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1996 ANNUAL MEETING HOSTS

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ToxTalk

VOLUME 20, No. 2

JUNE 1996

EDITOR: Joseph R. Monforte, PhD DABFT EDITORIAL BOARD: H. Chip Walls PS, Jim Wigmore, BSc, Carl Selavka, PhD PUBLISHER: Patricia Mohn-Monforte

IN THIS ISSUE

REGULAR FEATURES:

Journal Club & Professional Calendar & Carcer Opportunities

Blutalkoholkonzentration \$\frac{1}{2}\$ From the Editor's Desk

Elmer Gordon

TECHNICAL NOTES:

Latex Allergy (Farrell) & What Constitutes an Appropriate Chain

of Custody Document, and Why Does It Matter?

(Selavka/Middleberg)

INSERTS:*

*If available at time of mailing

1996 SOFT Meeting Information & Call for Papers 1996 SOFT Member Directory (to members only)

CALENDAR CHECK!

6/01/96 SOFT Meeting Abstracts
7/01/96 Free T-shirt for meeting registration
Make those hotel reservations, too!

8/01/96 ToxTalk deadline 9/10/96 Meeting registration, no late fee 10/1/96 Mail registration for meeting

ON DECK: PLANNED FOR THE NEXT ISSUE_

President's Message (Walls) & From the Editor's Desk (Monforte) & Closer Look at SOFT - Nominating Committee (Spiehler) & Journal Club (Walls) & Case Notes: (Selavka et al., all members) & Blutalkoholkonzentration (Wigmore) & Health & Safety Committee (Isenschmid et al) & 1996 SOFT Meeting, including list of papers (Farrell) & Treasurer's Annual Report 1995 (Saady) & 1995 Annual Meeting Minutes (Watts) & YOUR CONTRIBUTION! &

Submit your items for ToxTalk to:

Joseph Monforte, Ph.D., DABFT, ToxTalk Editor 846 Smoki Dr (HP), Prescott, AZ 86301-7347

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

All members and others are encouraged to contribute to **ToxTalk**. Mail material to:

Joseph R. Monforte, Ph.D., DABFT, **ToxTalk** Editor, 846 Smoki Drive (H.P.), Prescott, AZ 86301

Phone/FAX: 520-717-0617 (after 11 a.m. E.S.T.)

DEADLINES: Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1, and Nov. 1. **NEXT DEADLINE:** Aug 1, 1996 SOFT is a supporting organization of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE H. Chip Walls, B.S.

WOW! Twenty five years; one score and five. It is hard to imagine the time has passed so quickly since a group of toxicologists gathered around a kitchen table and began the traditions leading to the formation of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists. It is now time to prepare for the next quarter century.

The main thrust for this Society has always been the education and training of forensic toxicologists. The atmosph for this meeting will be informal, informal, and informal. No ties or coats! Let's go back to the old days of SOFT when, around a table, information was exchanged which helped to solve our real, everyday problems. So bring your rips and tidbits of everyday practice to share at the Elmer Gordon Open Forum and throughout the meeting this October in Denver. As you will see when you read the meeting-related information in this issue of ToxTalk, SOFT's 1996 Annual Meeting promises to uphold this quarter century tradition of service to our profession. Kudos to Laurel Farrell and Bob Zettl who have put together an outstanding program and secured excellent and affordable facilities. Dan Isenschmid has coordinated a great series of workshops, and Amanda Jenkins is eagerly awaiting your abstracts. Some meeting arrangement highlights include:

- A \$92 per night room rate (current government rate).
- A registration fee of \$135 ves, there is a free lunch and more.
- Seven affordable pre-meeting workshops.

The third annual Tox Trivia Contest will be held on Thursday night. Send me your questions to add to the challenge. Remember, start now, form your team to challenge the reigning "Past Presidents" team. Need more reasons to attend the 1996 SOFT Annual Meeting? Meet with your professional colleagues in the foothills of the beautiful Rocky Mountains. Renew old friendships and develop new ones. Spend an October week learning from and with the best in the business.

One of the reasons SOFT has held a premier position in forensic toxicology is the work of its many committees. I am grateful that the committee chairs noted in the March issue of ToxTalk have accepted these leadership positions. Of particular interest is the Policy and Procedures ad hoc committee chaired by Bill Anderson whose mission it is to produce a Policy and Procedures Manual. SOFT is 25 years old, and it is time we had a manual for the officers and other board members to follow in conducting the business of SOFT. In addition to this effort, VP Watts will be culminating efforts of the past several years to to produce a Meeting Resources Committee Policy and Procedures Manual to serve as the guidebook for those who wish to host a SOFT annual meeting.

SOFT is great because of its members and their contributions to the profession. Let's continue the tradition. I look forward to serving you along with the other officers and board members. We would like to hear from you concerning your desire for SOFT as well as any active part you might want to take in this organization (such as serving on a committee).

I hope you have a great year, and I am looking forward to seeing you this fall in Denver. \$

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK . . . Joseph R. Monforte, Ph.D., DABFT

This issue of **ToxTalk** is arriving slightly ahead of schedule because it contains important meeting information and related deadlines. We want to provide the membership with the most current meeting information and provide the opportunity to register early for those events of interest. Early registration is strongly encouraged.

My thanks to **ToxTalk** contributors for meeting the May 1st deadline for this issue. Only through their efforts could we provide this information in a timely fashion.

