Fundamental Topics in Forensic Toxicology: Present and Future

Dates: October 19-20, 2017

Location: Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s Office
200 Feliks Gwozdz Place
Fort Worth, Texas 76104

Cost: $100 SOFT members and students/$175 non-members

Hotel: Courtyard Fort Worth Downtown/Blackstone/$152 per night

Local Hosts:
Mr. Chris Heartsill, Quality Manager, Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s Office
Dr. Robert Johnson, Chief Toxicologist, Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s Office

Abstract: This SOFT Continuing Education Regional Workshop will provide forensic toxicologists an overview of general pharmacology, followed by more detail on each of the commonly encountered drug classes, to include both drugs of abuse and prescription medications affecting the central nervous system. This information will be presented by a variety of experienced toxicology practitioners. The remainder of the workshop will address both current and upcoming topics in forensic toxicology such as the manufacturing of new psychoactive substances which are appearing in toxicology casework, the evaluation of alternative matrices for DUID casework, a primer on courtroom testimony from a local attorney, and a medical examiner’s perspective on how toxicology and physiology can be applied to postmortem investigations.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand basic principles of drug pharmacology
2. Understand specific pharmacology related to a number of drug classes
3. Be better prepared for courtroom testimony
4. Understand the origin of illicit drugs
5. Be knowledgeable on the current state of oral fluid testing
6. Know how toxicology reports, in combination with anatomic findings, are applied to postmortem investigations.

Instructors:

Dr. David Dolinak, Deputy Medical Examiner, Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dr. Christine Moore, VP Toxicology Analytical Services, Immunalysis Corporation, Pomona,
California
Dr. Jarrad Wagner, Director, Forensic Toxicology & Trace Lab, Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dr. Allison Veitenheimer, Research Toxicologist, Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dr. Phil Kemp, Laboratory Manager, Bioaeronautical Sciences Research Laboratory, Civil Aerospace Medical Institute Federal Aviation Administration, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dr. Rusty Lewis, Toxicology Supervisor, Bioaeronautical Sciences Research Laboratory, Civil Aerospace Medical Institute Federal Aviation Administration, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Richard Alpert, Independent Legal Consultant (retired Tarrant County District Attorney’s Office)

Dr. Robert Johnson, Chief Toxicologist, Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s Office, Fort Worth, Texas

Mr. Chris Heartsill, Quality Manager, Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s Office, Fort Worth, Texas

Workshop Schedule

Schedule Day 1

8:00 – 8:15 am  Welcome & Introduction
Mr. Chris Heartsill and Dr. Robert Johnson

8:15 – 9:00 am  Basic Introduction to Pharmacology
Mr. Chris Heartsill

9:00 – 10:00 am Pharmacology of Stimulant Drugs
Dr. Jarrad Wagner

10:00 – 10:30 am Coffee Break

10:30 – 11:30 am Pharmacology of THC
Dr. Phil Kemp

11:30 – 12:30 pm Lunch Break

12:30 – 2:30 pm Pharmacology of CNS Depressant Drugs
Dr. Rusty Lewis
2:30 - 3:00 pm  Coffee Break

3:00 – 4:00 pm  Pharmacology of Opioids
Dr. Robert Johnson

4:00 – 5:00 pm  Expectations of Forensic Toxicologists in the Courtroom
Mr. Richard Alpert

Schedule Day 2

8:00 – 9:30 am  Forensic Toxicology, A Physiologic Perspective
Dr. David Dolinak

9:30 – 10:00 am  Break

10:00 – 11:30 am  Forensic Toxicology, A Physiologic Perspective
Dr. David Dolinak

11:30 – 12:30 pm  Lunch

12:30 – 1:30 pm  Clandestine Manufacture of Novel Psychoactive Drugs
Dr. Jarrad Wagner

1:30 – 3:00 pm  Alternative Matrices, DUID Investigations
Dr. Christine Moore

3:00 – 3:30 pm  Break

3:30 – 4:15 pm  Onsite Versus Laboratory Findings in Suspected Impairment Cases
Dr. Allison Veitenheimer

4:15 – 5:00 pm  Q&A Session and Wrap-up
All Available Speakers

Key Terms:
1. Pharmacology
2. Postmortem Interpretation
3. Alternative Matrices