introducing to combat drinking and

driving. Senator Gray is the first legislator to become a member of the CAOD.

The committee annually selects a person to be awarded the Robert F. Borkenstein Award. This individual is one who has a minimum tenure of 25 years of active service in the area of alcohol/drugs and traffic safety, has contributed to that field to a degree that their achievements are nationally recognized and has a minimum of 10 years of active and productive involvement as a volunteer with the National Safety Council. This year's awardee is **Patrick Harding** from the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2007 AAFS MEETING

Submitted By Vickie W. Watts

The 59th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences was held in San Antonio, Texas in February. One hundred thirty seven attendees, most all who were active SOFT members represented the Toxicology Section. The excellent program was planned by Toxicology Section Program Chair, Peter Stout and Workshop Chair, Jeri Roper-Miller, along with the support and guidance of Section Chair, Adam Negrusz and Section Secretary Robert Middleberg.

The Toxicology Section program included a DUID Special Session, which was coordinated and presented by members of the SOFT-AAFS Drugs and Driving Committee. In addition the program meshed with two other Academy disciplines in conducting Multi-Disciplinary Sessions. The first was with Jurisprudence/Toxicology Panel, which presented expert witness techniques, the legal issues involved with discovery and the forensic toxicology laboratories. Also insight and recommendations for toxicologists when being involved in a deposition as an expert witness was covered. The second Multi-Disciplinary Session was with Pathology/Biology/Toxicology Panel, which presented a number of medical examiner case reports involving fentanyl, prescription narcotics, pediatric methadone fatalities and deaths involving rare drugs such as nikethamide.



Bruce Goldberger (left) assumed the position of President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences honoring the Toxicology Section. **Daniel Isenschmid** (center) was awarded the prestigious Gettler Award for his outstanding achievements in the field of Forensic Toxicology. The award was introduced by **Yale H. Caplan**, his graduate advisor and mentor. Congratulations Bruce and Dan!

ABFT NEWS

Yale H. Caplan, Ph.D., DABFT, President

New Certificants:

- Carol O'Neal, Ph.D., DABFT
- Susan Howe, DVM, Ph.D., DABFT
- Penny Colbourne, Ph.D., DABFT
- Chris Heartsill, B.S., FTSABFT
- Tiffany Flowers, M.S., FTSABFT
- Carolyn Presses, B.S., FTSABFT
- Diane Mertens-Maxham, B.S., FTSABFT
- Sara Kegler, B.S., M.S., FTSABFT
- Daniel Anderson, M.S., FTSABFT
- Joseph Muto, B.S., FTSABFT



A special session coordinated by Peter Stout, **“Remembering Dr. Irving Sunshine 1916-2006”** was dedicated to his memory and his influence in the field of Forensic Toxicology. Dr. Sunshine’s career spanned more than 50 years and influenced many toxicologists, directly and indirectly. The above pictured are some of “The Sunshine Boys”. Pictured left to right are Neil Fortner, Bob Bost, Joe Monforte, Jonathan Sunshine (Dr. Sunshine’s eldest son), Mary Gilliland, Bob Osiewicz and Lee Blum.

SOFT enjoyed a **“NIGHT OUT”** on the beautiful Riverwalk in San Antonio

Certification Open Internationally:

ABFT certification is now available internationally. All requirements are the same as those found on our website at www.abft.org The examination must be taken in English and taken in the United States at our designated examination sites. Candidate’s education must be documented by internationally recognized organizations. Questions may be sent by email to abftox@aol.com

Activities at SOFT 2007:

The 15th annual Certificant reception and meeting will be held during the SOFT meeting on Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 5-6 pm. The examination for Diplomates and Specialists is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at 8:00 am till noon.



SOFT Toxicology Divas Marilyn Huestis, Teri Stockham, Laurel Farrell, Vickie Watts, and Ann Marie Gordon enjoy time together in San Antonio.

ABFT is accredited by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board

Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc.

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ToxTalk Deadlines for Contributions:

February 1 for March Issue

May 1 for June Issue

August 1 for September Issue

November 1 for December Issue

ToxTalk is the official publication of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc., mailed quarterly (bulk mail) to its members. It is each member's responsibility to report changes of address to the SOFT Administrative Office. Non-members may receive ToxTalk for \$15 per calendar year. Checks payable to SOFT may be mailed to the SOFT Administrative Office. To submit articles or address ToxTalk issues please email to ToxTalk@soft-tox.org.

Future S.O.F.T. Meeting Info

- 2007:** Chapel Hill, NC.....Oct. 15-19, 2007..... Jeri Ropero-Miller, Ruth Winecker
- 2008:** Phoenix, AZ.....Oct. 27-31, 2008.....Vickie Watts, Norman Wade
- 2009:** Oklahoma City, OK.....Oct. 18-23, 2009.....Phil Kemp
- 2010:** Richmond, VA.....Michelle Peace, Lisa Tarnai Moak
- 2011:** San Francisco, CA.....Nikolas Lemos
- 2012:** Boston, MA.....Michael Wagner

SOFT 2008 ANNUAL MEETING, PHOENIX, AZ OCTOBER 25-31



The 2008 SOFT Annual Meeting will be held at Pointe South Mountain Resort, a luxury resort located in a desert oasis nestled at the base of South Mountain Preserve in Arizona. The

Four-Diamond Pointe South Mountain Resort welcomes guests as the premier travel destination and largest all-suite resort in Arizona (640 spacious 2-room suites for every-one).



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- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Bonnie Fulmer | David Watts |
| Diane Mertens-Maxham | Anil Solanky |
| Robert Herndon | Michelle Spirik |
| Greg Ohlson | Jennifer Valdez |
| Kim McCall | Charles Spies |
| Audra Brown | Amanda Gallegos |

We're on the Web!
www.soft-tox.org

T2007 AUGUST 26-30

Registration is currently underway for T2007, the annual meeting of International Council on Alcohol, Drugs, and Traffic Safety (ICADTS) and The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT). The joint conference will be held in Seattle, Washington August 26-30, 2007. Registration and additional information is available at

www.T2007.org



This meeting will provide a spotlight on the toxicology of alcohol, drugs and traffic safety, while retaining all the normal topic areas for TIAFT and ICADTS meetings. It is also a great opportunity for North American Toxicologists to attend a TIAFT meeting in your own backyard. There likely won't be another one in the US for a few years.

2007 S.O.F.T. COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee

- Nominating.....
- Membership.....
- Budget, Finance, and Audit.....
- ToxTalk Co-Editors.....
- ByLaws.....
- Publications (JAT Special Issue)
- Awards.....
- Drugs & Driving.....
- Meeting Resource.....
- Laboratory Guidelines.....
- Policy and Procedure.....
- SOFT Internet Web-Site.....
- Continuing Education.....
- Ethics.....
- Drug Facilitated Rape & Sexual Assault.....
- MS/MS Guidelines

Committee Chair

- Timothy Rohrig, Ph.D., DABFT
- Anthony Costantino, Ph.D., DABFT
- Robert Turk, Ph.D., DABFT
- Yale Caplan, Ph.D., DABFT
- Vickie Watts, M.S.
- Yale Caplan, Ph.D., DABFT
- Sarah Kerrigan, Ph.D.
- Philip Kemp, Ph.D., DABFT
- Sarah Kerrigan, Ph.D.
- Christine Moore, Ph.D., DABCC
- W. Lee Hearn, Ph.D.
- William Anderson, Ph.D.
- Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D., DABFT
- Ann Marie Gordon, M.S.
- Aaron Jacobs, Ph.D.
- Marc LeBeau, Ph.D.
- John Cody, Ph.D.