ToxTalk is now in its 20th year of publication. You may be interested in information retrieved from an earlier edition and noted below. \$

EXCERPTS FROM TOXTALK (PROBABLY 8/77)

"This Newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis as the official communication of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists. For this first year we will send the newsletter to all registrants of previous SOFT meetings and to other forensic toxicologists whose names appear on other regional mailing lists. As of January 1978 only dues paying members will continue to receive the newsletter. A portion of the annual dues has gone to support this publication and mailing costs."

SOFT Treasurer's Report: \$2,703.78 Total Income; Balance as of 9/1/77 was \$1,364.64 (Tom Manning, Treasurer)

First official membership roster dated 8/1/77 listed 63 members.

Membership application fee was \$5, and dues were \$20 per year.

"Toxicologist \$15,800, B.A. in chemistry and 1 year experience in Toxicology." (This was the highest paid position listed.) 🙎

1996 SOFT ANNUAL MEETING

DENVER, COLORADO

OCTOBER 14-18

ibmitted by Laurel Farrell

"Murphy's Law . . . Best laid plans . . . Change is inevitable . . . Expect the unexpected . . . "

We have two significant changes for the SOFT 1996 annual meeting:

Change #1 - Workshop No. 1 has been changed to "USE OF LIMS IN A FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY DRUG TESTING LABORATORY. This looks like an exciting workshop, and we thank LTC Aaron Jacobs, Ph.D., for coordinating and moderating this workshop. If you have already registered for the previously scheduled "Drugs and Driving" workshop, you will be contacted directly regarding choosing an alternate workshop or a refund.

Change #2 - The federal government raised their hotel per diem to \$92 per day, including taxes. This change was not expected, but since we were fortunate to have the Marriott (Denver Tech Center) agree to accept the prevailing government

rate for all SOFT attendees, the hotel rate will be changed to \$92 per night.

All updated pre-registration information for SOFT 1996 is included (as inserts) in this issue of **ToxTalk**. To all of you who are planning to submit an abstract but just haven't gotten around to it yet - DON'T DELAY! Remember, the deadline for abstracts has been moved up one month to June 1, 1996. The forms needed to submit an abstract are also included in the inserts.

Calling all committee chairs or other individuals who need to schedule a group get-together during SOFT 1996... Please contact Bob or Laurel at your earliest convenience. We will make all necessary arrangements with the hotel and publish your meeting in the agenda.

We are looking forward to having you come to colorful Colorado. Plan for a scientifically stimulating meeting. Dress code for the meeting will match the casual Colorado lifestyle.

If you need additional information, please contact the meeting committee members listed below:

Co-hosts:

Laurel Farrell (303-691-4727) and Bob Zettl (303-691-4738)

Scientific Program:

Amanda Jenkins and Bruce Goldberger

Workshops:

Dan Isenschmid and Dennis Crouch

Exhibitors:

Lisa O'Dell

Workshop topics:

Revised #1: Use of LIMS in a Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing Laboratory (Monday 1-5) - A. Jacobs, Moderator

#2: Toxicology of Inhalants (Monday 1-5) - L. Farrell, Moderator

#3: Isoenzyme-specific Metabolism of Drugs of Forensic Interest (Tuesday 8:30-noon) - D. Moody, Moderator

#4 Capillary Chromatography Training Seminar (Tuesday 8:30-5:00) - R. Morehead, Moderator

#5 Toxicology and the Internet (Tuesday 1-5) - D. Frederick, Moderator

#6 Fundamentals of Medical Examiner Toxicology (Wednesday 8:30 - noon) - W. Anderson, Moderator

#7 Current Issues in Forensic Urine Drug Testing - FUDT (Wednesday 8:30 - noon) M. Baylor, Moderator

NOTE: original #1: Drugs & Driving (Monday 1-5) - D. Crouch, Moderator HAS BEEN CANCELLED. See above for details.

Hotel: Denver Marriott Tech Center 1-800-228-9290 or 303-779-1100

Special reduced room rate: \$92 (new rate) including tax (same as current federal government rate)

Shuttle service from Denver International Airport: \$15 one way.

FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS submitted by Amanda Jenkins, Ph.D.

This issue of ToxTalk contains the last abstract forms you will receive for the 1996 SOFT meeting in Denver. The Scientific Program Committee encourages all members to consider submitting a paper for presentation. Remember, the deadline for abstract submissions this year is **June 1st**. All submissions and correspondence regarding abstracts should be addressed to Dr. Amanda Jenkins, 1996 SOFT Scientific Program Co-Chair.

NOTES FROM THE 2/21/96 SOFT BOARD MEETING

Submitted by Marilyn Huestis, Ph.D., SOFT Secretary

SOFT President H. Chip Walls presided over the Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday morning, February 2. during the AAFS annual meeting in Nashville, TN. As of 12/31/95, SOFT has 495 active members. Thirty-five applications for membership were approved from October to December of 1995. After failing to respond to two personal letters during 1995, 43 members who were delinquent with their 1994 dues were changed to an inactive status. The Board is considering a change in the bylaws to permit changing members to an inactive status after six months of delinquent dues and after notification by mail of non-receipt of payment. This would reduce expenses of the organization for mailing ToxTalk newsletters to members who have not paid their membership fees. Past President Vina Spiehler announced that members of the 1996 Nominating Committee are Jim Garriott, Yale Caplan, and Vina Spiehler, Chair. Ed Cone, Special Guest Editor, announced that submission deadlines for the 16th annual October special issue of the Journal of Analytical Toxicology are March 11, 196, for abstracts and March 25, 1996, for the manuscripts. More than 50 SOFT members have volunteered to review manuscripts. Dr. Cone requested that an independent committee be named to select one manuscript as the lead article. Members of the 1996 Educational Research Award Nominating Committee are Daniel Isenschmid, Barbara Manno and David Moody, Chair. Interested parties are encouraged to apply.

