

TOXTALK



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together" – African proverb

It is bittersweet to write my last submission to ToxTalk as your President. This year has been full of difficult decisions, unforeseen outcomes and uncertainty. As an organization, you should be extremely proud of yourself and your fellow members. SOFT has demonstrated over and over, we go farther together. Thank you for allowing me to serve on the Board and as President, truly the highlight of my career.

I had the honor of listening to the 2021 Planning Committee meetings which were led by the Nashville hosts, Jen Colby and Erin Karschner. Through their leadership, the Planning Committee work diligently and with great passion to pull together the annual meeting. So much care and thought went into the success of the annual meeting and I

am so grateful for all of the committee members' hard work and dedication. Most important, thank you all for your precious time.

The 2021 SOFT Board had to work through some difficult decisions, some that were time sensitive, and they all rose to the occasion. It is so true, if you surround yourself with people that inspire you, challenge you to rise higher and make you a better person you can only do great things. I cannot thank the Board enough for their time and support throughout 2021. They are an incredible group of people and I am so proud to have worked side by side with them this year.

During the annual meeting I was able to sit in on a few of the SOFT committee meetings. I am so impressed with the SOFT committees! Each one has chairs and members that are driven to ensure each committee meets its goals and succeeds in its mission. If you have not had the opportunity to look into the SOFT committees, please take some time and check them out on the SOFT website. If one or more is of interest to you, reach out to the chairs and find out how you can get involved.

The Toxicology Resource Committee began the year strong and will continue to meet to address the needs of the

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

toxicology laboratories. Now that we have the SOFT annual meeting in our rearview mirror, we will focus on some of the goals we set in the beginning of the year which will include a summary of the survey responses from many of you. The committee sponsored a half day workshop during the SOFT meeting and I had the pleasure of co-chairing the workshop with Dani Mata. Our speaker line up consisted of several experts in our field that have a great deal of experience in grant writing, creative funding

opportunities and cultivating internship programs. While the feedback from the workshop indicated we were able to present useful material, the responses and suggestions from the participants was extremely valuable and we will bring those ideas back to the committee for consideration.

Before I close out my last ToxTalk article as President, I must thank my fellow Toxies at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene. I could not have served on the

Board and as President all of these years without their constant support. I am truly blessed to be surrounded by such talented and kind people every day.



AMY MILES, B.S.
SOFT PRESIDENT

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Submitted by: Beth Olson, SOFT Executive Director
beth@soft-tox.org



It's hard to believe that we're already hurtling toward the end of 2021! As I reflect back on the past year with SOFT, a theme came to mind – collaboration. The operations of SOFT itself are a collaboration between staff, the Board of Directors, the chairs and members of nearly 20 committees, and the membership.

While SOFT has always been an organization that heavily relied on volunteers and members working together to further the mission, the pandemic provided the opportunity for this close-knit group to find new and different ways of working together. These collaborative efforts allow the members of SOFT to get involved in the organization, fosters relationships between members, and contributes to the field of forensic toxicology by creating opportunities for networking and learning from each other.

The planning of the Annual Meeting takes hundreds of hours on the part of many volunteers. From the Planning Committee, who spend a year putting together the scientific program and workshops, coordinating all of the exhibitors in the exhibit hall, planning

the food and beverage and AV, designing the mobile app, coordinating all of our volunteers and planning the Fun Run to the dozens of people who volunteer on-site to ensure the meeting runs smoothly, the collaborative efforts of this team of people made our 2021 Annual Meeting in Nashville happen.

Contributing to the success of each year's Planning Committee is the Meeting Resource Committee, who issue requests for proposals for meeting sites, evaluate these proposals, and ultimately make a recommendation to the Board for future sites. This committee is currently evaluating proposals for both the 2025 and 2026 meetings.

Since SOFTopics inception in September of 2020, SOFT has held 10 SOFTopics programs – moderated discussion groups that focus on current topics in the field of forensic toxicology. Participants share ideas, trends, problems and successes with other members, fostering collaboration between our members.

SOFTopics has also led the way for joint efforts among the committees of SOFT.

SOFTopics and the Professional Mentoring Committee co-sponsored and moderated the first every SOFT Summer Book Club in 2021. Look for this program to return in the summer of 2022!

SOFTopics has also worked with the Continuing Education Committee to offer SOFTopics in conjunction with webinars presented by the Continuing Education Committee.


The Continuing Education Committee has already hosted two webinars this year on

the topics of NPS (hosted by the Designer Drugs Committee) and testimony (hosted by the Young Forensic Toxicologists Committee), and will be co-hosting a webinar on December 7 with The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) honoring the work of Randall Baselt. Look for more information and registration opportunity for this webinar coming soon.

In addition to these partnerships between committees, we've also implemented open committee meetings held online via Zoom that have been very well attended (up to 100 attendees!). We'll continue this practice into next year, incorporating more of our established committees as well as our two new committees that were formed this year – Postmortem Committee and the Toxicology Resource Committee.

SOFT's Mentoring Committee just held its third webinar of 2021. These one-hour sessions utilize a professional facilitator to deliver sessions specifically designed for SOFT's program. Registration for next year's mentoring program will take place between November 15 and December 15.

Look for many more collaborative efforts from SOFT in 2022, including our Annual Meeting in Cleveland. I hope that each of you makes a commitment to get more involved in SOFT in the coming year!



BETH OLSON
SOFT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE - NASHVILLE, TN

To our planning committee, President Amy Miles, the SOFT Board, Beth Olson and CC Watson, the volunteers, sponsors, exhibitors, presenters, and all the attendees who made 2021 SOFT Nashville happen—thank you from the bottom of our hearts. It was so amazing to see everyone after two years apart. We would also like to thank plenary speaker, Dr. Matthew Johnson, who received glowing reviews for his enthusiastic and fascinating discussion of his work with psilocybin in clinical medicine.

On Wednesday night we enjoyed the company of our colleagues, craft cocktails, and fantastic food at Pinewood Social in downtown Nashville. Attendees

embraced the Rhinestone Toxicologists Banquet theme on Thursday evening with their most shiny and sparkly attire. The Downtown Band provided the soundtrack for the evening. They told us that they loved the energy of our group and that it was their favorite show since they've returned to live performances post-2020. We want to thank everyone who attended the meeting for a fun and educational week.

We can't wait to see everyone in Cleveland in 2022!

