



# TOXTALK®

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Submitted by Ruth Winecker, Ph.D., F-ABFT

*The present is a bridge between the past and the future.*

It's March and I hope you all are busy watching basketball. But I am taking a break from my busted brackets to attend to SOFT Madness and to let you know about the recent happenings in SOFT and the forensic toxicology community.

### Committee Changes

In my first year as a member of SOFT, then president Chip Walls wrote in his president's message, "Committee work is the heart and soul of the Society." While many things have changed within SOFT over the past 18 years, one thing has not - the importance of the committees. I appreciate the commitment that the SOFT membership has to getting this important work done.

There have been several changes to SOFT committees this year. The Strategic Planning Committee will no longer be chaired by the current SOFT Treasurer, and the VP has been added as an automatic member. These changes were made for two reasons: First, the treasurer duties have grown dramatically in the past few years and the burden of doing this work and chairing the strategic planning committee is just too great. Second, it is pertinent that the VP be a member as the work of the committee will likely affect the next presidential year.

The BOD is looking at some changes to other committees as well. Watch this space for more information. Please welcome Matt Slawson, Sarah

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued)

Kerrigan and Sarah Urfer as the new chairs of the Publications, Ethics and YFS committees, respectively. I would like to say a heartfelt "thank-you" to the departing chairs and each of the new chairs for agreeing to lead these important committees. There are many new members to the various SOFT committees as well. Christine Moore, Bill Johnson and Amanda Jenkins are all new to the Ethics Committee. Marilyn Huestis, Cynthia Morriss-Kukoski and Dan Anderson have joined the Designer Drugs, Publications and Strategic Planning Committees, respectively.

### February Interim BOD Meeting

There was much business to accomplish during the interim BOD meeting held in Orlando, FL during the AAFS meeting. We heard from all of the committees regarding their accomplishments since the Grand Rapids meeting and their goals for 2015. Many great things are happening with committee work this year. Of note from the Publications Committee is the work begun with the CE committee to explore the possibility of offering CE credits for reading and answering questions about specific articles in a JAT issue.

Thanks to the hard work of Treasurer Michelle Peace and meeting treasurer Brad Hepler, the BOD was able to approve the 2015 budgets for SOFT and the annual meeting in Atlanta. One highlight from the SOFT budget is approval of expenditures to improve the SOFT website and make it friendlier for mobile devices and for a full audit of SOFT business. Please see the Treasurer's report in this

issue for more information about SOFT's financials. While you are perusing the Treasurer's report think about this: from the Treasurer's report in the first ToxTalk® issue published in 1977, the original net balance in the SOFT account was \$1,025 and dues were \$20. Had membership dues kept up with inflation, they would be \$77 today as opposed to \$60 and our account would contain about \$4,000. SOFT has grown a tremendous amount since its early days and I am thankful that we are a strong and financially healthy institution that serves its members in many capacities.

### CFSO

In December, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to continue working with the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO). The Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act introduced by Senator Leahy of Vermont and co-sponsored by Senator Cornyn of Texas, now officially known as the Cornyn-Leahy bill, has undergone many revisions and SOFT/ABFT has seen our input directly affect the language in the legislation. It is critical that we continue to be engaged in this process and CFSO membership allows us to educate congressional sponsors of potential forensic science legislation of the issues that are important to us. Laurel Farrell as our CFSO representative has done an outstanding job keeping the board and members apprised of activities in Washington since 2011. As Laurel has gone on to represent SOFT on the FSSB in 2015 and has since been elected executive secretary of that organization, Tim Rohrig has agreed to take on the role as CFSO representative. Having served over

25 years as a forensic toxicologist and crime laboratory director and as Past President of SOFT, Tim will do an excellent job keeping us up to date on CFSO activities. For more information regarding CFSO activities, please see the CFSO website <http://www.thecfso.org/>.

### Annual Meeting

The 2015 annual meeting will be the 45<sup>th</sup> since SOFT began in 1970. The committee headed up by Robert Sears and Lisa Holt has already had five conference calls, a site visit and pinned down many of the details necessary to having a successful annual meeting. The deadline for workshops has passed and the workshop chairs are well on their way to assembling a great workshop program for you. The deadline for submissions to the scientific program is May 2, and while it's a given that the scientific sessions will be filled with interesting platform presentations and posters, I encourage all members to prepare a presentation and take advantage of this opportunity to share your work with the SOFT community. I am excitedly looking forward to this next annual meeting being held in my home town of Atlanta and I hope to see you all there. For more information, check out the annual meeting materials included in this issue of ToxTalk®. Finally, did you know that the annual meeting announcement from the first issue of ToxTalk® was advertised as a three day (Friday-Sunday) cruise that sailed from Miami to Nassau? Topics included round table discussions and paper presentations in the areas of GCMS, chromatographic separations, immunoassays and gas

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued)

chromatographic detectors. Seems like SOFT has always known how to put on a great meeting!

### Last Thoughts

It is my pleasure to serve as SOFT president in 2015 and I appreciate the opportunity that has been giv-

en to me. I am available to any member who has comments, concerns, petitions and ideas for SOFT. Please contact me if you have a need.

Finally a sad note. Condolences should be offered to SOFT and SOFT family on the passing of four toxicologists in February/March.

Phil Reynolds, Dick Shaw, Robert Blanke and Vince Papa will be greatly missed and I encourage you all to read the memorials prepared for this issue and offer comfort to their families and colleagues as you can.