Yale Caplan reported on the scientifically, socially, and financially successful 1995 SOFT annual meeting in Baltimore, MD. For the first time, abstracts accepted for the scientific program were published in the Journal of Analytical Toxicology, thereby, providing authors with citable references and highlighting the important scientific information presented at the meeting. The 1996 SOFT annual meeting will be held at the Denver, Colorado Marriott Tech Center from October 14-20, 1996. Co-hosts Bob Zettl and Laurel Farrell have negotiated a government rate. Seven workshops will be presented, in addition to two and one half days of scientific sessions. A special evening at the Lazy H ranch will be held on Thursday evening, as well as an optional excursion to Central City, CO. Abstracts are due June 1, 1996. All members are encouraged to attend what appears to be another wonderful meeting. Looking ahead to 1997 and 1998, SOFT annual meetings will be held in Salt Lake City, UT, with Denny Crouch and Dave Moody hosting, and a joint SOFT-TIAFT meeting will be held during the internationally famous Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, NM, in 1998. N.G.S. Rao and Ron Backer will be hosts for SOFT, and Vina Spiehler will be the TIAFT host.

Graham Jones reported on the progress of an accreditation program for forensic toxicology laboratories. ABFT will be administering the inspection and accreditation processes and hope to begin accepting applications this year. The JCETT committee has completed preparation of an extensive toxicology bibliography and is considering means for making database available to members. The lending library has extensive materials available for members - contact Vickie Watts borrowing information. Lee Hearn, director of the visiting scientist program, encouraged interested parties and laboratories to contact him and take part in this important training opportunity. Bill Anderson was appointed chair of the new policies and procedures committee which will endeavor to develop a useful policy manual for SOFT. Treasurer Joe Saady announced that as of 12/31/95, SOFT has \$29,438.63 in the general account, \$25,000.00 in the emergency account in the form of a treasury bill maturing in July, 1996, and \$62,213.08 in the ERA fund.

REGISTER FOR THE 1996 SOFT MEETING BY JULY 1st FOR A FREE T-SHIRT

TREASURY NOTES

Submitted by: Joseph Saady, Treasurer

ERA FINANCIAL INFORMATION: Your Educational Research Award (ERA) Endowment Fund receives all the interest from SOFT accounts. This is a report for the ERA Fund for 1995.

\$10,713.08 1995 ERA Fund Receipts:

\$ 1,500.00 1995 ERA Fund Expenditures:

\$ 526.00 Donations 3,807.00 Interest on 53K Treasury Bill 1,360.00 Interest on 25K Treasury Bill 869.70 1994 Carry-over 2,711.48 Interest on 53K Treasury Bill 1,438.53 1995 Bank Interest

\$ 750.00 Student Award No. 1750.00 Student Award No. 2

\$ 62,213.08 ERA Fund Balance as of 12/31/95

OFFICIAL 1995 FINANCIAL REPORT - to appear in the September issue of ToxTalk. &

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

bmitted by: Marilyn Huestis, Ph.D.

Members of the 1996 Membership Committee include: Andrew Mason, Deb Rector, Amanda Jenkins, and Marilyn Huestis, Chair. Applicants for full membership must have the following educational degrees and experience in forensic toxicology: Ph.D. and 2 years of experience, or M.S. and 4 years experience, or B.S. or B.A. and 6 years experience. Applicants who do not qualify for full membership but who demonstrate interest in forensic toxicology are eligible for associate membership. Also, students pursuing degrees and careers in disciplines related to forensic toxicology may apply for membership as student affiliate members.

Applicants should call or fax their request for application materials to the SOFT administrative office (602-644-2478). After receipt of all application materials, including completed application form, fee, curriculum vitae, and two references from full SOFT members for a full member application, the entire Membership Committee reviews the application. The Secretary, who serves as chair of the membership Committee, notifies the applicant of the committee's determination.

SOFT provides its members many continuing education opportunities and a forum for discussion of common interests and problems. SOFT is a friendly, helpful group of toxicology professionals, and the Membership Committee encourages all interested parties to apply for membership. Please feel free to contact any committee member for further information.

SOFT ADMITS THREE NEW MEMBERS IN 1996

Membership Committee Chairperson Marilyn Huestis reports that, to date, three new members have been welcomed into the organization in 1996:

Kevin B. Hawkins, Corning Clinical Laboratories, Pittsburgh, PA Boyd Lasater, Contra Costa County Sheriff-Coroner Department, Martinez, CA Tamizuddin Khan, Bendiner and Schlesinger, Inc., New York, NY

We look forward to their active participation in SOFT.

<u>FIFTY-SIX</u> JOIN SOFT IN 1995!

Past Secretary Vickie Watts wants to announce the following 56 persons whose applications for SOFT membership or promotion were approved by the Membership Committee in 1995.