Erin and Jen



ERIN KARSCHNER AND JEN COLBY
2021 CO-HOSTS



SOFT PRESIDENTS

2021 HOSTS



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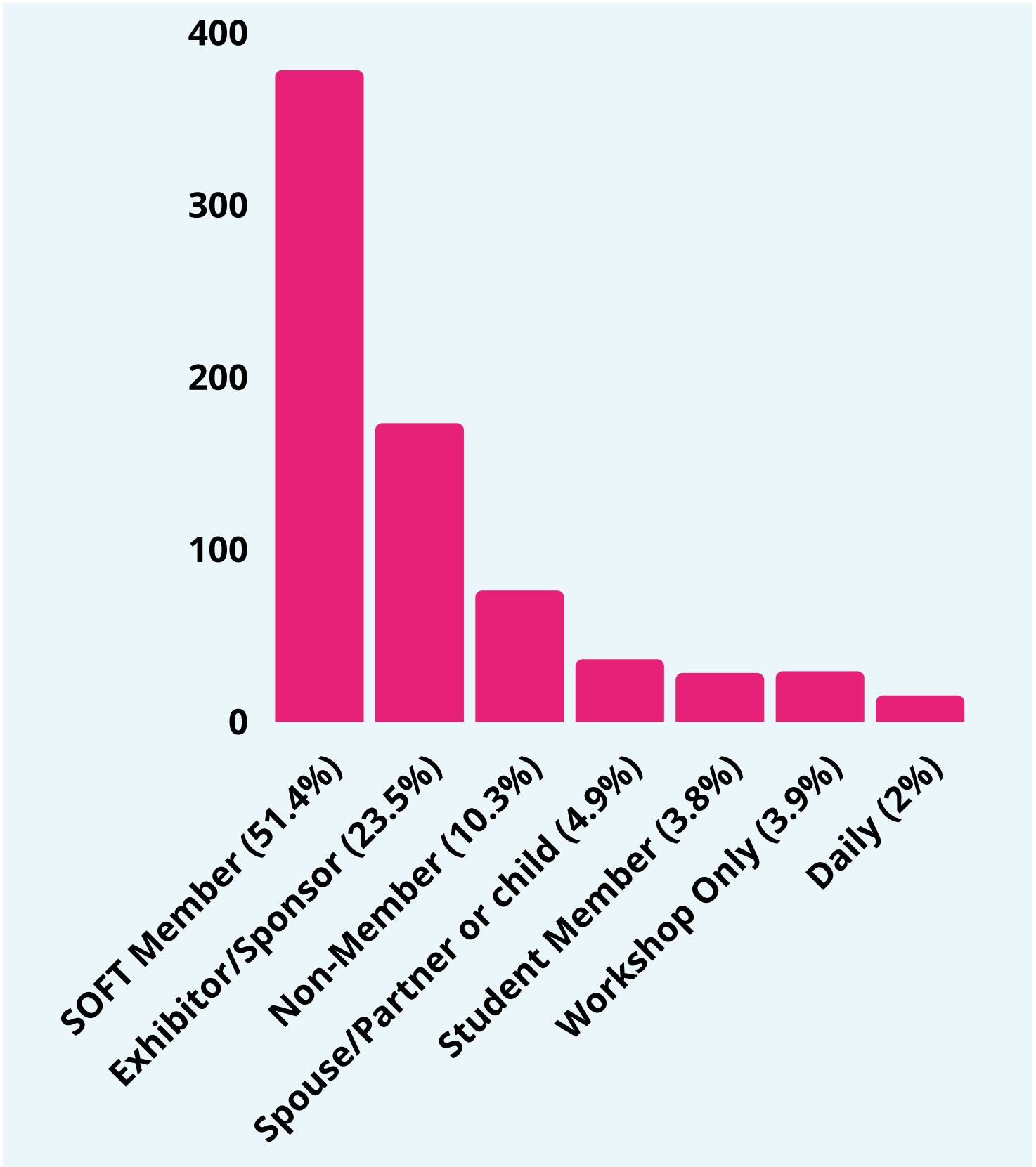
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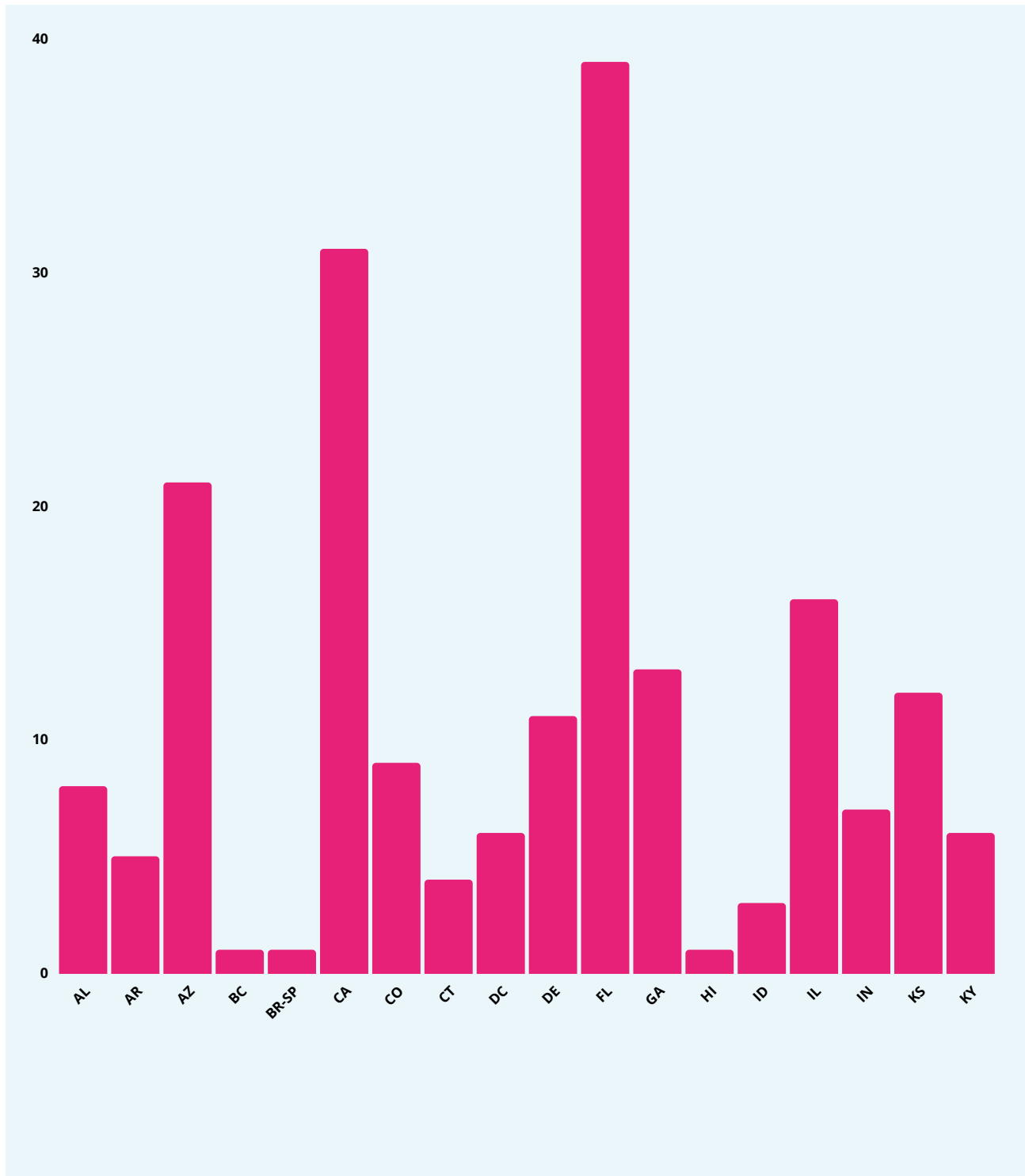


