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

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Joseph A. Crifasi for the enclosed technical article on the elimination/generation of mass spectrometry base peaks and the related macro for H.P. users. The article was submitted some time ago, but dissemination of other information on a timely basis has prevented its appearance until this issue. I am sure you will find the article useful. Remember, this is the third article appearing in ToxTalk relative to this topic.

You are invited to submit technical articles for consideration to ToxTalk. The procedure is simple and described at the bottom of this page. There is a wealth of information available among SOFT members - share a little!

The Laboratory Guidelines Committee met as scheduled in Chicago on Friday, April 21st, through Sunday, April 23rd. All 11 committee members were present, and a very productive meeting resulted. The "Draft Report" as circulated in the last issue of ToxTalk was reviewed and revised, and further assignments were given by Chairman Michael Peat. The next meeting of the committee in its entirety is scheduled the weekend of July 28-30, utilizing the Friday through Sunday format. With another productive session, this committee will be one step closer to the generation of a quality product useful to practicing forensic toxicologists. A full report will be presented at the SOFT annual meeting in Chicago in October.

IN THIS ISSUE

REGULAR FEATURES: JOURNAL CLUB - ELMER GORDON OPEN FORUM - PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR - MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

TECHNICAL HIGHLIGHTS: ALTERING MASS SPECTRUM BASE PEAKS
BY JOSEPH A. CRIFASI

OF SPECIAL INTEREST: 1989 SOFT MEETING INFORMATION

INSERTS: CALL FOR PAPERS - DUES NOTICE

ToxTalk is mailed quarterly to members of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc. For membership information contact: Richard D. Pinder, Ph.D., SOFT Secretary, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, 11 Shuttle Road, Farmington, CT 06032 telephone: (203) 679-3980

All members and others are invited to contribute to ToxTalk. Submit all materials (original plus 3 copies, if possible) for publication consideration to: ToxTalk, 1013 Three Mile Drive, Grosse Pointe Park, Mi 48230-1412. DEADLINES: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1.

* * * NEXT TOXTALK DEADLINE: AUGUST 1, 1989 * * *
PLANS FOR EXCITING 1989 S.O.F.T. MEETING UNDERWAY
OCTOBER 18-21 CHICAGO (Ambassador West Hotel)

Dr. Michael Schaffer, 1989 SOFT Meeting Host, offers the following tentative schedule. The information is subject to change (i.e. number of papers submitted, etc. will determine final schedule).

WEDNESDAY: October 18, 1989

2:00 - 5:00 WORKSHOP: CLINICAL "FORENSIC" TOXICOLOGY, i.e., Clinical Toxicology for the Forensic Toxicologist (Daniel Hryhorczuk, M.D., Chief, Section of Toxicology and Dept. of Occupational Medicine, Cook County Hosp., and Eleanor Berman, Ph.D. - Chief, Toxicology Dept., Cook County Hosp. Lab). Topics include: Toxic Alcohols, Organic Solvents, Asphyxiant Gases, Cocaine, Arsenic, and Analgesics.

5:00 - 7:00 AMBASSADOR WEST COCKTAIL RECEPTION - *hospitality exclusively for SOFT meeting attendees registered at the Ambassador West Hotel

7:00 - 9:00 SOFT WELCOME RECEPTION - for all meeting registrants

THURSDAY: October 19, 1989

9:00 a.m. OPENING REMARKS - R. J. Stein, M.D., Medical Examiner, Cook County

9:10 - noon SCIENTIFIC SESSION - Platform Presentations

noon - 1:30 LUNCHEON SEMINAR - "MONITORING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR TOXIC EXPOSURE" (Naresh Jain, Ph.D. and Tom Sneath, B.S.)

2:00 - 4:00 SCIENTIFIC SESSION - Platform Presentations featuring papers in The areas of Clinical "Forensic Toxicology," Environmental Toxicology and other areas of interest

4:00 - 5:00 POSTER SESSION

5:00 - 7:00 AMBASSADOR WEST COCKTAIL RECEPTION - *SOFT hotel guests only

FRIDAY: October 20, 1989

9:00 - noon SCIENTIFIC SESSION - Platform Presentations

noon - 2:00 SOFT AWARDS BANQUET (included in registration fee)

2:00 - 4:00 GC/MS FORENSIC SYMPOSIUM Moderator - Nancy Wu Chen, Ph.D., Participants - John Cody, Ph.D., Roger Poltz, Ph.D., James Garriott, Ph.D., Michael Peat, Ph.D., and Michael Schaffer, Ph.D. Topics to be discussed: Instrument Performance Evaluation; Standards and Controls, QC Documentation; Full Scan -vs- SIM; Criteria of Identification; Quantitation; Common Problems.