Full members: Kathryn Kalasinsky, Ira S. Dubey, Janice Gangwer, Marc A. Lebeau, Gwyndolin G. Linthicum, Steven H. Wong, David Henry Eagerton, Patrick S. Ng, Heesun Chung, Louis Kuykendall, Jasbir Singh, Prentiss Jones, Alan Wu, Diana Wilkins, Edwin K. Armitage, John Guy Fisher III, William A. Joern, Catherine K. Okono, Rudolf M. Brenneisen, Robert S. Fogerson, Jr., Robert M. Secars, Donald J. Rynbrandt, David A. Green, Manfred R. Moeller, Phyllis K. Rosenthal, Judith E. Driskell, Philip M. Kemp, Ron Armstrong, Larry D. Bowers, Marc F. Deveaux, Barry K. Logan, Daniel Y.K. Chan, Kenneth K. Sun, James A. Bourland, Edward L. Smith, Xiaofang Jaing, Howard Ollick, Robert M. Kelly, Samuel E. Mathews, and Syed Zakir Ali.

Associate members: Imad Kazem Abukhalaf, Mary F. Benson, Barbara Diane McClennon, Shan Hales, A. Carmen Taylor, Barry S. Levine, Danny W. Glidewell II, and Jennifer O'Donnell.

Student members: Tracy Williams, Karin Hold, Jeffrey Paul Brendler, Roy D. Sineo, and Joseph Avella.

Promotions: Patrick Carpenter and Susan C. Vondrak to Full Members and William Bruce Walker to Associate Member.

Reinstatement: Angela Springfield.

Vickie Watts also wants to express her appreciation to her Membership Committee members Teri Stockham, Andrew Mason, and Deb Rector for all their hard work in 1995.

DO A COLLEAGUE A FAVOR - INVITE HIM OR HER TO JOIN SOFT

Application requests should be directed to: SOFT, P O Box 5543, Mesa, AZ 85211-5543 Telephone/Fax: 602-839-9106

FROM THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Members: Daniel Isenschmid (Chair), John Cody, Laurel Farrell and Elizabeth Marker

Please feel free to submit comments or suggestions to: Daniel Isenschmid, Ph.D., Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office. 1300 E. Warren, Detroit, MI 48207

LATEX ALLERGY

Submitted by: Laurel J. Farrell, B.A.

Latex, a usually white milky, viscous sap of certain trees and higher plants such as the rubber plant, is found in specialized cells called lactiferous cells and coagulates on exposure to air. Latex is used in the production of approximately 40,000 products, a primary one being latex gloves used in the laboratory. The use of latex gloves has grown dramatically due to increased awareness of AIDS, the implementation of universal precautions, and the enforcement of OSHA regulations. Glove manufacturing in the mid-to-late 1980's lacked strict QC guidelines allowing inexperienced manufacturers to produce poor quality gloves containing many potential allergens. The boom in the use of latex products led to increased reports of latex allergy. For the laboratory employee the most common reaction to latex gloves is in fact not an allergy at all but rather a skin irritation caused by the chemical added to the latex during the manufacturing process or to the glove powder. This reaction is called contact dermatitis, an inflammation of the skin or derma. Contact dermatitis is an acute or chronic skin inflammation triggered by substances that come in contact with the skin. The characteristic skin inflammation can progress to blisters if the condition is acute. Allergic contact dermatitis may be due to delayed hypersensitivity and is the second most common type of latex allergy. This reaction is comparable to the allergic contact dermatitis caused by poison ivy and is characterized by redness, swelling (edema), oozing, crusting, scaling, burning pain and itching. Scratching or rubbing may lead to thickening of the skin with changed markings (lichenification).

Contact dermatitis can almost always be prevented by a combination of environmental, personal, and medical measures. The first step in treatment is removing the causative agent. Low-allergen latex gloves are available as are non latex gloves made of polyvinyl chloride or Neoprene®. These gloves do not provide the barrier protection against transmission of viruses. One of my employees had success by wearing cotton gloves underneath her latex gloves. The FDA has suggested wearing a latex glove between two vinyl gloves. Personal preventive measures include 1) not using petroleum products other skin protectants when wearing latex gloves as these substances break down the latex and decrease the barrier integrity and 2) limiting your exposure to its allergens by routinely washing your hands, and avoiding contact with your eyes, nose or mouth to prevent direct contact with mucous membranes. For treatment of mild contact dermatitis, over-the-counter hydrocortisone creams may be applied to the affected areas. For acute, severe cases, prednisone may be prescribed. Antihistamines may be used to decrease itching, and antibiotics may be prescribed to treat secondary bacterial infections. If a latex allergy develops, notify your health care provider and follow his/her suggestions regarding precautions and treatment. \$\frac{x}{2}\$

ABFT News

4th ANNUAL A.B.F.T. BREAKFAST SCHEDULED DURING S.O.F.T. MEETING: ABFT Diplomates and Forensic Toxicology Specialists are invited to attend the ABFT breakfast on Thursday, October 17, 1996, at 7 a.m. Certificates will be presented to those newly-certified since the last breakfast as well as those who were requalified in 1996. You may register for the breakfast (\$20) on your SOFT meeting registration form.

REQUALIFICATION REMINDER: Of the 46 ABFT Diplomates whose certificates expire June 30, 1996, 12 have yet to submit their application packets. Dr. Monforte, ABFT Vice President and Chairman, Committee on Requalifications, advises those Diplomates that they have already missed the deadline and they should submit their applications directly to him immediately. If your ABFT certificate expires, you are then subject to the reinstatement process and an additional fee.

IMPORTANT DATES: The following are scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 15, during the SOFT annual meeting in Denver:

Board Meeting: noon to 6 pm (with lunch) Exams: 8:

Exams: 8:30 to noon (must pre-arrange with Dr. Poklis)

CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS: Forensic toxicologists with a doctorate or masters degree who are interested in certification by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology should contact the ABFT Administrative Office (address at bottom of next page).