2021 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

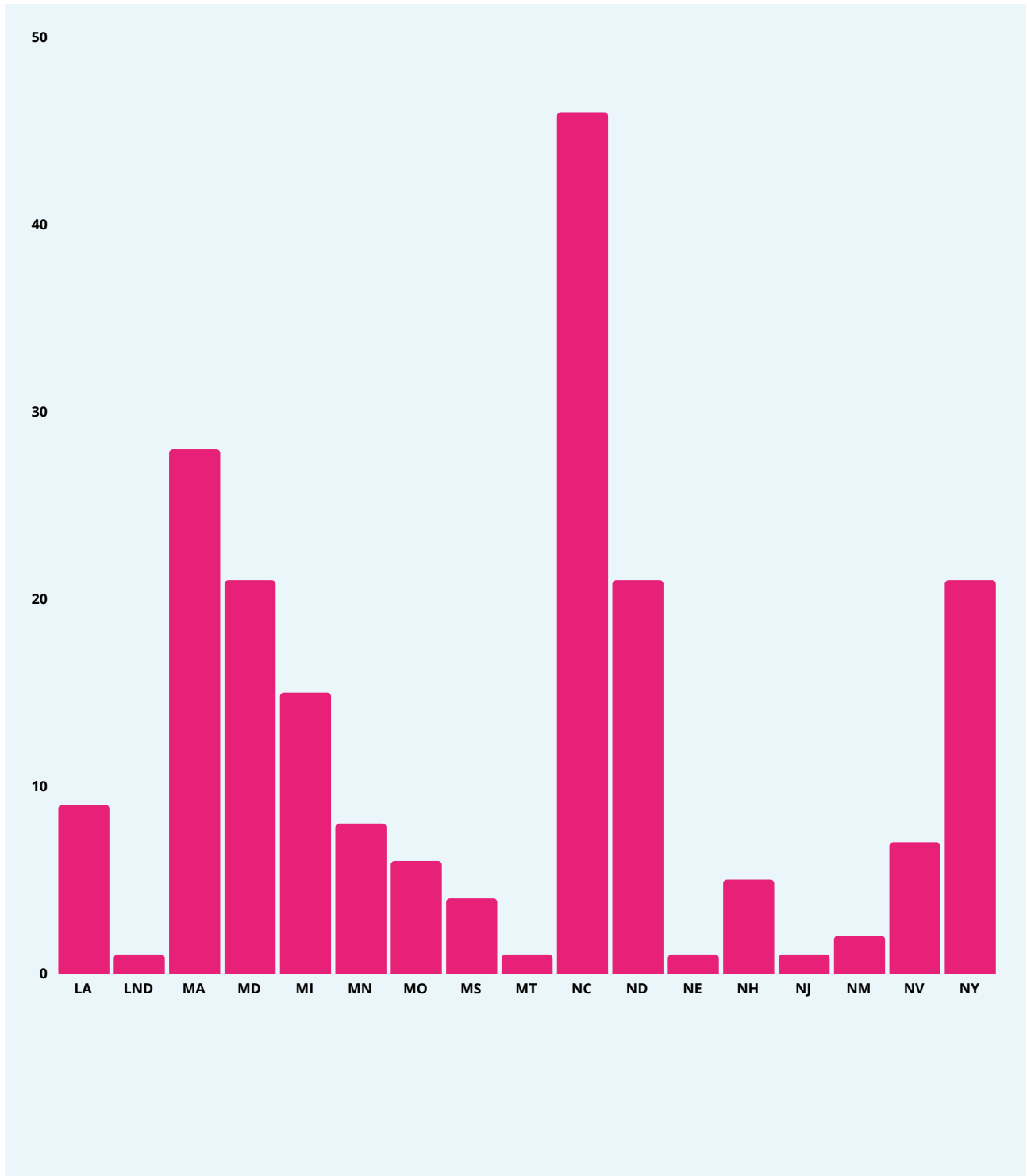
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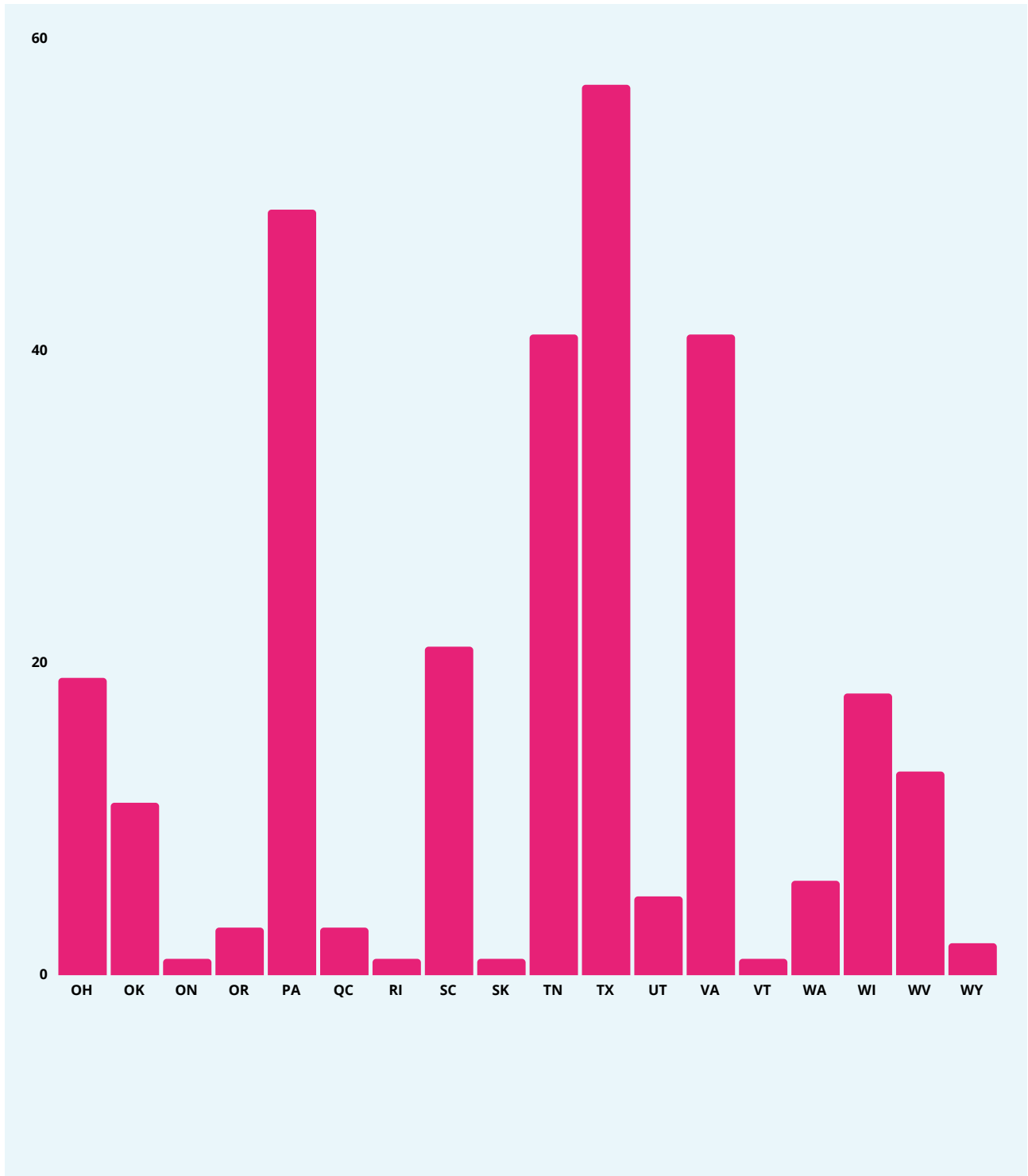
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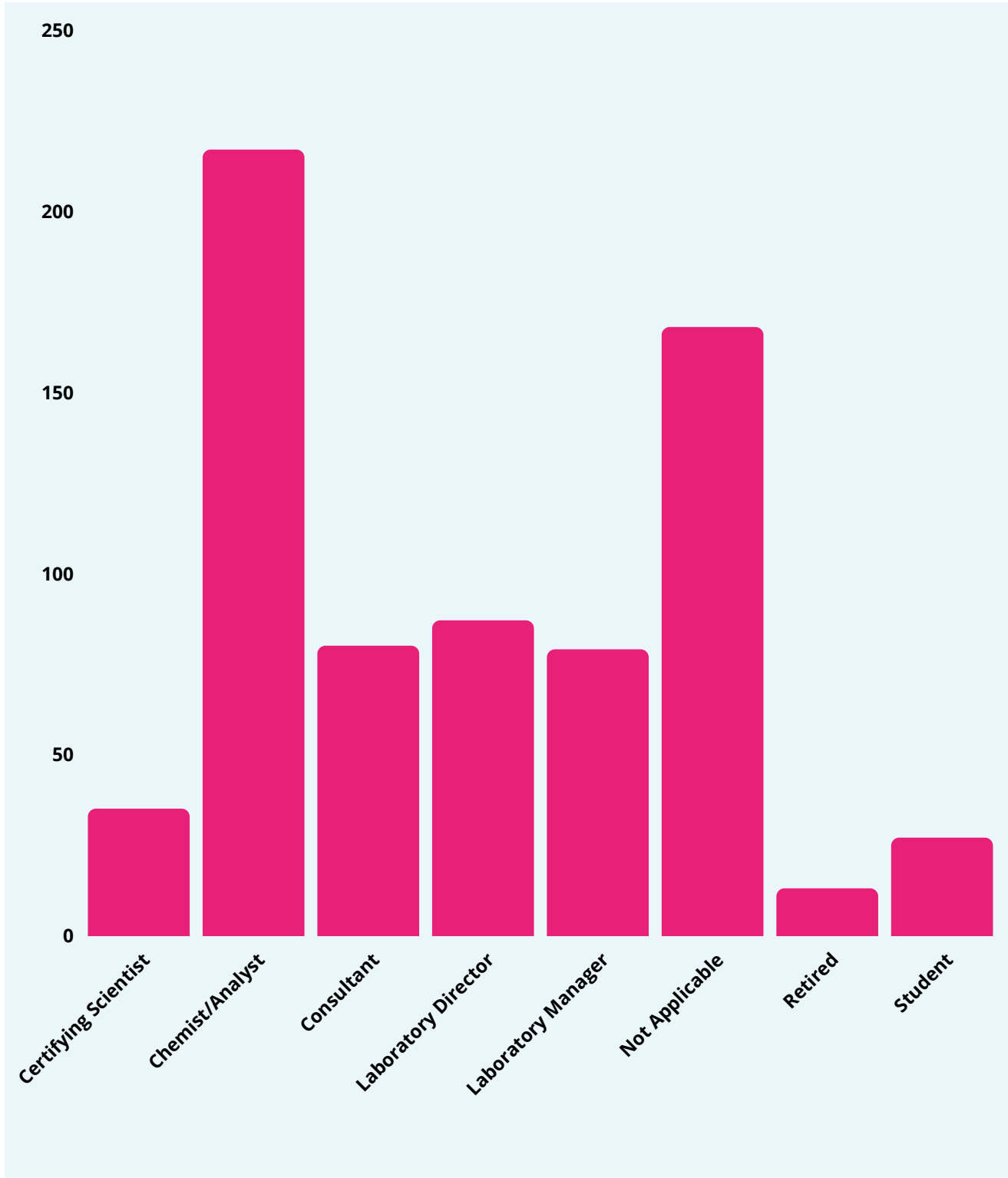