Ruth E. Winecker Ph.D. F-ABFT

## 2014 SOFT BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 23, 2014, Grand Rapids, Michigan

*Submitted by Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D., SOFT Secretary (2014-2016)*

### 1. Call to Order

The 44th Annual SOFT Business Meeting was called to order at 3:40 PM by President Peter Stout.

Secretary Bruce Goldberger verified that a quorum was present by counting the signatures of voting members on the sign-in sheet. The business meeting sign-in sheets reflected that 134 out of 157 meeting attendees were members with voting privilege.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

President Stout proposed approval of the Agenda after announcing corrections to the Meeting Resource Committee section of the Agenda, which included the following corrections: 2017 in Boca Raton, FL (Winecker and Anderson); 2018 in Minneapolis, MN (Langman), and 2019 in San Antonio, TX (Hargrove and Hall). President Stout also corrected the name of the Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault Committee, which was recently renamed the Drug Facilitated Crimes Committee.

There was a motion to approve, no objections were made, and the agenda was approved.

### 3. Approval of Annual Business Meeting Minutes (October 2013)

President Stout stated that the October 2013 Annual Business Meeting Minutes were published in ToxTalk® Volume 38, Issue 1 and asked for any corrections. With no corrections suggested, the meeting minutes were approved as published.

### 4. President's Report

President Stout acknowledged the support of his friends and colleagues and thanked the membership for their contributions to SOFT. President Stout also acknowledged the support of the exhibitors who provide valuable financial support of the annual meeting.

President Stout continued with a personal story regarding the failing of forensic science and noted that

all forensic scientists have a unique opportunity to impact the practice of forensic science. He encouraged everyone to stay involved and be objective.

President Stout concluded his report by thanking the membership for the opportunity to serve the toxicology community.

### 5. Secretary's Report

Secretary Goldberger thanked the members of the Membership Committee, Diane Boland, Robert Kronstrand and Nichole Bynum, for the efforts in reviewing membership applications. Goldberger reported that the total membership of SOFT as of September 30, 2014 is 1229. He also reported that the Membership Committee reviewed a total of 106 applications and approved 32 Full Members, 28 Associate Members, 14 Student Members, 11 Promotions, 3 Reinstatements and 15 Retirements; 45 members were deleted from membership due to requests and non-payment of dues. Goldberger reported that to date there

## 2014 SOFT BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

was a net gain of 61 members in 2014.

### 6. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jennifer Limoges began her report by summarizing the various budget categories and balances. Her presentation included a review of the SOFT Operations, Reserve, ERA, Leo Dal Cortivo, Meeting Checking, Meeting Merchant and Web Dues accounts. Treasurer Limoges stated that the SOFT finances are sound.

Treasurer Limoges provided an update regarding the work of the Strategic Planning Committee and its review of the audit report. The Strategic Planning Committee continues to assist with the development of Policies and Procedures addressing the duties, responsibilities and authorities of SOFT Officers and others responsible for SOFT's finances. Treasurer Limoges stated that the new procedures will strengthen the business practices of SOFT as the organization continues to grow.

### 7. Vice President's (Committee) Reports

**A. Bylaws** (Yale Caplan) – Caplan reported no Committee activity.

**B. Budget, Finance & Audit** (Tom Kupiec) – No Committee report provided.

**C. Membership** (Bruce Goldberger) – Goldberger stated that the Membership Committee report was provided earlier in the Secretary's Report.

**D. ToxTalk®** (Dwain Fuller, Laura Liddicoat) – Fuller stated that ToxTalk® is published four times annually. Fuller acknowledged his

editorial staff including Associate Editor Laura Liddicoat; Section Editors Dan Anderson, Matt Barnhill and Laureen Marinetti; and Publication Assistants Kayla Ellefsen and Patty Pisana. Fuller noted that ToxTalk® continues to grow and includes more technical articles.

**E. Publications** (Dimitri Gero-stamoulos) – No Committee report provided.

JAT Special Issue and EDIT Award – Jayne Thatcher, Journal of Analytical Toxicology SOFT Special Issue Editor, stated that 24 manuscripts were published in the JAT Special Issue. Thatcher thanked all of the contributors, as well as the reviewers. Thatcher also announced the recipient of EDIT Award, Shaza Deeb, whose paper was titled "Simultaneous analysis of 22 antiepileptic drugs in postmortem blood, serum and plasma using LC-MS-MS with a focus on their role in forensic cases". JAT Editor-in-Chief, Bruce Goldberger, presented Thatcher with a plaque acknowledging her work on the special issue.

**F. Education Research Award** (Erin Spargo) – Spargo recognized the recipients of the SOFT ERA and YSMA Awards which included Marisol Castaneto, Sara Dempsey, Kayla Ellefsen, Eva Reichardt and Fenyun Liu. The recipients were presented with a plaque and check.

**G. Meeting Resource Committee** (Ruth Winecker)

i. 2014 Grand Rapids, MI (Ben Kuslikis / Mike Smith) – Kuslikis and Smith thanked the attendees for their participation in the meeting, as well as acknowledged the volunteers for their support. Their presentation concluded with a video of President Stout on a morning TV show.

ii. 2015 Atlanta, GA (Robert Sears /

Lisa Holt) – Sears gave a short slide and video presentation of the Atlanta venue and invited everyone to attend the upcoming meeting. The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta.

iii. 2016 Dallas, TX (Chris Heartsill / Erin Spargo) – Heartsill and Spargo stated that they were excited to host the meeting. They announced that the Wednesday evening reception will be held at the local Science Museum.

**H. Drugs and Driving** (Amy Miles) – Miles was not present and the report was given by William Johnson. Johnson reviewed the activities of the Committee, which included the development of guidelines for the conduct of oral fluid studies by law enforcement and others. Johnson also reported that the Committee will continue to sponsor Drugged Driving special sessions at SOFT and AAFS meetings.