Technical Notes: BLUTALKOHOLKONZENTRATION No. 13

Submitted by: J.G. Wigmore, B.Sc., Toxicology Section, Centre of Forensic Sciences, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

ALCOHOL EVAPORATION FROM BLOOD STORED IN UNSTOPPERED

TUBES G. Weiler and A. Kloppel, Blutalkohol 13:45-54, 1976

German title: Die Alkohol Verdunstung bei offen gelagerten Vanulen

Occasionally, blood samples obtained from clinical laboratories in hospitals for medicolegal alcohol determination will have been stored in open, unstoppered tubes for various periods of time. It has been suggested that the alcohol concentration in blood stored in unstoppered tubes will increase as it is exposed to microorganisms in the air.

In this study, blood which had only anticoagulant added was spiked to 6 different BACs between 0.144 and 0.362 g/100 mL. The blood was then stored in open 8 mL glass vials for 4 weeks at 22 C and 5C. The BACs were determined by the ADH and GC methods.

For the blood stored in open tubes at room temperature, there was an exponential decrease in BAC. After 5 to 7 days' storage, the BAC had decreased to 50% of the initial concentration. After 14 days, the BAC had decreased to 25% of the initial BAC. A zero BAC was obtained after 4 weeks storage. The per cent decrease in BAC was independent of the initial spiked BAC. There was a slightly greater decrease in BAC (approximately 10%) in tubes that were only half-filled with blood (i.e., 4 mL) compared to full tubes (i.e., 8 mL).

For blood stored in open tubes at 5°C, there was a 9% decrease in initial BAC after 3 days and a 20% decrease after 7 days. In blood stored in an open dish that had a surface area 4.7 times greater than that of the tubes, the decrease in BAC was much greater, and a zero BAC was obtained after 3-5 days storage.

No increases in BACs were observed due to microbial action and the non-sterile conditions. The authors attribute this to the aerobic conditions in which the blood samples were stored and note that large alcohol increases occur mainly under anaerobic conditions. The authors conclude that the loss of alcohol is mainly dependent on the surface area, temperature, and air circulation and that the BAC determined in blood stored in open containers can still have evidentiary value.. \$\frac{x}{2}\$

WHY DON'T YOU SUBMIT A CASE NOTE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOXTALK?

CALL FOR CASE NOTES

Your case note should be about 1/2 page in length, no more than a full page. Material or a disk (using Microsoft Works/Word 2.0) may be mailed to:

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

846 Smoke Dr. (H.P.), Prescott, AZ 86301-7347

- or - Telephone/FAX: 520-717-0617 (after 11:30 a.m., E.S.T.)

Next deadline: AUGUST 1, 1996

Other items of interest to SOFT members are also welcome.

A.B.F.T. LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

The American Board of Forensic Toxicology, Inc., will be accepting applications for laboratory accreditation by ABFT. It is anticipated that application forms will be available after July 1, 1996, and the review and processing of applications will occur no later than September 1, 1996.

The first ten laboratories to apply will be eligible for a reduced application fee. The application fee will be nominal to pay for expenses involved with the application and inspection process. The first group of inspectors, who are reimbursed for expenses only, have been identified and trained.

If your laboratory is interested in this accreditation program, contact:

ABFT Administrative Office
P.O. Box 669, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0669
(Telephone: 719-636-1100)

Case Notes: What Constitutes an Appropriate Chain of Custody Document, and Why Does It Matter?

Submitted by: Carl M. Selavka and Robert A. Middleberg

In a case we have been presented, it has become clear that while there was a strong "External" chain of custody documenting the collection of urine specimens from two individuals, this chain of custody ends at the laboratory door. Inside the lab, there is a summary form which lists examinations which are normally performed in the course of testing, with a space for " " to denote that the test was performed, as well as a space for the initials of the person who (purportedly) performed the test. On the bottom of this summary form, there is a spot for the reviewing official to initial and date that all actions were reviewed and found acceptable (or, ostensibly, not), and to write the laboratory accession number for specimens determined to be positive for a controlled substance / metabolite(s).

The questions posed to us seemed innocent enough: "Is this summary form an acceptable chain of custody document?" and "If not, what harm is possible due to its insufficiency?." Based on HHS, US Military, CAP FUDT, SOFT/AAFS and ASCLD-LAB standards and guidelines, the answer to the first question is an emphatic NO. On the other hand, none of the guidance documents or standard checklists provides a detailed discussion of why an appropriate internal chain of custody document is so important. Having been trained and/or having worked in labs operating under most of these guidance documents, maybe we have been brainwashed into thinking that this is the only acceptable way to run a lab?!

As we thought through the implications of an insufficient chain of custody, we were struck that in a fully automated ("paperless") laboratory, there is a similar summary form of specimen handling and testing generated in the automated tracking process, but no hand-written initials, dates, and notes of activities. Logically, certain levels of security control could exist in the software to limit access to handling and testing modules - thereby leading to some level of control over the creation of the electronic audit trail - but these could not be considered to be foolproof. Barring retinal scan stations and similar esoteric verification techniques, it would be possible on most automation platforms to circumvent the access control in such a way that manipulation of the apparent chain of custody would be undetectable.