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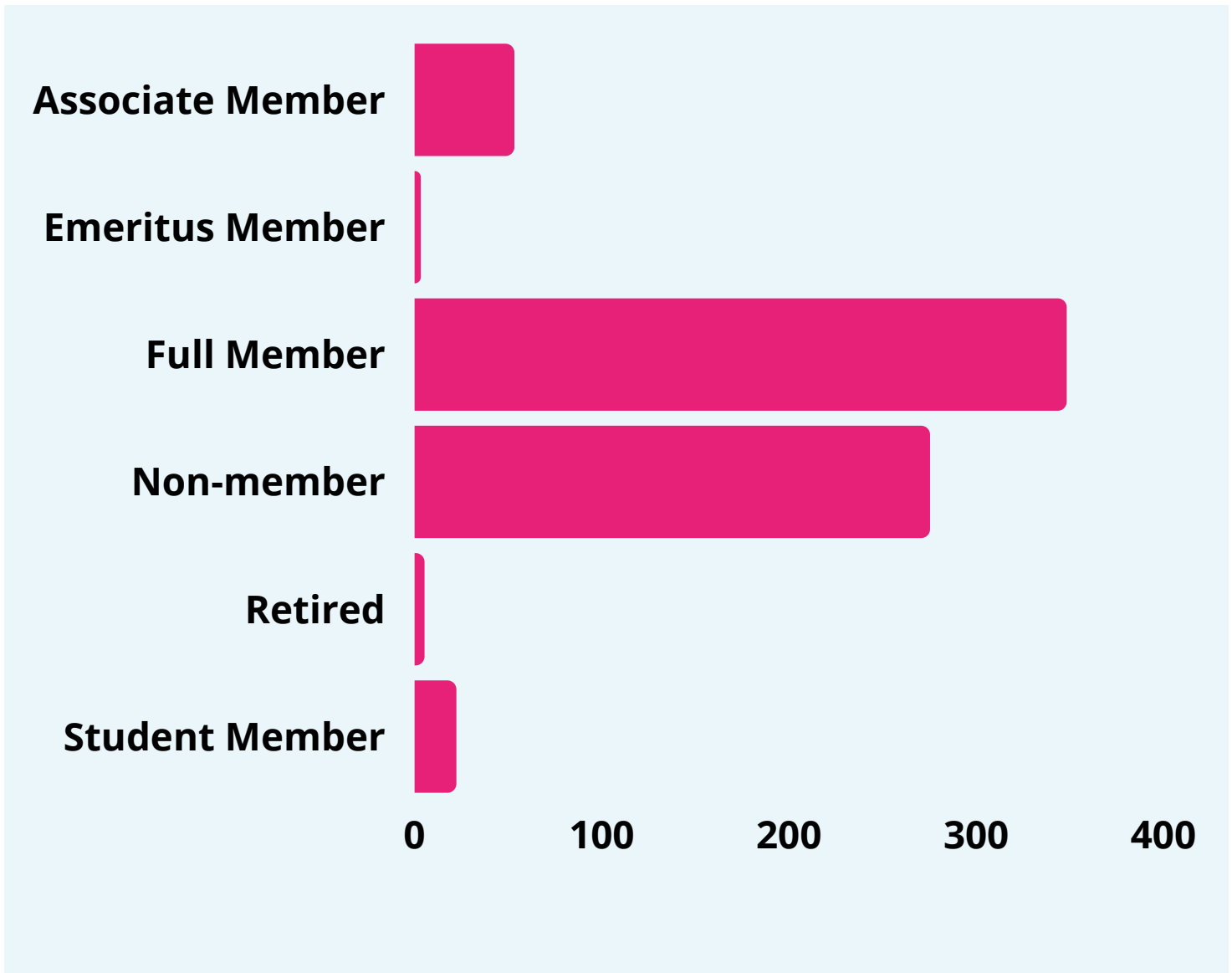
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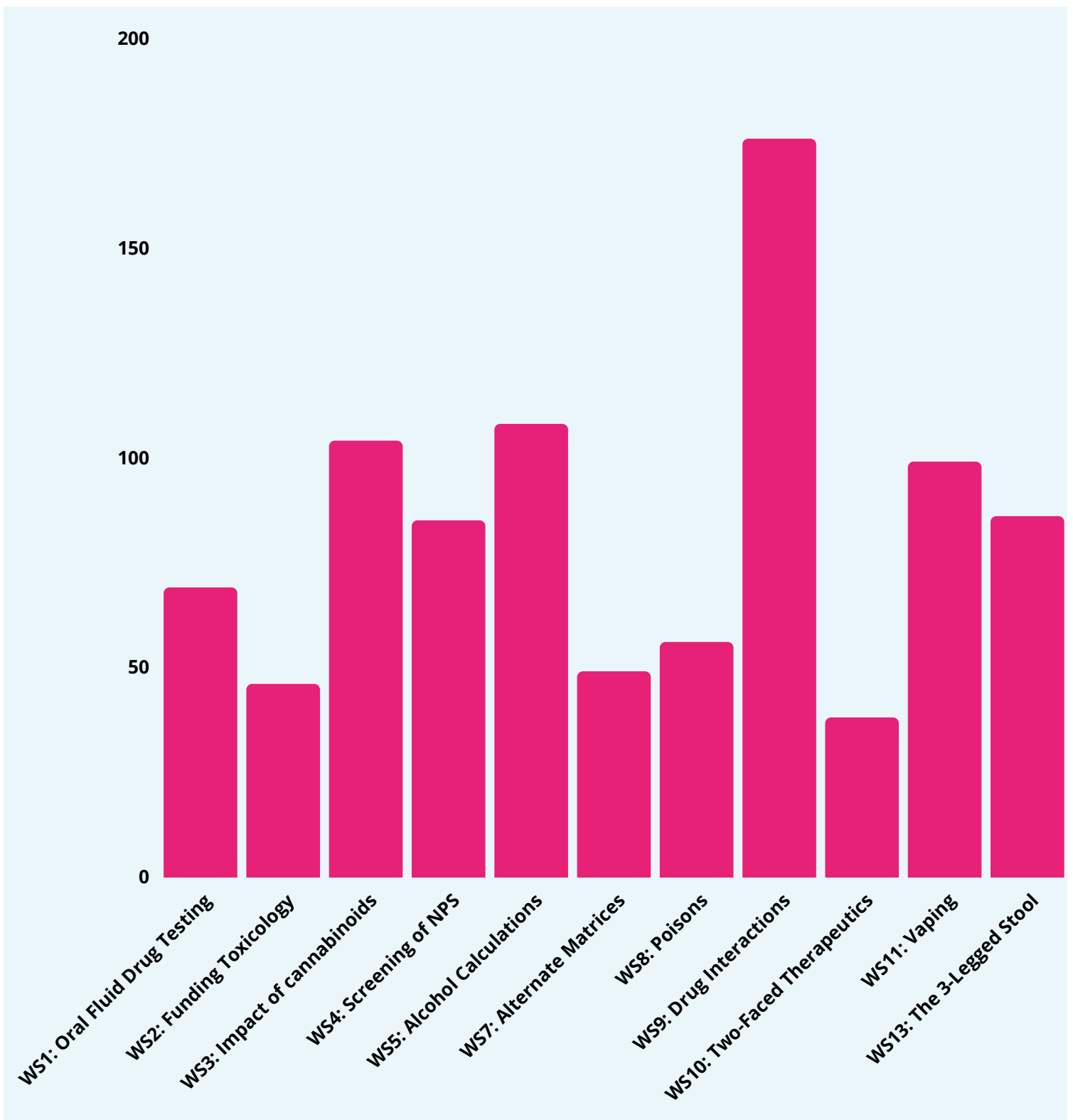
REGISTRATION BY POSITION