**I. Policy and Procedures** (Bruce Goldberger / Ruth Winecker) – Winecker reported that a new version of the SOFT Policy and Procedure Manual is currently under review by the Board of Directors.

**J. IT / Website** (Bruce Goldberger / Matt Juhascik) – Juhascik reported that the content of the SOFT website is frequently updated which includes new drug monographs and many postings on the employment exchange tab.

**K. Continuing Education** (Ann Marie Gordon) – Gordon addressed the need for continuing education in forensic toxicology and the role of SOFT as a provider of continuing education at the annual meeting and regional workshops. Gordon concluded by describing the CE submission process.

**L. Young Forensic Toxicologist**

## 2014 SOFT BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

(Jayne Thatcher) – Thatcher reported that the YFT Committee was sponsoring six events during the meeting including the YFT Symposium, the Student Enrichment Program, the Professional Development Fair, the YFT / Dal Cortivo Award Competition and an Uncertainty Workshop.

**M. Drug Facilitated Crimes** (Laureen Marinetti) – Marinetti reviewed the activities of the Committee, which included the sponsorship of a DFC session at the annual meeting, the publication of DFC monographs and bibliography on the SOFT website, and the posting of previously published DFSA articles from Forensic Science Review on the SOFT website.

**N. Ethics** (Robert Osiewicz) – Osiewicz reported that there were no official ethics complaints submitted to SOFT for consideration.

**O. Nominating** (Dan Anderson) – Anderson announced the 2015 slate of candidates.

President: Ruth Winecker

Vice President: Jennifer Limoges  
Treasurer: Michelle Peace

Board of Directors: Dwain Fuller and Matt Juhascik

**P. Strategic Planning** (Jennifer Limoges) – Limoges reported that the Committee has reviewed the report of the SOFT Audit Committee, the external audit report and the current business practices of SOFT. She noted that many new business practices have been implemented and that there may be a future staffing need including a SOFT Executive Director.

**Q. Vendor Liaison** (Jarrad Wagner) – Wagner acknowledged the Vendors who support the SOFT meeting and encouraged all meeting attendees to visit the exhibit hall.

**R. CFSO Update** (Laurel Farrell) –

Farrell reported that SOFT continues to share the cost of CFSO membership with the American Board of Forensic Toxicology. She noted that there has been very little legislative activity in D.C.

**S. SWGTOX Update** (Robert Middleberg) – No report provided.

**T. Designer Drugs** (Sumandeep Rana) – Rana stated that the Committee published 16 designer drug monographs on the SOFT website and an additional 18 monographs will be published soon. Rana also noted that an extensive listing of government reports and published literature is available on the SOFT website. The Committee also sponsored a designer drug workshop.

### 8. Announcements / Liaison Reports

American Board of Forensic Toxicology – Goldberger, President of the ABFT, announced that the ABFT – FTCB merger is complete and individuals are encouraged to apply for certification.

### 9. Unfinished Business

President Stout asked the membership if there was any unfinished business and there was none.

### 10. New Business

Recognition of Outgoing Officers – President Stout recognized outgoing Vice President, Ruth Winecker, outgoing Treasurer, Jennifer Limoges, and outgoing Officers of the Board, Laurel Farrell and Michelle Peace.

Recognition of Workshop Chairs – President Stout recognized the Workshop Chairs.

### 11. Elections

President Stout asked if there were additional nominations from the floor. There were none. Thus, the nominees were approved by acclamation. The elected officers for 2015 are:

President: Ruth Winecker

Vice President: Jennifer Limoges

Treasurer: Michelle Peace

Board of Directors (3-year appointment): Dwain Fuller and Matt Juhascik

### 12. Incoming President's Remarks (Winecker)

Incoming President Winecker thanked President Stout for his service and presented him with a plaque.

Winecker began her presentation by quoting her friends and colleagues. She spoke about friendship, kindness, volunteerism, service and dedication. She noted that as SOFT continues to grow, the organization must develop a plan to manage its day-to-day business and ensure sustainability. The core functions of the Society are currently accomplished by Bonnie Fulmer and many dedicated volunteers. She emphasized that SOFT will maintain its “family feel”.

Winecker concluded her remarks by announcing the SOFT Special Issue Editor for 2015, Sumandeep Rana.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 PM.

## Summary of the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual, American Academy of Forensic Sciences Meeting

*Submitted By Dwain Fuller, ToxTalk® Editor and AAFS Toxicology Outgoing Section Chair*

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences 67<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting was held February 16-20 in Orlando, Florida, and was a wonderful success. It was a pleasure to see many of you there. The theme of the meeting was "Celebrating the Forensic Science Family". Program Chair, Rebecca Jufer-Phipps and Co-Chair, Dan Anderson did an outstanding job in organizing the scientific program.

The program consisted of 40 platform presentations, 40 poster presentations and one workshop in addition to the pediatric special session. The poster session was limited to 40 due to space constraints which made the process highly competitive. In addition to the special sessions and multidisciplinary session with pathology/biology, a second multidisciplinary session with psychiatry and behavioral science was well attended. The workshop "Clinical Toxicology of the Poisoned Patient" attracted 124 registrants.

Dr. Ana Shaw from the University of Florida was the Toxicology Section Luncheon speaker with an entertaining presentation on work-

life balance. In keeping with the meeting theme, "Celebrating the Forensic Science Family", Dr. Yale Caplan was recognized by former students Dr. Marina Stajic, Dr. Bruce Goldberger, Dr. Barry Levine (whose letter was read by Dr. Dan Isenschmid), as well as comments by Dr. Kurt Dubowski. Many thanks to Dr. Henry Nipper for assembling the luncheon slideshow.