Unlike with a computer, the ability to circumvent the appropriate manual chain of custody process is possible, but is much more difficult to perform without detection. Forging another person's signature or even initials is difficult at best (for most of the scrawlers at our lab, nearly impossible), and this difficulty serves as a deterrent to the attempt. When the requirements for multiple notations of dates, initials and codes/entries describing activities are considered in their entirety, it becomes obvious that the manual chain of custody is far superior to any automated approaches that can be imagined in allowing for an accurate reconstruction of the chain of custody / events for evidence and its testing.

There is a Quality Assurance axiom which states "What gets documented gets done." This simple statemed describes the truth of the laboratory setting, in which there are competing priorities of quality, speed, cost reduction and minimization of labor. When activities are reviewable (and routinely reviewed), these activities are more likely to be performed accurately and with appropriate safeguards for the specimen's (and aliquots') integrity. In addition, since the forensic laboratory must build in systems to allow for legal review of laboratory actions, the chain of custody documents serve as the sole verification of testimonial assurances by laboratory staff regarding their actions in a given case. Further, the chain of custody serves as a tool for laboratorians to refresh their own recollections, given the common delay between the time of receipt, testing and the eventual use of lab results in investigations and litigations.

The range of possible consequences which can befall a specimen in an uncontrolled laboratory environment (in which no chain of custody documents are used) can be summarized as those involving administrative errors and those involving analytical errors. Administrative errors include incorrect accessioning, mis-aliquoting of a specimen, sample mis-identification during extractions (and other manipulations) and analyses, the performance of tests by unqualified personnel, inattention to failed quality control criteria, transcription errors in result recording, and incorrect transmission of results to the client. Analytical errors include the use of inappropriate volumes of specimens, standards, controls or reagents, the use of incorrect or contaminated reagents or other materials, cross-contamination of specimens, the use of unvalidated or outdated methods or materials, the use of inappropriate conditions during sample manipulations and analyses, and the artifactual creation of a false positive or false negative due to analytical conditions.

It could be argued that having a manual chain of custody document does not free the laboratory from possibly generating these administrative or analytical errors. Without this documentation, however, the laboratory doesn't have a prayer of adequately testing its performance, systems and integrity. The adequacy of review by the laboratory and of the laboratory (by other scientists and the legal system) is directly linked to the adequacy of the chain of custody notation at the time of the action, by the person who performed the action, detailing the action performed. Like it or not, the forensic laboratory and its results must be capable of bearing the most rigorous scrutiny under the least favorable condition of "benefit of the doubt", because the results of our tests are often used to take away someone's employment, children, liberty, property or life.

Without the appropriate, manual chain of custody documents, the laboratory should rightfully cave in during this scrutiny, and the "benefit of the doubt" should be given to the defendant / suspect or otherwise affected party. Given simplicity of the chain of custody documentation process, there can be no excuse for failing to perform this vital function, regardless of the size of the lab or the simplicity of its services. If it is called forensic, it deserves the best, most explicit chain of custody handling and documentation.

ELMER GORDON OPEN FORUM AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL DIALOGUE

A COLLEAGUE PASSES: Beth Marker reports the death of Wendell G. Krasselt on March 20th, in Portland, Oregon, only ays after his fiftieth birthday. Mr. Krasselt began working in the laboratory of The Oregon Health Sciences University while still in medical technology school and remained with the University until his retirement in 1994. He was a kind and caring man who will be missed by all who knew him. Contributions may be made to Our House, 2727 S.E. Alder, Portland, OR 97214.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Positions available are listed for the consideration of SOFT members. There is no fee for this service. The information will be repeated in the next issue only if the information is confirmed by the person who submitted it.

CHEMIST Wyoming statewide drug/alcohol program, \$1887-\$2359, bachelor's degree and 2 yrs experience or master's degree. Contact Gene Rugotzke, Supervisor (307-777-7868) or State of Wyoming Personal Management Division (307-777-7188).

FORENSIC TOXICOLOGIST for Virginia Forensic Science Laboratory in Richmond. Ph.D. in toxicology, chemistry or related scientific field with certification as ABFT Diplomate (or eligibility). Experience in toxicology analysis required and expert witness testimony experience preferred. Must have a valid driver's license and pass background security check. Contact Diane Brown at 804-786-5305 for application. Deadline 6/28/96. \$

PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

California Association of Toxicologists (CAT) quarterly meetings and workshops. For information contact Vickie Watts at 602-644-2077, FAX 602-644-2478. 8/3/96 San Diego, CA, 11/9/96 San Francisco, CA.

merican Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) annual meeting: Contact Brenda Papke, 719-636-1100. Future AAFS meetings: 2/17-22/97 New York City.

Analytical and Molecular Biological Techniques in Environmental Toxicology and Forensic Sciences: September 11-12, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Sponsored by Puerto Rico Chemists Assoc and the American Registry of Pathology, \$200. Contact Dr. Jose Centeno, AFIP, 14th & Alaska Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20306-6000. Ph 202-782-2839, Fax 202-782-9215

SOFT Annual Meeting: Oct. 14-18, 1996, Denver, Colorado. Co-hosts: Laurel J. Farrell and J. Robert Zettl, CDPHE - Division of Laboratories, P O Box 17123, Denver, CO 30217. Phone: 303-691-4727/4738. Fax: 303-393-7881. \$

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Society of Forensic Toxicologists Denver, Colorado October 14 - 18, 1996