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ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE - NASHVILLE, TN

SOFT 2021 MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIALS

Reported at the SOFT 2021 Business Meeting by Secretary Spargo and Treasurer Yeatman

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Membership	1,451	1,514	1,512	1,541
Charter	8	8	6	6
Retired Charter	15	14	14	13
Retired/Emeritus	62	70	78	81
Full	965	1,006	1,024	1,046
Associate	351	363	342	344
Student	50	53	51	51

	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 YTD	2021 Projection
Revenue				
Membership	\$143,859	\$144,000	\$138,040	\$144,000
Annual Meeting	\$13,375	\$828,339	\$774,312	\$833,426
SOFTember	\$434,175	\$0	\$0	\$0
Advertising	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Continuing Education	\$9,345	\$10,000	\$11,945	\$14,000
Contributions	\$3,372	\$3,000	\$3,347	\$3,347
Interest	\$138	\$750	\$306	\$750
	\$604,764	\$986,089	\$927,950	\$995,523
Expense				
Payroll	\$149,384	\$157,088	\$101,358	\$145,710
Occupancy	\$2,109	\$4,000	\$2,231	\$3,000
Office	\$876	\$1,800	\$281	\$1,800
Administrative Expenses	\$69,001	\$81,000	\$20,021	\$81,000
Insurance	\$9,179	\$11,073	\$8,449	\$11,073
Annual Meeting	(\$6)	\$776,865	\$546,668	\$800,196
SOFTember	\$45,447	\$0	\$0	\$0
Board and Committees	\$8,433	\$48,000	\$15,649	\$44,129
Legal and Professional Services	\$17,682	\$10,850	\$1,918	\$3,225
Membership	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$13,000	\$10,500
Awards	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$2,000	\$8,000
Meals and Entertainment	\$67	\$500	\$0	\$500
Appreciation Gifts	\$458	\$1,000	\$100	\$1,000
Bank Charges	\$6,169	\$7,500	\$6,697	\$7,000
	\$324,299	\$1,119,176	\$718,372	\$1,117,133
Net Income/(Loss)	\$280,465	(\$133,087)	\$209,578	(\$121,610)

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SOFT 2021
EXHIBITORS! WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT
OF SOFT AND CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU ALL
NEXT YEAR IN CLEVELAND, OH AT SOFT 2022!





RESEARCH IN FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY AWARD

Alex J. Krotulski, Ph.D.
Associate Director – Toxicology/Chemistry
Program Manager – NPS Discovery
Center for Forensic Science Research & Education
Fredric Rieders Family Foundation

I am honored to receive the inaugural SOFT Research in Forensic Toxicology Award. I want to thank my many colleagues, mentors, and advisors who have helped shape me as a toxicologist and researcher and those who have assisted me with the many studies along the way, with a special thank you to Dr. Barry Logan. I also want to acknowledge other outstanding researchers who have provided invaluable data and information to the field of forensic toxicology over the last several decades – this inaugural award is for all of us. Research plays a vital role in our understanding of forensic toxicology, and I cannot wait to see what the next decades bring and where researchers take us!



TEACHING AND MENTORING AWARD

Michelle Peace, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Laboratory for Forensic Toxicology Research
Department of Forensic Science
Virginia Commonwealth University

I deeply appreciate the Society recognizing the profound impact of mentoring on the vitality of SOFT, the advancement of the community, and the success of our colleagues. I am so grateful to be recognized for something I am so passionate about. I am where I am with the guidance, some tough love, and hearing a few hard words from my mentors. Honestly though, the award really recognizes the achievements of those I've had the privilege of mentoring and those who have participated in SOFT's Professional Mentoring Program. I am honored to have been a part of our colleagues' and friends' achievements.



YOUNG FORENSIC TOXICOLOGIST SERVICE AWARD

Dani Mata, D-ABFT-FT
Senior Forensic Scientist - Toxicology
Orange County Crime Lab

Thank you very much to the people who took the time to nominate me and for the award committee for selecting me for it. I thoroughly enjoy all my work with SOFT and the connections I've made from attending meetings and being involved with the association. SOFT has helped me grow greatly as toxicologist and I look forward to working with SOFT for the rest of my career.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

H. Chip Walls
Consultant
Miami, FL

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE - NASHVILLE, TN



ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE - NASHVILLE, TN



ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE - NASHVILLE, TN



ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE - NASHVILLE, TN



ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE - NASHVILLE, TN



ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE - CLEVELAND, OH

2022 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The 2022 annual meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists will be held October 30 to November 4 at the Huntington Convention Center in Cleveland, Ohio. This will be the first time the SOFT meeting will be held in Cleveland and will be held in the State of Ohio.

Cleveland is a city of firsts. Cleveland was the first city in the US to successfully establish electric lighting in 1879; open the first indoor shopping center in 1890 (The Arcade, which is still open!); sell the first automobile in 1898; and conduct the first surgery using a direct blood transfusion in 1906.

Cleveland didn't invent rock music, but it was the first to use the term "Rock and Roll," coined by a local disc jockey in the 1950s. The first rock concert was held in Cleveland in 1952, establishing it as an important tour stop for countless musical acts. Cleveland was ultimately chosen as the home for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the location of Wednesday night's social off-site event.

Cleveland is also known for its beautiful parklands and a vibrant art and culture scene with an extensive sports history too. Cleveland's premier entertainment dis-

trict is Playhouse Square, with the largest outdoor chandelier in the world made up of 4200 crystals. It is the second largest performing arts center in the US second only to the Lincoln Center in NYC.

Cleveland is a food lovers paradise with a melting pot of cuisines and nationally recognized chefs. East 4th St. is a great destination in the heart of Cleveland packed with extraordinary dining and entertainment. Indulge yourself with culinary treats and taste some of the best craft brews and drinks the city has to offer. With East 4th St. developed for pedestrian traffic, you can enjoy your favorite venue or make your way up and down the street to enjoy them all.

The Huntington Convention Center is located approximately 15 miles from the Cleveland International Airport. Cleveland weather at the end of October / beginning of November is variable with an average temperature in the mid 50s.

If this will be your first SOFT meeting or you are a regular attendee, we look forward to seeing you in Cleveland!

Doug and Shelly

2022 HOSTS



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DOUG ROHDE

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MICHELE GLINN
KIM TOMLINSON

WORKSHOP PROGRAM COORDINATORS
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OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 4, 2022
HUNTINGTON CONVENTION CENTER



PRESIDENT ELECT'S MESSAGE



Robert Sears
2021 President Elect

What a great meeting we just concluded in Nashville. I would like to take a moment to say thank you to the co-hosts, planning committee and all of our volunteers for SOFT 2021. Without the hard work by these dedicated individuals, we could not have had such a successful meeting.

Little did I know when I attended my first SOFT meeting (SOFT-TIAFT meeting 1994 Tampa FL) that I would go on to co-host the 2015 meeting in Atlanta or hold a position on the SOFT Board of Directors where I would help steer SOFT through some turbulent times. The difficult but necessary cancelation of the 2020

San Diego meeting, a fairly rapid development and delivery of a virtual meeting and questions surrounding the COVID virus and its impact on the 2021 meeting have provided challenging opportunities for SOFT members, the Board of Directors and our SOFT staff to demonstrate our strengths and commitment to the organization. It is my belief that SOFT as an organization is thriving because of its members, student affiliates, vendors, and meeting attendees. You are a resilient group of individuals, and I am proud to be a part of the SOFT family.