At the Toxicology Section Business Meeting, Section Chair, Dwain Fuller, and Secretary, Sarah Kerrigan reported on the finances and the membership of the Section, both of which are healthy. The nominating committee put forth a slate of nominees for the next year. Sarah Kerrigan was elected as Section Chair, Dan Anderson as Section Secretary and Fiona Couper was elected to serve on the Awards and Scholarships Committee. Additionally, incoming Chair, Sarah Kerrigan appointed Fiona Couper and Nikolas Lemos as the Program Chair and Co-Chair for the 2016 meeting.

As always, a high point of the business meeting was the honoring of the Section awardees. This year's

awardees were: The Alexander O. Gettler Award – Dr. Marc LeBeau (introduced by Daniel Anderson), Rolla N. Harger Award – Dr. Ashraf Mozayani (introduced by Dr. Jeffery Walterscheid), Irving Sunshine Award – Dr. Jillian Yeakel (introduced by Dr. Barry Logan) and June Jones Scholarship – Rebecca Lynn Hartman (introduced by Dr. Marilyn Huestis). During the Academy business meeting Dr. Marilyn Huestis was honored as a Distinguished Fellow.

Next year's meeting theme is "Transformations: Embracing Change" and preparations are already underway. Please don't delay in contacting Fiona Couper and Nikolas Lemos with your workshop suggestions and program ideas. As always, the program committee will need moderators, abstract reviewers, and others willing to lend a helping hand.

*Thank you to incoming Chair Sarah Kerrigan for providing much of this information.*



AMERICAN ACADEMY  
of FORENSIC SCIENCES

*A professional society dedicated to the application of science and law*

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2015

*Submitted by Michelle Peace, Ph.D., SOFT Treasurer (2015-2016)*

The transfer of treasurer duties from Jen Limoges to me occurred in January 2015 in Phoenix. I have a deep respect for the previous treasurers of SOFT and the work they performed to keep this organization strong to help lead it into a more robust future. As such, I am thankful for the opportunity you have afforded me and am excited to work in the same capacity. The 2015 Annual Budget for the organization was approved by the Board of Directors at the interim meeting held February 18, 2015. The SOFT account balances, approved 2015 budget, and 2014 budget vs. actuals are presented in this report. The organization is fiscally healthy and administratively compliant. As such, the Board continues to discuss leveraging our balances to provide meaningful benefits and services to the membership:

### Operations

- Proposed operational income was adjusted to more accurately reflect the number of SOFT members.
- Professional fees were increased in 2015 as an external audit will be performed.
- Software and Website Programming budget was increased for 2015. Several modifications to the membership database and the website are planned, to include mobile device accessibility and an online application process.
- Appreciation gifts were over budget in 2014 as a result of a complete re-print of the president poster to be displayed at

the annual meeting. This is considered an appreciation gift item as it honors those who worked to advance the organization.

- Payroll expenses for 2014 were over the proposed budget. With two years of accurate record keeping for the Arizona Department of Labor, the 2015 budget was appropriately adjusted.

### Awards

- The BOD approved an increase in the number of ERA award winners as a result of a strong pool of applicants. The 2015 budget was set at the historical allotment and the Awards Committee can request a budget increase if warranted.

### Professional Investment

- The 2015 annual meeting projects a \$5000 profit for the organization. The BOD has discussed this profit is acceptable given the 2014 annual meeting profit was more than \$207,000. The 2014 profit was unexpected, due to the lower actual costs than what was originally quoted.
- SOFT logo merchandise expenses is increased over the previous two years because the current inventory is completely depleted.
- The BOD has discussed the need to encourage the Continuing Education Committee to put forth more regional workshops in order to invest in the professional development of our members.

An internal audit and review of the external 2013 audit was performed by SOFT's Audit Committee, chaired by Tom Kupiec. The committee issued a thorough report and recommendations, which were reviewed by the BOD and SOFT's accountant. The report recognized the SOFT organization as being administratively small with multiple points of checks and balances to ensure transparency of efforts and business practice. The report states that "the accounting and operational aspects of the organization [are] sound and fully functional." Several recommendations for practice were not feasible for the organization at this time. However, the recommendation to consider hiring a person to operate with duties similar to that of an "executive director" to manage business operations is being discussed by the Strategic Planning Committee and the BOD for feasibility and sustainability. Additionally, the Audit Committee recommended the organization to consider leveraging accounts by consolidating all accounts into a single bank and to assess fees on all accounts and credit cards. The BOD agrees and research will begin for these during my tenure as SOFT Treasurer.