- Denver International Airport is a 30 minute/\$15 shuttle ride from the Denver Marriott Tech Center hotel. You can also fly into the Colorado Springs airport and catch a shuttle to Denver (they have had some great airfare wars lately!)
- EATING!! Your registration covers attendance to all scientific sessions, lunch on Thursday and Friday, Tuesday evening Welcoming Reception, Hors d'oeuvres and later dessert on Wednesday, Evening activity on Thursday, and breakfast on Friday.
- Never stop learning! SOFT 1996 has workshops designed for the beginner and the veteran. Seven to choose from. See the insert sheet that gives a description of each workshop and the moderator if you would like additional information.
- Very soon it will again be time to pull out those western clothes and bring them to Colorado! We're heading out to enjoy western hospitality at the Lazy H on Thursday evening. Good food, great fun, line dancing, and gun fights are in order for this evening.
- Eat, Drink and Gamble all for \$10.00 The optional Friday evening activity is a trip to Central City, Colorado for dinner, sightseeing, and gambling. The \$10.00 fee for the evening includes bus transportation, an all you can eat buffet dinner, \$5 returned to you for gambling, 2 free drinks, and other discount coupons.
- Register early! Those who do will receive a free T-shirt and avoid late fees. Make your hotel registration directly with the Marriott Denver Tech Center. (303) 779-1100. Mention S.O.F.T. to guarantee the government rate of \$92 including tax.



Denver Marriott Tech Center October 14-18, 1996 Denver, CO

PRELIMINARY WORKSHOP PROGRAM

WORKSHOP #1 USE OF LIMS IN A FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY DRUG TESTING LABORATORY Aaron J. Jacobs, Ph.D., M.B.A.

Monday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This workshop covers the design, implementation, use, benefits, and lessons learned from the integration of a LIMS designed specifically for a drug testing laboratory. Presentations will be made on the current DOD system, training tools, experiences of newly implemented sites, integration of testing instruments, and future directions. The target audience would be individuals responsible for or participating in designing, procuring, developing, implementing, or thinking about a LIMS in a forensic drug testing environment.

WORKSHOP #2 TOXICOLOGY OF INHALANTS

Monday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Laurel Farrell, B.A., Moderator

This workshop will provide an overview of the toxicology of inhalants. Topics to be presented include the epidemiology of inhalant abuse, the acute effects and neurotoxicology of inhalants, analytical issues and case reports as well as new technologies. This workshop is being sponsored by Medtox Laboratories.

WORKSHOP #3 ISOENZYME-SPECIFIC METABOLISM OF DRUGS OF FORENSIC INTEREST

David E. Moody, Ph.D., Moderator

Tuesday 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon

This workshop has been designed to provide an introduction to specific isoenzymes involved in human metabolism of drugs of interest to forensic toxicologists. A discussion of the enzyme classes including their function, known isoenzymes, and subjectivity to genetic defects or drug-interactions will be followed by examples of specific drugs, including pharmacokinetics, involvement of isoenzyme specific pathways and case reports where isoenzyme-specific genetic defects or drug interactions played a role.

WORKSHOP #4 CAPILLARY CHROMATOGRAPHY TRAINING SEMINAR

Rick Morehead, Moderator

Tuesday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This one-day workshop will be an intensive course on the "ins and outs" of capillary gas chromatography. The course will include discussions on inlet systems and injections techniques, detection systems, column selection and column installation, operation and maintenance. This workshop is being sponsored by Restek Corporation.

WORKSHOP #5 TOXICOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

Tuesday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Donald L. Frederick, Ph.D., Moderator

This workshop will discuss the history of the Internet while defining the terminology associated with on-line communications. The speakers will explain the various types of services available on the Internet and examine the world wide web and the various methods of access to the information in detail. Toxicology resources found on these on-line services will be presented including the experiences of a publication firm and a commercial laboratory that have on-line services. The workshop will be accompanied by a live Internet session to illustrate the topics presented.

WORKSHOP #6 FUNDAMENTALS OF MEDICAL EXAMINER TOXICOLOGY

William Anderson, Ph.D., Moderator

Wednesday 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon

This workshop is designed to present analytical techniques and interpretive concepts that will assist forensic toxicologists in the day to day practice of their profession. Although the primary focus of the workshop is post mortem forensic toxicology, the presented material should be of interest to all analytical toxicologists. Topics to be presented include analysis and pharmacokinetics of morphine and cocaine with a special emphasis on their metabolites, the routine use of chemical ionization mass spectrometry in postmortem toxicology, identification, quantitation and interpretation of SSRI antidepressants, and the current state of the art in LC including microbore columns, diode array detectors, and LC/MS.

WORKSHOP #7 CURRENT ISSUES IN FORENSIC URINE DRUG TESTING (FUDT)

Michael Baylor, Ph.D., Moderator

Wednesday 8:30 a.m.. - 12 noon

The objective of this workshop will be to focus on current issues of general interest concerning forensic urine drug testing. The morning's discussion will include presentations on the NLCP Blind Performance Testing Program in FUDT Laboratories; Amphetamine Precursors and OTC Medications; and Minimum Doses, Detection Times, and Creatinine Normalization in Drugs of Abuse Testing. New Perspectives as well as comments to controversial topics will provide the participants with useful information to supplement their knowledge of forensic toxicology.

rev. 5/1/96



Denver Marriott Tech Center October 14-18, 1996 Denver, CO

PRELIMINARY MEETING SCHEDULE

(as of May 1, 1996)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 13, 1996

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

FUDT Inspector Training

MONDAY OCTOBER 14, 1996

7:00 a.m. - 12 noon SOFT Board of Directors Meeting

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Workshop #1 Use of LIMS in a Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing Laboratory

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Workshop #2 Toxicology of Inhalants