As the incoming SOFT President, I want to encourage everyone to get more involved with the organization. It is often stated that many hands make light work. I can assure you that we need many hands-on deck to keep the organization moving forward. We have many great committees that carry on the functions of SOFT throughout the year. Look at the committee list and decide where you would like to participate. Reach

out to a Committee Chair or member of the committee and express your interest to be a part of their working group. If you need assistance finding a place to volunteer, please reach out to me or any one of the Board members or office staff and we will try to get you more involved. Obviously, the annual meeting is the best place to start volunteering and there are many opportunities to help.

As we move toward the new year, I have the responsibility to appoint the 2022 JAT Special Edition Editor. I have selected Dr. Rebecca Hartman to serve as the JAT Special Edition Editor for 2022. Additionally, I have selected Dr. Dan Isenschmid to fill a two-year term as Counselor.

I hope to see everyone in Cleveland in 2022!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert M. Sears".

ROBERT SEARS
PRESIDENT ELECT

[VIEW THE 2021 SOFT COMMITTEE LIST HERE](#)

2022 JAT SPECIAL ISSUE



Rebecca Hartman, PhD
2022 Special Issue Editor

RebeccaHartman@monroecounty.gov

It was wonderful to see the SOFT community again in Nashville recently, after so long apart. It's hard to believe that it's already time to start thinking about Cleveland 2022.

I am honored to be invited to serve as the 2022 Journal of Analytical Toxicology SOFT Special Issue Guest Editor, and would like to thank incoming SOFT President Robert Sears for entrusting me with this challenging responsibility. I look forward to upholding the longstanding tradition of compiling a high-quality issue to coincide with the upcoming SOFT annual meeting.

JAT enjoys a well-deserved reputation for publishing quality articles for the forensic toxicology community. As the official journal of SOFT and TIAFT, its value to the field has only grown over the years, as a reliable and accessible source of original research for the membership.

Of course, the true value of JAT lies in you—your contributions are crucial not just to the success of JAT, but more importantly to the ongoing development of our field. I encourage you to submit your manuscript to the SOFT 2022 Special Issue. Sharing and disseminating information through publication provides fellow toxicologists and other medicolegal stakeholders with valuable references, facilitating growth and expanding our collective knowledge and capabilities. As a new feature, Special Issue manuscripts will be published on the OUP website and PubMed within days, limiting the delay to disseminate your important work.

I also encourage the membership to help strengthen the Special Issue, by

volunteering to provide thorough and timely reviews for submitted manuscripts. Manuscripts will be carefully reviewed for originality, design, and technical content.

In acknowledgement of the effort involved with the manuscript publication process—and most particularly, the value of your research—all first authors of accepted Special Issue articles who are also SOFT members will be eligible to be considered for the 2022 Experimental Design and Impact on Toxicology (EDIT) award. This prestigious award recognizes outstanding scientific content and its notable or substantial impact on the field. Cleveland was the home of Irving Sunshine, and a Special Issue full of impactful articles will be an appropriate nod to his legacy this year.

Thank you in advance for your contributions toward a successful Special Issue. I look forward to receiving your submissions, and to seeing you in Cleveland!

TITLES/ABSTRACTS DUE BY 2/18/22
SUBMIT HERE

PAPERS SUBMITTED VIA MANUSCRIPT CENTRAL DUE BY 3/4/22
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TESTIMONIALS

When I first applied to the SOFT mentoring program, I was unsure about my career path and needed some guidance. When I was first paired with Madeleine Swortwood, I was just looking for some help getting my career off the ground by learning things like manuscript review and support with studying for my upcoming ABFT exam. I had been back and forth on different directions to take my career when Madeleine encouraged me to apply to Sam Houston State University's forensic science PhD program. I did, was accepted, and now I'm halfway through my first semester as a PhD student! Now Madeleine and I get to work together on my PhD research as well. I'm honestly not sure what I would be doing right now had I not applied to the mentoring program, but I do know that I'm very excited about the opportunities it brought and the path it has put me on.

From Mentee: Amanda Pacana

Class of 2021



My personal experience with the SOFT Mentoring Program has been very rewarding. My assigned Mentee for 2020 had an excellent educational background and great experiences as an Intern. Her limitations were experience in the field of Human Performance Toxicology. She was interested in gaining more knowledge and learn about Courtroom Testimony etiquette and decorum. We exchanged resumes, created a schedule for communication and I provided courtroom transcripts, case studies as well as body cams/dash cams for her review and discussion. Her personal life took a different direction and she needed to find a job in California. With her approval, I provided her contact information to a potential employer. The program really has worked for us. She was contacted, had interviews and is now a successful Supervising Criminalist in a major crime lab in Southern California. We agreed to continue to stay in contact informally for 2021.

I am a Mentee' for 2021. My Mentor has extensive experience in Clinical Toxicology. I have learned a great deal about Workplace Testing. We have reversed roles and I have become a Mentor in our last quarter of our 2021 PMP program. We plan to extend into 2022.

From Mentor: Jim Burris

Class of 2020

IN MEMORIAM

Submitted By: Marilyn Past, John Mitchell, Cheri Baird, Suzanne Clute



Lisa K. McWhorter

A long-time member of The Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT), CDR Lisa K. McWhorter, MSC, USN (ret), 65, of Suffolk, VA passed away October 21, 2021 after a battle with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. She was a dear shipmate, colleague and friend to many of us.

After earning a B.S. in Biology (Transylvania University) and M.S. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry (Ohio State University), Lisa joined the Peace Corps. She served two years in Zaire, Africa, teaching Nursing students in their native French language. This experience gave her a life-long love of travel and adventure. In 1984, Lisa initially enlisted in the Navy as a Hospital Corpsman. She was later commissioned as a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the Medical Service Corps and was ordered to the Navy Drug Screening Laboratory (NDSL), Norfolk for her first duty station as a biochemist/toxicologist.

Lisa left an amazing legacy of leadership to the Department of Defense Drug Testing program. She mentored dozens of forensic toxicologists during tours of duty as the Executive Officer, NDSL, Great Lakes, IL, and as Commanding Officer, NDSLs, Jacksonville, FL and San Diego, CA. She also served as the Program Manager for the Navy/Ma-

rine Corps Drug Testing Program in Norfolk, VA and Portsmouth, VA for two tours where she implemented new technologies that were critical to maintaining military readiness. Her guidance was instrumental in the construction of a new state of the art drug testing laboratory at Great Lakes. She also did two tours as a chemistry instructor at the United States Naval Academy (USNA). One of the highlights of her final USNA tour was serving as the officer representative for the women's lacrosse team, while also assigned as the Associate Chair of the Chemistry Department. During her Navy career, Lisa co-authored four peer-reviewed journal articles on various topics in forensic drug testing.

Lisa retired from the Navy as a Commander in 2012 after 28 years of service. She continued to work as an inspector for the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) National Laboratory Certification Program (NLCP) and remained active in SOFT. She did 63 NLCP inspections from March 1994 until her final inspection in June 2021. Lisa was often the lead on many inspections with first-time inspectors because she was very knowledgeable and a great mentor for the program. She also served as a consultant on several projects with RTI for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Suzanne Clute (NLCP/RTI) said: "She and her many talents and warm smile will be deeply missed by all of us at the NLCP!" Lisa loved to travel and explore different cities as part of these NLCP inspection trips. She posed with the Mary Tyler Moore

statue in Minneapolis, MN, was photographed kissing a giant Elvis Presley portrait in Memphis (yes, that was our Lisa), and was snowed in for several days after a major East Coast snowstorm in Baltimore. Lisa definitely knew how to have a good time wherever she was.

Lisa's love of travel led her to become a tour guide for Women Traveling Together (WTT), where she conducted tours in the U.S., Europe, and Central America. Her spirit of fun and adventure thrived on these tours where she zip-lined in Costa Rica, explored Alaska, and even drove the tour bus! Lisa's impact on the group and the strong friendships she developed on these trips were reflected recently on social media when her fellow WTT travelers found out that she had suddenly passed away. Just like all of her SOFT colleagues, it is hard to believe that this woman so full of life, love and fun can now only be cherished in our many fond memories.

A memorial service will be scheduled in her hometown of Oak Ridge, TN at a later date.

Rest easy Lisa and see you on the other side. We celebrate who you were to us and will all miss you fiercely.