As Treasurer of SOFT, I currently Chair the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC). Current SPC members are Dan Anderson, Jen Limoges, Laurel Farrell, Tom Kupiec, and Marc LeBeau. This year, the SPC will consider the need of the organization to hire an executive director, to include responsibilities, time commitment, (Continued on p.9)

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2015 (Continued)

<b>OPERATIONS</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2015 BUDGET</b>	<b>2014 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2014 BUDGET</b>
Application Fees	5000	4740	5000
Late Fees (Dues)	500	1360	400
Membership Dues	64000	64791	60000
Other Operations Income	0	1000	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>69500</b>	<b>71891</b>	<b>65400</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2015 BUDGET</b>	<b>2014 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2014 BUDGET</b>
AAFS Midyear BOD Meeting Expenses	1200	1030	1200
Appreciation Gifts	1500	1891	1200
Bank and Credit Card Service Fees	3500	3034	3500
Charitable contributions	800	1220	800
Insurance	4500	4317	2500
Lease SOFT Office	3000	3053	3000
Office Equipment	500	123	500
Office Telephone/Internet	2500	2151	2500
Office/General Administrative Expenses	2500	1841	2500
Payroll Expenses	45000	44648	35000
Postage/Shipping Expenses	800	311	800
Professional Fees: Accounting and Legal	12000	4148	5000
QuickBooks Online	650	641	650
SOFT Officer/Committee Expenses	13000	7695	13000
Software/Website Programing	7500	2800	5000
State of Delaware: Incorporation Expenses	100	100	100
Website Hosting Expenses	1400	1151	1400
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>100450</b>	<b>80154</b>	<b>78650</b>
<b>NET OPERATIONS</b>	<b>(30950)</b>	<b>(8263)</b>	<b>(13250)</b>
<b>AWARDS</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2015 BUDGET</b>	<b>2014 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2014 BUDGET</b>
ERA Donations	1500	3210	1500
Interest Earned - ERA Account	250	253	300
Leo Dal Cortivo Donations	0	1000	0
Interest Earned - LDC Account	50	52	50
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>4515</b>	<b>1850</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2015 BUDGET</b>	<b>2014 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2014 BUDGET</b>
ERA/YSMA Awards	6000	10000	6000
Leo Dal Cortivo Awards	2000	2000	2000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8000</b>	<b>12000</b>	<b>8000</b>
<b>NET AWARDS</b>	<b>(6200)</b>	<b>(7485)</b>	<b>(6150)</b>



## TREASURER'S REPORT 2015 (Continued)

<b>PROFESSIONAL INVESTMENT</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2015 BUDGET</b>	<b>2014 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2014 BUDGET</b>
Annual Meeting Income	975000	895785	775000
ToxTalk Advertisements	1000	625	2000
SOFT Logo Sales	1000	1391	1000
Silent Auction Proceeds	2500	3258	2500
Interest Earned - Reserve Account	200	226	200
SOFT Con Ed Income	0	4880	0
Other Prof Investment Income	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>979700</b>	<b>906165</b>	<b>780700</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2015 BUDGET</b>	<b>2014 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2014 BUDGET</b>
Meeting Expenses	970000	688356	740000
CFSO Membership	10000	10000	10000
Oxford University Press	40000	35910	40000
Directory Printing			
SWGTOX	0	180	2500
SOFT Logo'd Item Expenses	3000	0	1500
SOFT CONED committee expenses	5000	1313	5000
Young Toxicologists Committee/SSEP	6000	5471	5500
Survey Monkey	200	200	200
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1034200</b>	<b>741430</b>	<b>804700</b>
<b>NET PROFESSIONAL INVESTMENT</b>	<b>(54500)</b>	<b>164735</b>	<b>(24000)</b>
<b>OVERALL</b>			
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>(91650)</b>	<b>148987</b>	<b>(43400)</b>

integration with current operations, and fiscal sustainability. The BOD has discussed the complexity of a growing organization and the need to develop a business model that allows the member-elected leadership to lead the organization more strongly during these exciting times in the forensic science community as opposed to being focused on the time- and labor-intensive management of the organization. Additionally, the SPC will discuss the leveraging of the multiple accounts held by the organization and how to re-invest meeting profits to support the organization and to move strongly into our future.

<b>Account Balances*</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2013</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2014</b>
Operations	469,602	575,512
Reserve	150,806	151,032
ERA	166,836	160,224
Leo DalCortivo	46,188	45,244
Meeting Checking	4962	6950
Meeting Merchant	500	500
Web Dues	470	51,952
	<b>839,364</b>	<b>991,414</b>

If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions on SOFT's finances, please contact me at [mrpeace@vcu.edu](mailto:mrpeace@vcu.edu).

## YOUNG FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS AWARDEES

### 2014 Leo Dal Cortivo Award Recipients

#### 2014 Platform Award Winner:

Jennifer M. Colby from Department of Laboratory Medicine, University of San Francisco for her presentation titled "High Resolution Mass Spectrometry: The Comprehensive Toxicology Screen of the Future?"

#### 2014 Poster Award Winner:

M. Elizabeth Zaney from Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department for her poster titled "Will the Real 'Molly' Please Stand Up? A Comparison of MDMA and Synthetic Cathinone Deaths in Miami-Dade County, Florida."

## SOFT ANNUAL MEETING

October 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 in Atlanta, GA

*Committee Co-Chairs: Robert Sears and Lisa Holt*

As host for this year's annual meeting in Atlanta, we would like to welcome everyone to join us this year in Hot-lanta and remind y'all the time is here to register! The meeting is held October 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, and it's gearing up to be a great one. We have 13 workshops scheduled with a variety of 'knowledge levels', ranging from 'basic' to 'advanced' on a variety of topics you're sure to find interesting. There will also be a fantastic Wednesday night event at the world renowned Georgia Aquarium, including a private dolphin show for our group, sponsored by Thermo Scientific.

Even though October seems far away, now is the time to be aware of some key dates: abstracts due May 4, 2015 and deadline for registration is August 31, 2015. After that, there will be an additional \$200 late fee, and on-site registration will be \$300, so save yourself a little money and register early.

To register, you can go to the SOFT website and register online. Meeting registration for SOFT members this year is \$499, with the fee for non-members at \$675, so if you haven't joined this great organization yet now is the time! Workshop costs for members are \$200 for a full-day and \$125 for a half-day, with an additional \$50 each for non-members.