4:00 - 5:00 POSTER SESSION

5:00 - 7:00 AMBASSADOR WEST COCKTAIL RECEPTION - *SOFT hotel guests only

evening PRESIDENT'S INFORMAL CONFERENCE
SATURDAY: October 21, 1989

9:00 - 10:30 LABORATORY GUIDELINES COMMITTEE REPORT. Michael Peat, Ph.D., (Chairman) and committee members

10:30 - noon SOFT ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

2:00 - 5:00 WORKSHOP - DRUG USE TESTING: FOCUS ON INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS. Moderator Kurt Dubowski, Ph.D.; guest speakers will be announced.

The following information is offered as a guide to help you plan for this meeting. Exact information will be provided in a separate mailing scheduled for August 1st. Of course, further information will be published in the September issue of ToxTalk.

HOTEL: The Ambassador West is a beautifully-appointed hotel within easy walking distance of magnificent shopping and a variety of restaurants. Hotel accommodations can be difficult in Chicago so be sure to reserve early - hotel reservation deadline is October 2nd - reservation cards will be in the August mailing. SOFT has been given a discounted rate of $118 (does not include taxes) per single room. If you are familiar with Chicago hotel rates, you will recognize a significant discount. This reduced rate will be applied to Saturday night as well if you choose to stay over until Sunday.

AIR FARE: United Airlines is offering a discount on all fares to Chicago for anyone participating in the SOFT meeting. Don't forget a tremendous savings can sometimes be realized by departing Chicago on Sunday. Instructions will appear in the special August mailing.

REGISTRATION FEES: SOFT members and persons who submit completed membership applications before July 1st are eligible for reduced fees. The following fees are reliable but not definite and noted to help you budget for the meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOFT MBR/APPL</th>
<th>NON-MBR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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10/18 WORKSHOP: Clinical "Forensic" Toxicology
10/19 LUNCHEON SEMINAR: "Monitoring the Environment for Toxic Exposure"
10/21 WORKSHOP: "Drug Use Testing - Focus on Interpretation of Results"

CORPORATE SPONSORS: The following companies will be exhibiting at the 1989 SOFT meeting: Roche Diagnostic Systems, Hewlett Packard Co., Abbott Diagnostics, JAT/Preston Publications, Diagnostic Products Corp., Sigma Chemical Co., Supelco, Inc., Finnigan MAT, Radian Corp., Toxi-Lab, Inc., and Dynatech Laboratories, Inc. Only one additional exhibit space may possibly be available. Sponsors for workshops and coffee breaks and program advertisers are welcome. Corporate sponsors will be properly acknowledged. We value your continued support.

For further information contact: SOFT MEETING INFORMATION, 1013 Three Mile Dr., Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230-1412 (313-884-4718). non-members who have already contacted SOFT will automatically receive meeting information.

ToxTalk Vol. 13, No. 2 (6/89)
Several articles have appeared in ToxTalk regarding the elimination of mass spectrometry base peaks to distinguish between drugs which have similar mass spectra. This is particularly helpful in instances where drugs have a dominant base peak without additional ion fragments of substantial abundance. Since past articles have dealt with mass spectra having a dominant 58 base peak, it should be emphasized that the technique of removing base peaks can also be useful for other drugs, such as those with virtually only a base peak of 44. Examples are shown in Figures 1 and 2.

A macro program may be used to alter the original mass spectrum of a drug, generate a new spectrum, and perform a library search which displays the match quality (Figure 3). The macro program uses stored data files which contain mass spectral scans of drugs from 45 to 60 AMU and 30 to 45 for use with base peaks of 58 or 44, respectively. The necessary data file is entered by name into the macro program. The retention time for the peak to be used must be entered, as well as the library file name (Figure 4). This macro program may be useful to 5970B MSD users with the 59970B chemstation.