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Journal of Analytical Toxicology **Volume 45, Issue 8**

<https://doi.org/10.1093/jat/bkab050>

Unusually High Concentration of Fentanyl in a Driver: A Case Report

Mata and Coleman report the case of a 30 year old male who was witnessed to have been unconscious while driving a vehicle. Law enforcement stopped the vehicle and administered field sobriety tests. The driver performed poorly on the Romberg test, walk and turn test, one leg stand test, and the finger to nose test. Officers observed that the man could not keep his eyes open and had slow speech and constricted pupils. Pulse was 46 beats per minute. A syringe was found in the vehicle and the man had recent injection sites. Other evidence such as powders, pills, and Suboxone film were also located in his vehicle. He was transported to jail and then a hospital where he admitted to using fentanyl and methamphetamine. Blood was drawn and sent for toxicological analyses. Toxicology, completed by LC-QToF-MS and LC-MS/MS, revealed fentanyl (303±33 ng/mL), norfentanyl, 4-ANPP, methamphetamine (119±11 ng/mL), amphetamine, and xylazine.

Clinical Toxicology **Volume 45, Issue 3**

<https://doi.org/10.1080/15563650.2021.1879111>

Death Associated with Brorphine, an Emerging Novel Synthetic Opioid

Vohra et al. reported a case of a 61 year old female who was found deceased at home after a suspected drug overdose. The woman had a history of obesity, tobacco use, hypertension, COPD, schizophrenia, and hyperlipidemia. Cardiac blood and urine were collected during autopsy and sent to the toxicology lab for analysis. Testing of the cardiac blood specimen revealed brorphine (2.0 ng/mL), fentanyl (0.32 ng/mL), 4-ANPP, gabapentin (6.8 mcg/mL), chlorpromazine (82 ng/mL), and ethanol (27 mg/dL). Testing of the urine revealed presumptive positive findings for benzodiazepines and amphetamines. No other testing was conducted on the urine sample. The medical examiner certified the cause of death as the toxic effects of multiple substances, including brorphine and fentanyl. Manner of death was accident.

Forensic Toxicology **Volume 39, Issue 2**

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11419-021-00581-y>

Blood Concentrations of New Psychoactive Substances Belonging to the Benzodiazepine Class

Nowak and Adamowicz reviewed publications of nonfatal and fatal cases involving new psychoactive substances in the benzodiazepine class and concluded that due to the overlap of concentrations found in nonfatal and fatal cases, the blood concentration levels cannot be taken as any sort of absolute indicator to determine the cause of toxic effects

or fatality. As an example, blood concentrations of etizolam in nonfatal cases ranged 15-1,160 ng/mL, while fatal case concentrations ranged 1-2,820 ng/mL. As a second example, blood flualprazolam concentrations in nonfatal cases ranged 3.3-68 ng/mL, while fatal case concentrations ranged 2.83-620 ng/mL. Several other benzodiazepine substances were also discussed.

The American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology **Volume 42, Issue 3**

<https://doi.org/10.1097/PAF.0000000000000663>

Suicide by an Unusual Compound

Fenu et al. reported the case of a 33 year old woman who attempted suicide. She called emergency medical services after ingesting a barium acetate water solution. She began to experience narrow and wide complex tachyarrhythmias. An hour after ingestion, she was somnolent, nauseous, and began vomiting. Pulse rate was 109 beats per minute and she was still experiencing tachyarrhythmias. Hospital testing revealed low potassium (1.4 mmol/L) and she was given IV potassium and magnesium. She was also given fluid resuscitation, lidocaine, bicarbonate, and calcium. She still was experiencing wide complex tachycardia and cardioversion failed to work – she went into asystolic arrest and could not be resuscitated. She was pronounced deceased approximately 2.5 hours after ingestion of barium acetate.



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The autopsy revealed mild liver steatosis, cardiomyocyte hypertrophy, and pulmonary congestion. Toxicological analyses revealed barium (13 mg/mL), lidocaine, sertraline, nortriptyline, caffeine, and nicotine.

Clinical Toxicology

Volume 59, Issue 9

<https://doi.org/10.1080/15563650.2020.1868491>

Analytically Confirmed Eutylone Exposure in Emergency Department Patients

Chen et al. reported 11 cases of lab-confirmed eutylone exposure from three hospitals in Taiwan from January 2019 to July 2020. Eutylone was detected via LC-MS/MS. The average age of patients with eutylone exposure was 24 ± 8.01 years. Seven of the 11 cases were women. Four cases were men. Commonly observed symptoms of exposure included delirium, agitation, tachycardia, hyperthermia, and hypertension. Interestingly, all 11 patients reported ingesting an “instant coffee packet” – the authors state that in Taiwan, cathinones are sold as “instant coffee packets”. Generally, patients recovered with medical support within 12 hours, but 2 patients left the hospital against medical advice and 1 patient died. Urine eutylone concentrations ranged 15–18,364 ng/mL.

Forensic Science International

Volume 325

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forsci-int.2021.110888>

Detection of 4-FMC, 4-MeO- α -PVP, 4-F- α PVP, and PV8 in Blood in a Forensic Case Using Liquid Chromatography – Electrospray Ionization Linear Ion Trap Mass Spectrometry

Mochizuki et al. reported the case of a man found naked in his bedroom with his head embedded in a wall. During investigation of the scene, a syringe and liquid-filled vials were found. During autopsy, visceral congestion and pulmonary congestion were observed. Petechiae on the face and eyes were also observed. Blood was collected for toxicological analysis. The heart blood sample was positive for 4-FMC (365 ± 15 ng/mL), 4-MeO- α -PVP (449 ± 5 ng/mL), 4-F- α -PVP (145 ± 7 ng/mL), and PV8 (218 ± 3 ng/mL). The femoral blood sample was positive for 4-FMC (397 ± 11 ng/mL), 4-MeO- α -PVP (383 ± 8 ng/mL), 4-F- α -PVP (127 ± 4 ng/mL), and PV8 (167 ± 4 ng/mL). Cause of death was acute poisoning with a combination of 4-FMC, 4-MeO- α -PVP, 4-F- α -PVP, and PV8.

Forensic Toxicology

Volume 39, Issue 2

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11419-021-00584-9>

Quantification and Distribution of 4-Fluoroisobutyrylfentanyl (4-FiBF) in Postmortem Biological Samples Using UHPLC-QqQ-MS/MS

Zawadzki et al. reported four fatal intoxication cases involving the novel synthetic opioid, 4-fluoroisobutyrylfentanyl, in Poland. Cases 1 and 2 were two men found in an apartment. Findings at autopsy included edema of the brain, pulmonary emphysema, and acute gastritis. For case 1, toxicology revealed 4-FiBF in blood (109 ng/mL), urine (635 ng/mL), vitreous fluid (150 ng/mL), brain (176 ng/g), and liver (1,400 ng/g). For case 2, toxicology revealed 4-FiBF in blood (76.1 ng/mL), urine (1,000 ng/mL), vitreous fluid (89.9 ng/mL), brain (94.5 ng/g), and liver (1,620 ng/g). Case 3 was a man found unconscious and transported to the hospital. At the hospital, he was unable to be resuscitated. Toxicology revealed 4-FiBF in blood (257 ng/mL), vitreous fluid (128 ng/mL), brain (154 ng/g), and liver (2,040 ng/g). Case 4 was a woman who was found in an apartment. Findings at autopsy included edema of the brain, pulmonary emphysema, and acute mucositis. Toxicology revealed 4-FiBF in blood (119 ng/mL), urine (289 ng/mL), vitreous fluid (101 ng/mL), brain (112 ng/g), and liver (1,540 ng/mL). Other matrix sources tested in all cases included bile, kidney, stomach wall, and gastric contents.