Don't forget to reserve your hotel accommodations early. As we all know, those rooms tend to go fast so don't get left out!

We're really looking forward to having a fantastic meeting this fall in our amazing city, so please come join us for fellowship and fun!

Hope to see you there,

Lisa and Robert



## UKIAFT ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

Bournemouth University, Talbot Campus

September 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The 2015 Annual UKIAFT Conference and AGM will be hosted at Bournemouth University, UK where excellent conference facilities are available. Topics will include all areas of forensic toxicology e.g. Case studies, Method development and analytical techniques, New Psychoactive Substances (Legal Highs), Pharmacogenomics, Drugs in Oral Fluid, Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID), Drug Associated Crime.

The UKIAFT is the professional body representing Forensic Toxicologists based in Ireland and the UK and the annual conference provides an opportunity for Forensic Toxicologists and toxicology students to meet in a friendly environment and learn about the latest developments in the field. The meeting is open to all who are associated with forensic toxicology i.e. casework scientists, researchers and students studying forensic toxicology.

If you are planning to visit Europe for the TIAFT conference, why not extend your stay for a few days and join the UKIAFT in Bournemouth. Bournemouth is a seaside town situated on the South coast of England approximately two hours from London by train. Bournemouth offers a wide range of interests including fine sandy beaches and close access to the New Forrest and Jurassic Coast where fossils can be found in abundance.

Registration, paper & poster submission and Hotel Booking information will be released shortly. For further information please contact [ukiaftbournemouth2015@gmail.com](mailto:ukiaftbournemouth2015@gmail.com).

We look forward to meeting you in September for a great meeting.

David Osselton



## ABFT EXAMINATION DATES

Due to the increased interest to become certified in forensic toxicology, the ABFT will be offering the Diplomate and Fellow examinations at multiple venues in 2015.

1. April 19, 2015 - International Association for Chemical Testing Annual Meeting, Newport, RI
2. June 8, 2015 - Office of the Medical Examiner, San Francisco, CA
3. June 18, 2015 - Southwestern Association of Toxicologists, New Orleans, LA
4. October 20, 2015 - Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Atlanta, GA
5. November 5, 2015 - California Association of Toxicologists, Irvine, CA

For additional information regarding the ABFT Certification Program, visit [www.abft.org](http://www.abft.org).



## CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINALISTS SPRING SEMINAR

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office Forensic Services Bureau is hosting the California Association of Criminalists Spring Seminar from May 4-8, 2015, at the Ventura Beach Marriott in Ventura, CA.

Monday and Tuesday will consist of workshops including:

- Alcohol Drinking Study
- Testing and Toxicology of Designer Drugs
- Analysis of Designer Drugs Using Complementary Techniques
- Identification of Semen and Other Bodily Fluids
- Advanced Arson Analysis
- Advanced Footwear Analysis
- New Crime Scene Technologies
- Microscopy of Hair for DNA Analysis
- Forensic Use of High Speed Photography
- DNA Workshop: Mixture Interpretation and Probabilistic Genotyping

The general session on Wednesday through Friday will consist of a variety of presentations, a poster session, and book signings.

For more information, visit: [California Association of Criminalists](http://California Association of Criminalists)

### SOFT 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

Registration deadline: August 31, 2015  
Annual meeting: October 18-23, 2015

Go to the "Annual Meeting" tab at:  
[SOFT-TOX.ORG](http://SOFT-TOX.ORG)

### ATTENTION SOFT MEMBERS!

**SOFT 2015 ABSTRACT  
SUBMISSION DEADLINE:  
MAY 4, 2015**

[Click here for abstract submission](#)

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## DRUGS IN THE NEWS

Send interesting “*Drugs In The News*” articles  
to Section Editor

Lauren Marinetti, Ph.D., F-ABFT,  
lmarinetti@redwoodtoxicology.com

I was reading an article in The Guardian the other day about the drugs involved in overdose death cases that our friends “down under” are experiencing. Statistics from 2014 in Victoria, Australia showed that 82% of 384 drug overdose cases were caused by prescription drugs; more specifically, those drugs used to treat anxiety, stress and insomnia. This is up 6% from 2011 and almost double the number of deaths in which illicit drugs were implicated. I know you’re probably thinking that this is no big surprise. It is also true in the United States that drug overdose deaths are more commonly caused by prescription drugs than illicit drugs. However, the interesting part was that drugs used to treat pain were not mentioned in the first paragraph and in fact, the number one drug class listed were benzodiazepines.

Benzodiazepines were implicated in 55% of the overdose deaths compared to 48% for opioids, followed by antidepressants and antipsychotics. Benzodiazepine mixtures with alcohol, opioids, illicit drugs and antidepressants were the most common. This prompted Australia to reschedule Xanax about a year ago to make it a controlled drug. According to The Guardian, benzodiazepines’ widespread abuse resulted in harm produced being second only to alcohol and was significantly greater than the harm caused by illicit drugs. Demographics of the overdose deaths showed a wide range of socioeconomic groups

and ages, as more people use them to cope with long- and short-term stress. In addition, they involved a surprising number of 60 to 80-year-olds. Societal expectations are that there is a pill for almost anything. Australians are calling for prescription drug monitoring to prevent doctor shopping as well as better patient education about the risk and harms of prescription drug use. Doctors should not be so eager to prescribe these drugs and should be discussing other options for patients such as counseling and/or physical therapy. The Australian government subsidizes counseling for depression and anxiety but not for chronic pain. Australia is also calling for pharmaceutical companies to make harm profiles of drugs before they are allowed onto the market. The United States should do this as well.