FIGURE 1: Mass spectra of drugs with dominant 44 base peak before and after removal (nortriptyline)
FIGURE 2: Mass spectra of drugs with dominant 44 base peak before and after removal (fluoxetine)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>Library Name</th>
<th>CAS #</th>
<th>Index #</th>
<th>Quality</th>
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<td>258: FLUXETINE (W/O BASE PEAK)</td>
<td>MEMORIAL MEDICAL CTR TOXICOLOGY DATABASE</td>
<td>NORTRIPTYLINE (W/O BASE PEAK)</td>
<td>894713</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>9993</td>
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<td>MEMORIAL MEDICAL CTR TOXICOLOGY DATABASE</td>
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<td>549168</td>
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<td>MEMORIAL MEDICAL CTR TOXICOLOGY DATABASE</td>
<td>CYCLOBENZAPRINE (W/O BASE PEAK)</td>
<td>6282239</td>
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<td>5955</td>
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<td>255: FLUXETINE (W/O BASE PEAK)</td>
<td>MEMORIAL MEDICAL CTR TOXICOLOGY DATABASE</td>
<td>DESMETHYLOXEPIN (W/O BASE PEAK)</td>
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<td>DOXEPIN (W/O BASE PEAK)</td>
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<td>4764</td>
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<td>113528</td>
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<td>MEMORIAL MEDICAL CTR TOXICOLOGY DATABASE</td>
<td>NOSCAPINE (NARCOTINE)</td>
<td>128621</td>
<td>236</td>
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<td>1225554</td>
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<td>2587</td>
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<td>NORPROPOXYPHENE (W/O BASE PEAK)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>2321</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SURE 3: Macro program printout of library search results after removal of base peak.

ToxTalk Vol. 13, No. 2 (6/89)
FIGURE 4: Macro programs for removing 58 and 44 base peaks.

NAME REMOVE58
CLEAR
FILE
TIC
EX X,Z
CLEAR
DR 3,Z
MESS "SELECT PEAK TO CONFIRM ",18,3
CURSOR
SPECTRUM(X)
FI 58.0 Enter Data File for 45 to 60 amu scan.
CLEAR
TIC
EX Z,X
SP(7.555) Enter retention time for peak with 58 ion.
EX Z,Y
SUB SUPPRESS
NORM
DR 3,X
SEARCH MMC.L Enter your library file name here.
TAB RESULTS, PRINTER:
RET 1
MERGE
DR 3,X
GRAPHICSCOPI
CLEAR
FIRSTTIME=0

NAME REMOVE44
CLEAR
FILE
TIC
EX X,Z
CLEAR
DR 3,Z
MESS "SELECT PEAK TO CONFIRM ",18,3
CURSOR
SPECTRUM(X)
FI 44.0 Enter Data File for 30 to 45 amu scan.
CLEAR
TIC
EX Z,X
SP(10.157) Enter retention time for peak with 44 ion.
EX Z,Y
SUB SUPPRESS
NORM
DR 3,X
SEARCH MMC.L Enter your library file name here.
TAB RESULTS, PRINTER:
RET 1
MERGE
DR 3,X
GRAPHICSCOPI
CLEAR
FIRSTTIME=0
is the intent of this on-going feature to call attention to unusual or highly interesting articles, not a systematic review of selected journals such as available through other recognized sources. Citations 1-28 appeared in earlier issues of ToxTalk. You are encouraged to send contributions for this column to ToxTalk. Be sure to include proper citation or source address/telephone number.


The articles above cover clinical protein binding for starters.


(35) TOXIC PSYCHOSIS: Modern Perspectives in Clinical Psychiatry. Chapter 12, p231. Have you been exposed to the defense of "cocaine or drug induced psychosis?" Psychiatry has the answer!

(36) A great source for drug information and "pill" description is the USP-DI Vol #3. For those who have access to a poison control center, use their POISONDEX, a clinically-oriented device but full of "neat information."


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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR
1989-90 S.O.F.T. DUES??
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ToxTalk Vol. 13, No. 2 (6/89)
ELMER GORDON OPEN FORUM

Chip Walls would like to know if anyone has seen the use of TAC solution in E.R. patients who become morgue cases (tetracaine 0.5%, cocaine 10%, adrenalin). See JOURNAL CLUB.