THE FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING ALCOHOL RESPONSIBILITY PARTNERSHIP WITH SOFT

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility (Responsibility.org) leads the fight to eliminate drunk driving and underage drinking and promotes responsible decision-making regarding beverage alcohol. Founded in 1991 and funded by America's leading distillers, originally named, "The Century Council." In 2014, the team renamed the organization to focus on our mission of Responsibility. Responsibility.org is a national, independent, not-for-profit organization. Our threefold mission leads efforts to eliminate underage drinking, eliminate drunk driving and working with others to end all impaired driving, and to promote the responsible consumption to make a lifetime of responsible alcohol choices as part of a balanced lifestyle for those, over 21, who consume. Today, we are transforming – and improving – the way Americans view and address the issues of drunk and drugged driving and other forms of impaired driving, underage drinking, and responsible alcohol consumption on both a national and community level. **Drunk driving fatalities have decreased 34% since 1991 and lifetime alcohol consumption among our nation's youth has decreased 48%.** While we cannot claim sole credit for these reductions, our organization has played a significant role in helping to reach these historic low levels. Through cutting-edge, science based educational programs, resources for policymakers and practitioners, and innovative communications campaigns, we are blazing a new trail toward progress on those three critical areas.

We are proud to celebrate the innovative contributions we have made for 30 years, and we attribute our success to the support, encouragement, and commitment from our member companies, partners like the Society of Forensic Toxicology, advisory board, and the millions of teachers, parents, and kids across the country who use and share our programs.

We have a number of resources we have produced to focus on High-risk impaired driving at [StopHRID.org](https://www.stophrid.org). We recently partnered with the National District Attorneys Association on the [Cannabis Impairment Detection Workshop Handbook](#). This provides a guide for states in holding a "Green lab" for training officers in cannabis impairment.

A BIT ABOUT ME

On January 6, 1992, I embarked on a journey with the Washington State Patrol, which sparked a nearly 30-year passion for traffic safety. I promoted through the ranks to Captain and was later appointed by Governor Gregoire and re-appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to serve as the Director of the Washington State- State Highway Safety Office. In my role I served on the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Highway Safety Committee, the National Sheriffs Association (NSA) Traffic Safety Committee, and Chair of the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA). This background has provided me a myriad of insights and challenges we face together in addressing the plague of poly-substance impaired driving! In 2020, I retired from state service accepting a new position as Vice President of Government Relations and Traffic Safety for Responsibility.org, with a focus to help expand Responsibility.org's portfolio addressing poly-substance impaired driving.

As part of our ongoing efforts to eliminate impaired driving, Responsibility.org supports the creation of innovative programs and evidence-based countermeasures such as the formation of the National Resource Toxicologist and the National Alliance to Stop Impaired Driving to help prioritize poly-substance impaired driving.

National Resource Toxicologist

In June 2020, Amy Miles and I began discussions about the creation of a National Resource Toxicologist (NRT) position, in late fall this became a reality. The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UWSMPH) – Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) entered into an agreement piloting this new and innovative program. We are aware of the numerous challenges you face in toxicology, and we are honored to be working with Amy Miles as the first NRT. This position has a host of deliverables and we wanted to outline a few to highlight the work she is doing and the support we have for the work of the Society of Forensic Toxicology and what you do in your labs:

- Provide technical support for toxicology labs within the state/region.
- Conduct a national assessment on toxicology laboratories to identify challenges, success, gaps, and funding considerations:
 - Utilize research and best practices to promote standardized toxicology methodologies, concentration levels,

THE FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING ALCOHOL RESPONSIBILITY PARTNERSHIP WITH SOFT

and procedures to enhance toxicology evidence and national data.

- In conjunction with OSAC, ASB, and NSC establish methods, procedures, and policies for screening new drugs.
- Work with state, local, and private labs to determine obstacles precluding drug testing in all DUID cases (examples: instrumentation needs, personnel, legislative policies, funding, cut off procedures such as .08 or .10 BAC, or one controlled substance).
- Support labs which do not meet the National Safety Council (NSC) recommended concentration cutoffs for DUID testing and identify areas in which partners and stakeholders may be able to assist.
- Assess the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) and identify areas in which the quality and timeliness of the data may be improved.
 - Where/how is the data shared, how is the data collected, how is the data used and by which partners?
- Explore new ways to share data more freely with stakeholders (Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), HSO, Public Health, policy makers, etc.).
 - Collaborate with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) on FARS to improve the quality of the data for more accurate representation of traffic fatality and toxicology data. Explore ways to improve the data for toxicology reports to include quantifications and all substances identified in a toxicology screening report.
 - Connect local labs with their FARS analyst, engage in collaboration to ensure good communication and data integrity.
 - Consult on policy issues related to toxicology at the Federal, state, and local level.

The work Amy has accomplished in such a short time highlights the need for this position and an opportunity to expand the number of NRTs. We appreciate your help and support as we find ways to work together to further our work!

The National Alliance to Stop Impaired Driving

Responsibility.org is a national leader in the quest to eliminate impaired driving and has long recognized that multi-substance impaired driving is one of the leading causes of traffic fatalities and on the rise nationally, requiring leadership and vision for change.

Currently, there is no national voice or organization addressing the various facets of multi-substance impaired driving. Data drives the narrative and shows a need for change:

- 50.5% of fatally injured drug-positive drivers (with known drug test results) were positive for two or more drugs and 40.7% were found to have alcohol in their system (NHTSA FARS as cited in Hedlund, 2018)
- Among drug-positive drivers killed in crashes, 4% tested positive for both marijuana and opioids, 16% for opioids only, 38% for marijuana only, and 42% for other drugs (Governors Highway Safety Association, 2017)

As such, Responsibility.org is embarking on a bold and exciting new initiative creating the **National Alliance to Stop Impaired Driving (NASID)**. This alliance will be that leader and voice addressing multi-substance impaired driving. NASID is the first of its kind in organizing and harnessing the nation's foremost subject matter experts, organizations, advocates, government representatives, policy makers together to address multi-substance impaired driving. The board will prioritize the greatest challenges in the DUI system and forming a national strategic framework. The following outlines the mission, purpose, and goals of NASID:

Mission

The National Alliance to Stop Impaired Driving (NASID) works to eliminate all forms of impaired driving, especially

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multiple substance impaired driving, through DUI system reform, DUI detection, data improvements and technology to effectively fight impaired driving. NASID is a broad coalition of stakeholders working in a public/private partnership to achieve these goals. We encourage collaboration between law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, toxicologists, academics, safety advocates, and industry to work together toward the goal of eliminating impaired driving.

Purpose

NASID provides national leadership to identifying and promoting solutions to impaired driving, including expanded chemical testing among impaired drivers, training for criminal justice practitioners, toxicology lab capacity, and improvement and programs to increase the likelihood of recovery and reductions in recidivism. Our work includes state and federal advocacy efforts, public awareness and education, and state implementation of effective programs.

Goals

- Establish drug/multi-substance impaired driving as a top priority safety issue
- Persuade the public and decision-makers to expand drug testing
- Explore and advocate for emerging technologies
 - Ensure a greater public understanding of the science and technology, reliability, effectiveness
 - Dispel myths regarding technology – oral fluid testing
 - Promote workshops and pilot programs and replicate them in target states
- Build champions for issue among elected officials and stakeholders
- Convene influencers for State and Federal legislative action
- Assist practitioners with training and education

We are excited to formally launch NASID at the [NASID Conference](#) July 29-30, 2021, in Arlington, VA. The purpose of this conference is to convene the nation's foremost experts and influencers to examine the challenges and complexities of multiple substance impaired driving. Participants will engage in discussions ranging from roadside screening and detection, toxicology, emerging technologies, adjudication and remediation, behavior change, opportunities, and solutions. As a result of this conference, we will prioritize a **National Strategic Framework**. You can access the agenda [here](#).

We are honored to partner with the Society of Forensic Toxicologists in support of these efforts and working together to bring about change to save lives! Thank you for the great work you do!

Links to Responsibility.org position statements and NHTSA Toolkit

[Multiple Substance Impaired Driving](#)

[Expanding Drug Testing in DUI Cases](#)

[Oral Fluid Screening](#)

[NHTSA Law Enforcement Phlebotomy Tool Kit](#)

Darrin Grondel
Vice President, Government Relations and Traffic Safety

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FUTURE SOFT MEETINGS

2022

HUNTINGTON CONVENTION CENTER, CLEVELAND, OH
OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 4, 2022
DOUG ROHDE AND MICHELE MERVES CROSBY

2023

GAYLORD ROCKIES, DENVER, CO
OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 3, 2023
DAN ANDERSON AND JARRAD WAGNER

2024

UNION STATION, ST. LOUIS, MO
OCT 27-NOV 2
SARAH RILEY

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