The majority of drug overdose deaths in the United States are also caused by mixtures of drugs including benzodiazepines, however the number one implicated drug class are opioids. If the data were compared between Australia and the United States, I wonder how similar it would be, and if the choice of the number one implicated drug class is a matter of interpretation.



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## FROM THE TOXICOLOGY LITERATURE

Submitted by Kevin G. Shanks, M.S., D-ABFT-FT

kshanks@aitlabs.com

AIT Laboratories, Indianapolis, IN

**Journal of Forensic Sciences**  
**November 2014**  
**Volume 59, Issue 6**  
**Driving under the influence of synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist, XLR11**

Lemos reported a single case of driving under the influence of the synthetic cannabinoid, XLR11. The driver's blood specimen was positive for XLR11 (1.34 ng/mL). The driver admitted to a drug recognition expert (DRE) that he had been using a "blueberry spice". DRE observations were slow speech, mumbled speech, watery and bloodshot eyes, hypothermia, muscle rigidity, inability to maintain balance, sway, and lack of convergence.

**Journal of Analytical Toxicology**  
**November/December 2014**  
**Volume 38, Issue 9**  
**A lethal case of DEET toxicity due to intentional ingestion**

Wiles *et al.* reported the case of a 37 year old male with a history of pica and developmental delay who presented to the hospital after intentional ingestion of insect repellent containing 40% N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide (DEET). The male experienced seizure within minutes of consuming the substance and suffered cardiac arrest. Upon admittance, he was acidotic, academic, hypothermic, hypotensive, and tachycardic. After a short hospital stay, his condition deteriorated and was declared brain dead on day three. DEET was detected in all hospital admission blood, serum, and urine specimens.

DEET was positive in a whole blood specimen with EDTA as an additive at a concentration equal to 98,400 ng/mL.

**American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology**  
**December 2014**  
**Volume 35, Issue 4**  
**Case report of a fatal intoxication by Nucynta**

Franco *et al.* reported the case of a 40 year old male who was found deceased sitting on his couch. He was last seen alive three days prior. He was prescribed Nucynta, Lexapro, and amitriptyline. Toxicological analyses on the heart blood were positive for tapentadol (6,600 ng/mL), which was elevated when compared to the "therapeutic range" for a living individual (5 to 300 ng/mL). The cause of death was certified as narcotic (Nucynta) intoxication; manner of death was undetermined.

**Forensic Science International**  
**December 2014**  
**Volume 245**  
**Fatal intoxication with 3-methyl-N-methylcathinone (3-MMC) and 5-(2-aminopropyl)benzofuran (5-APB)**

Adamowicz *et al.* reported a case of fatality after self-administration of 3-MMC, 5-APB, and ethanol. Reported observed effects include seizure, hypertension, hyperthermia, tachycardia, and agitation. Postmortem blood was positive for 3-MMC (1.6 mcg/mL) and 5-APB (5.6 mcg/mL). Hospital admission serum sample was positive for etha-

nol (1.4 g/L). The cause of death was certified as acute cardiovascular collapse following mixed intoxication with 3-MMC, 5-APB, and ethanol.

**Forensic Toxicology**  
**January 2015**  
**Volume 33**  
**A case of death caused by abuse of a synthetic cannabinoid N-1-naphthalenyl-1-pentyl-1H-indole-3-carboxamide**

Sasaki *et al.* reported the case of a male who was found deceased on the floor of his bedroom. A package of "Fairy Evolution" herbal product was found. No medical history was known. Toxicological analyses were undertaken and femoral blood was positive for the synthetic cannabinoid, NNEI, at 0.99 ng/mL and 0.84 ng/mL. Pathological findings at autopsy included pulmonary edema and significant visceral congestion. Cause of death was certified as acute circulatory disturbance induced by "NNEI poisoning". Manner of death was not discussed.

**Journal of Analytical Toxicology**  
**January/February 2015**  
**Volume 39**  
**Postmortem femoral blood reference concentrations of aripiprazole, chlorprothixene, and quetiapine**

Skov *et al.* reported postmortem femoral blood concentrations for some newer atypical antipsychotic drugs. Aripiprazole was detected in 25 cases (0.049 to 0.69 mg/kg). Chlorprothixene was detected in

## FROM THE TOXICOLOGY LITERATURE (Continued)

60 cases (0.006 to 0.024 mg/kg). Quetiapine was detected in 60 cases (0.006 to 0.37 mg/kg). Chlorprothixene was determined to be the cause of one fatality (0.90 mg/kg) and the drug was determined to be a contributing cause of death in six cases (0.43 to 0.91 mg/kg). There were no deaths certified as solely due to aripiprazole or quetiapine intoxication. Aripiprazole was determined to be a contributing cause of death in one case (1.9 mg/kg). Quetiapine was determined to be a contributing cause of death in seven cases (0.35 to 10.0 mg/kg).

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD CONTRIBUTORS

SOFT's long sponsored mentoring programs, ERA & YSMA, are funded by generous donations by SOFT Members. Both awards encourage students and young scientists to excel in the Forensic Toxicology field.

More information about the Education Research Award (ERA) and the Young Scientist Meeting Award (YSMA), eligibility and application instructions, can be found at the SOFT website. SOFT Members should consider "mentoring" a talented co-worker or a promising student to apply for one of these prestigious recognition awards, now worth \$2,000.

Thank you 2015 contributors.