TUESDAY OCTOBER 15, 1996

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. - 12 noon Workshop #3 Isoenzyme-specific Metabolism of Drugs of Forensic Interest

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Workshop #4 Capillary Chromatography Training Seminar

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Workshop #5 Toxicology and the Internet

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Welcoming Reception

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16, 1996

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. - 12 noon Workshop #6 Fundamentals of Medical Examiner Toxicology 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon Workshop #7 New Concepts in Forensic Urine Drug Testing

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Exhibit set-up 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Scientific Session

1:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. **Exhibits Open**

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Happy hour/appetizers - Exhibit Hall

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. TOX Trivia/Elmer Gordon Dessert bar and drinks

THURSDAY OCTOBER 17, 1996

7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. ABFT Breakfast

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Exhibits Open**

8:30 a.m. - 12 noon Scientific Session 12 noon - 1:30 p.m. **Lunch Provided**

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Business Meeting**

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Scientific Session - Posters 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Evening Activity - Lazy H

FRIDAY OCTOBER 18, 1996

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Exhibits Open**

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Scientific Session - Posters

Continental breakfast

Scientific Session

10:00 a.m. - 12 noon

12 noon - 1:30 p.m. Lunch Provided 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Scientific Session

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Exhibit breakdown

5:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Optional Evening Activity - Central City

SATURDAY OCTOBER 19, 1996

8:00 a.m. - 12 noon **NLCP Inspectors Workshop**



Denver Marriott Tech Center October 14 - 18, 1996 Denver, CO

REGISTRATION FORM

Fed ID # 51-0233801

Name					
	Last		First		Degree
Agency					
Address					
Telephone	FAX				
Guest(s)	TAX				
0	Member		Non-Member		
MEETING :	REGISTRATION:				TOTAL
Includes admission to all scientific sessions,			MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	ENCLOSED
Welcome Reception, Wednesday Happy Hour & Dessert,					
Thursday Evening, and two Luncheons (Th. & Fri.)		\$135.00	\$165.00	***************************************	
WORKSHOP #	Use of LIMS in a Forensic Labortory (10/14, 1:00 p.m 5:00 p.m.)		\$ 35.00	\$ 45.00	
WORKSHOP #	² Toxicology of Inhalants (10/14, 1:00 p.m 5:00 p.m.)		\$ 35.00	\$ 45.00	
WORKSHOP #	3 Isoenzyme-specific Metabolism (10/15, 8:30 a.m12 noon)		\$ 35.00	\$ 45.00	
WORKSHOP #	4 Capillary Chromatography (10/15, 8:30 a.m 5:00 p.m.)		\$ 70.00	\$ 90.00	
WORKSHOP #	5 Toxicology and the Internet (10/15, 1:00 p.m 5:00 p.m.)		\$ 35.00	\$ 45.00	
WORKSHOP #	5 Fundamentals of M.E. Toxicology (10/16, 8:30 a.m12 noon)		\$ 35.00	\$ 45.00	
WORKSHOP #	7 New Concepts in FUDT (10/16, 8:30 a.m12 noon)		\$ 35.00	\$ 45.00	W-1000
ABFT Breakfas	et (Diplomates and Forens Specialists Only) 10/1	ic Toxicology	\$ 20.00 n.m.		
Extra Tickets:	Welcoming Reception	#	\$ 31.00		
	Happy Hour/Drinks		\$22.00		
	Dessert /Drinks	# #	\$11.00		
	Lazy H	#	\$35.00		
Optional Friday Evening Activity #			\$10.00		
	: (1 free if register by July for extra shirts		X-Large _	XX - Large	
	or all registrations received	l after September		\$ 35.00	
No mail registrations accepted after 10/1/96 On-site registration fee			\$215.00	\$215.00	
	•			TOTAL ENCLOSED	

Payment by check or money order, no P.O.s (US funds only)

Make payable to S.O.F.T. 1996

Refund Policy: Refunds may be honored upon written request prior to 10/1/96, minus a \$10 processing fee.

MAIL TO:

Laurel Farrell/ Bob Zettl

4210 E. 11th Avenue, Denver, CO 80220

Phone: 303-691-4727/303-691-4738 FAX: 303-393-7881

SOCIETY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS

DENVER '96 - October 14-18, 1996

Instructions for Abstract Preparation

General Instructions:

The program committee solicits abstracts on all forensic toxicology topics, but is especially interested in papers on the analysis of drugs and metabolites in biofluids and tissues, drug interactions, drug-metabolism, pharmacology, pharmacokinetics and case reports involving drug toxicity/overdose. An original and three copies of the abstract must be submitted on the official abstract form. All abstracts must also be submitted on computer disk. Any IBM or Macintosh word processing format, or ASCII format can be accommodated. Please label the disk with the presenting author's name, IBM or Macintosh, and the word processing program utilized. The deadline for submission of abstracts is June 1, 1996. Late abstracts will not be accepted. The presenting author will be required to register for the meeting.

Scientific papers selected for presentation will be divided into two groups: Platform Presentations (15 min including questions, limit of one per presenter) and Poster Presentations (4 ft high by 8 ft wide). Tack boards and thumb tacks will be provided. Only abstracts written in English will be considered.

Content of Abstract:

- 1. Author(s) name(s) and address(es)
- 2. Short specific title
- 3. Statement of paper's objectives
- 4. Statement of experimental design
- 5. Statement of methods, if pertinent
- 6. Summary of results.
- 7. Statement of conclusion

Format of Abstract:

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