NIPPLE TUBE SUPPLIER NEEDED: Former supplier out of business (Laboratory Research Co., concentratubes, flint glass, 114x18 mm, $25/100). If you have a supplier, please contact Joan Vogel, Westchester County, Dept. of Laboratories & Research, Valhalla, NY 10595 (telephone: 914-347-6169).

DIRECTORY UPDATE

James W. Jones, Ph.D., Chief Toxicologist, Chief of Laboratories Services, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, 19th & Massachusetts Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C.

Richard N. Phillips, Ph.D., Baxter-Dade Division, P.O. Box 520672, MS 390, Miami, FL 33152-0672

Be sure to inform Secretary Pinder (address on page one) of any change in your address so you can get the latest SOFT news!

TREASURY NOTES

Treasurer Lewis would like to remind you that the current fiscal year ends June 30, 1989. If you require reimbursement for any expenses, please submit your request to Mark Lewis before June 30th. And don't forget to pay your 1989-90 SOFT dues.

PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TOXICOLOGISTS 1989 quarterly meetings: Aug 5 - Northern California; Nov. 4 - San Diego, CA. For further meeting and workshop information, please contact Lee B. Knight, CAT Vice President, Memoria Healthtech Laboratories, 701 E. 28th St., Suite 113, Long Beach, CA 90806 (telephone: 213-595-3427).

S.O.F.T. ANNUAL MEETING: Oct. 18-21, 1989, Ambassador West Hotel, Chicago, IL. Preliminary plans include plenary sessions, breakfast & luncheon seminars, Wednesday & Saturday workshops and the customary SOFT activities. See related article in this issue of ToxTalk. For further information, contact SOFT Admin. Office, 1013 Three Mile Drive, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230-1412 (313) 884-4718 or 1989 SOFT Meeting Host Michael Schaffer, Ph.D., Cook County M.E.O., 2121 West Harrison Street, Chicago, IL 60612 (telephone: 312-666-0500).

11th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND TRAFFIC SAFETY: October 24-27, 1989, Ambassador West Hotel, Chicago, IL. Program includes a keynote speaker, invited speakers for the plenary session followed by responders, concurrent sessions for the presentation of papers, poster sessions and exhibitors. For further information contact Al Lauersdorf, T-89 Secretary, National Safety Council, 444 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611 (telephone: 312-527-4800).

November 1989: PAN AMERICAN ASSOC. OF FORENSIC SCIENCES, Bogota, Colombia. Theme: "The Sciences and Justice." Contact: President Dr. Egon Lichtenberger, Carrera 11 A 96-26, Bogota, Colombia.

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1989-90 DUES NOTICE

YOUR DUES FOR THE 1989-90 MEMBERSHIP YEAR IN THE SOCIETY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS, INC. ARE DUE. PLEASE COMPLETE BELOW AND RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION WITH A CHECK PAYABLE TO S.O.F.T., INC. TO:

MARK B. LEWIS, SOFT TREASURER
24 RIP VAN LANE
BALLSTON SPA, NY 12020

DUES: $35.00 FULL MEMBER $35.00 ASSOCIATE MEMBER
$15.00 STUDENT MEMBER $0 - RETIRED MEMBER

IF YOUR DUES ARE IN ARREARS, PLEASE INCLUDE PAST DUES OR YOU WILL BE CONTACTED DIRECTLY BY THE TREASURER. YOU MAY MAKE TELEPHONE INQUIRIES BY CALLING MARK LEWIS AT (518) 457-1208.

DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 1989 REMEMBER, THE SOFT FISCAL YEAR IS JULY 1, 1989 TO JUNE 30, 1990. IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID BY JULY 1ST, YOU WILL BE CONSIDERED IN ARREARS.

DATE PAID _________ CHECK NO. _______ AMOUNT $________

KEEP TOP PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS.

COMPLETE & RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR CHECK (PAYABLE TO S.O.F.T., Inc.)

NAME ____________________________________________________________

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ADDRESS __________________________________________________________

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MEMBERSHIP:

Full ($35) Associate ($35) Student ($15) $ ______

Retired


ERA CONTRIBUTION $ ______

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ______

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______ Requires contact for past dues

______ Copy to secretary if address change noted