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Vincent Papa



Dr. Vincent Matthew Papa, age 65, passed away suddenly from a stroke in his home in San Antonio, TX, on March 11, 2015. Born in Catania (Sicily), Italy, on September 20, 1949, he moved to Calumet City, IL with his parents at a young age. Despite English not being his first language, this brilliant man received a BA degree and an MS degree from Notre Dame, and subsequently a PhD from the University of Illinois. In 1993 his career brought him to the Air Force Drug Testing Lab at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. He was instrumental in forming the Graduate Toxicology Program at The University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHSC) where he was an adjunct professor.

Dr. Papa was a Full SOFT Member for 20 years and also a long time member of the Continuing Education Committee that he regarded with pride. He was a member of AAFS since 1984 (31 years) achieving Fellow status in 1996, serving as a Program Moderator at several AAFS annual meetings. Dr. Papa was a TIAFT Member since 1999 and also a Diplomate / Fellow of the ABFT since 2009.

Vince attended St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in San Antonio and was a member of the Knights of Columbus and ACTS. After 15 years of service he retired but continued until his death as a forensic toxicologist and expert witness for the US Department of Defense as well as for private cases.

### Philip N. Reynolds

*Submitted by Joyce Chang, Ph.D.*

I joined the California Association of Toxicologists (CAT) in 1972, and met Phil Reynolds as one of the first persons to whom I was introduced. At that time Phil was already a well-established and highly respected toxicologist at the Institute of Forensic Sciences in Oakland. CAT had only been formed five years prior, but I was so impressed by the vibrancy and active exchanges among its small but rapidly growing membership, and especially by Phil. At every meeting, he would take the podium at some point to share details about his interesting case load at IFS, toxicology articles he had recently read, or to apprise the group of relevant regulatory and government issues confronting our profession. To myself, as a new toxicologist, Phil seemed to epitomize “real-life” toxicology in action.

He also reached out to find out about my own professional involvements and interests, and we found ourselves sharing our respective professional lives. I found his knowledge of toxicology and drug metabolism to be extensive, and invited him to give a presentation when my company was developing a urine assay for benzodiazepines, and we were interested in defining and targeting the main metabolites of some of the common benzodiazepines in use at that time. I also recollect a meeting at the California Department of Health Services where he and I were the only toxicologists present, and together assumed the role of educating their bureaucracy regarding alcohol testing and drug testing issues. His interest in helping others in the profession of toxicology extended not only to myself, but to all others. I knew exactly whom to ask when I wanted someone to teach my work place colleagues about establishing forensic “chain of custody” procedures, and Mr. Reynolds kindly consented.

The profession of toxicology has indeed lost an exceptional gentleman and professional colleague. I have deeply appreciated the mutual professional rapport and respect, and will miss him.



## IN MEMORIAM (Continued)

### Richard Shaw

Richard F. Shaw passed away on February 15, 2015. Richard was born in Philadelphia, PA on January 26, 1927 and was a long time resident of San Diego. He was a member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and recently attended Saints Alive Senior Services at City View Church. Richard was a proud graduate of the University of North Carolina and later moved to San Diego to work at Mercy Hospital. It was there he met Lorna, the love of his life and wife of 57 years. Richard began his career as Chief Toxicologist for the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office, retiring in 1992 after 34 years of service. When he began working, the then-called "Coroner's Office" laboratory was a one-man operation. Richard contributed to making the institution a national leader in the field of forensic toxicology. He was a consultant to the University of California Medical Center at San Diego where he was a Clinical Instructor of Pathology.



He presented or published over sixty professional papers including chapters in several major texts in toxicology and was on the editorial board of the Journal of Analytical Toxicology. He was a Diplomat/Fellow of The American Board of Forensic Toxicology and Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Richard was also a founding member of The California Association of Toxicologists. Though Richard loved his work and golfing, he was happiest surrounded by his family and friends who will miss him deeply. Richard is survived by his sister, Christine Stanley, his nieces and nephews, his children, Greg (Melodie Grace) and Lisa (Raymond Sanchez), grandchildren Michael (Maria Sanchez) and Danielle, and great grandson Noah.

A former employee of Richard, Catherine Hamm, writes:

*"He hired me as a student in 1981, then again as a toxicologist in 1986. I greatly admired and appreciated him as a manager, a mentor, a toxicologist, a father and husband, and a genuinely kind man. He was warm, knowledgeable, respected by, and respectful of, all who had contact with him."*

### Robert V. Blanke



Robert Vernon Blanke, 89, of Richmond, went to be with his loving Savior February 26, 2014. He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Lois Blanke; his children, Christine, Steven (Susan) and Jonathan (Juli) Blanke; and guardian to Elizabeth and Michelle Lam; grandchildren, Sarah, Joel, Steven, Danielle, Mikayla.

Dr. Blanke was a charter member of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, where he served as president in 1978, a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, where he received the Rolla N. Harger award in 1986, a Diplomat/Fellow of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology, and was a member of many other professional associations. Dr. Blanke had previously served as the Chief Toxicologist for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the Commonwealth of Virginia and was the author of many articles and book chapters in toxicology.



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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

**Future SOFT Meeting Destinations:**

<b>2015:</b> Atlanta, GA.....	Oct. 18-23rd, 2015.....	Robert Sears
<b>2016:</b> Dallas, TX.....	Oct. 15-23rd, 2016.....	Chris Heartsill/Erin Spargo
<b>2017:</b> Boca Raton, FL.....	Sept. 10-15th, 2017.....	Ruth Winecker/Dan Anderson
<b>2018:</b> Minneapolis, MN.....	Oct. 15-19th, 2018.....	Loralie Langman
<b>2019:</b> San Antonio, TX.....	Oct. 11-18th, 2019.....	Veronica Hargrove/Brad Hall

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