

Newsletter



News for and about Members of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists

Volume 6

Issue 1

April 1982

12th ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists will be held jointly with the fall meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists. The scientific program will include a symposium on factors affecting modern forensic toxicology, discussions of unusual toxicology cases, interpretation of data and the availability of two workshops.

The meeting site is the Rosslyn Westpark Hotel, Rosslyn, Virginia. The workshops will be held on October 13, 1982, with the remainder of the scientific program taking place on October 14 and 15, 1982. Title of papers and authors should be submitted to the program chairperson prior to June 15, 1982. Abstracts should be completed and submitted prior to September, 1982. Registration for the workshops should also be submitted prior to September 1, 1982. In the event of poor registration for the workshops, they will be cancelled and registration fees will be returned. Members registering for the meeting prior to October 1, 1982 will pay a registration fee of \$30. Registration after that date will have to include a \$5 late registration charge. If you have not already received your first mailing, you should address all correspondence to: Dr. Marina Stajic, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, The Fairfax Hospital, 3300 Gallows Road, Falls Church, Va. 22046, or call (703) 560-7944.

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD TO BARRY LEVINE

The Society of Forensic Toxicologist's Educational Research Award for this year has been presented to Barry Levine, a graduate student in the Department of Pathology, Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University. Mr. Levine proposed research to study postmortem stability of different classes of drugs in blood and tissues. Changes in drug concentrations as a result of decomposition will be examined. When possible, metabolite as well as parent drug concentrations will be followed. The initial study will involve the barbiturates. Mr. Levine is the third successful candidate for this award. His University will receive \$500 to support his research. Previous award winners were John Hebb of the University of Maryland, "Evaluation of Tricyclic Antidepressant Toxicity on the Heart" and Chris Long of St. John's University, "Evaluation of Lidocaine Toxicity and Lethality". Funds to support the Education Research Award are solicited from industry. The Grants and Endowment Committee of Nick Hodnett and Ray Bath are actively pursuing additional support for our Educational Award. Tom Rejent is the chairman of the Educational Awards Review Committee and encourages applicants to submit their proposals to his committee.

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SPECIAL SOFT ISSUE OF JAT

Dear SOFT Member:

The time is upon us to prepare another Special Issue of the Journal of Analytical Toxicology. The goal is to have this issue in print for our meeting in Rosslyn. If we adhere to the Schedule of Deadlines below, I have received a commitment from JAT that this issue will be published as the September-October issue.

Ten to twelve manuscripts are necessary to fill one bimonthly publication. This is your opportunity to communicate case reports, technical innovations, and unusual findings to your colleagues. Having talked with many of you, I know there is a wealth of information that needs to be in print. As editor, I would be most willing to answer your questions or assist you in the preparation of your manuscript. The best place to contact me is at home at (516) 427-0065. My number at St. John's is (212) 990-6161, Ext. 5129.

While the Schedule of Deadlines below may seem tight, it is approximately the same schedule that was employed for the last Special issue. I would certainly encourage those of you who will submit manuscripts, that the deadlines are final. If you can provide manuscripts sooner, by all means, do. If we can return the reviewed manuscripts sooner, we shall.

The review committee for this issue will consist of myself and Vince Lynch. With your cooperation, we can again be successful in this venture.

Sincerely,
Joseph Balkon, Ph.D.
President

NEXT PAGE FOR SPECIAL ISSUE DEADLINES



PRESIDENT

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JAMES VALENTOUR, Ph.D.
JOSEPH MONFORTE, Ph.D.
ROSEMARY ALSTOTT, Ph.D.
NICHOLAS HODNETT, Ph.D.
RICHARD PROUTY, B.S.
YALE H. CAPLAN, Ph.D., EX. OFF.

JAT SPECIAL ISSUE DEADLINES

- April 9: Letter of commitment from primary authors with title, secondary authors, and an abstract, if possible.
- May 15: Deadline for receipt of manuscripts.
- June 1: End of review period for submitted manuscripts with return to authors for revision.
- July 1: Final (revised) manuscripts returned to review committee.
- July 1-10: Final manuscripts forwarded to JAT.

EDITORIAL

"Getting involved" in SOFT. How often we hear the cry of the few leaders to the membership at large about getting involved. Here are just a few suggestions:

- 1) submit an article for the Special SOFT Issue of JAT.
- 2) write an article for ToxTalk.
- 3) elsewhere in this issue are the committees for SOFT - offer your help.
- 4) learn enough about SOFT to encourage someone you know to join (if we can increase our membership, we can hold the line on costs such as dues).
- 5) present a paper at the annual meeting (titles and authors due 6/15/82).
- 6) attend a workshop (this year we are offering two workshops in conjunction with the annual meeting - see elsewhere in this newsletter).
- 7) have you just done a literature review for a case? How about sending ToxTalk the product of your efforts?

You don't have to run for office or get in over your head, but do get involved in some small way!

Jess

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to what should prove to be another rewarding year for the Society of Forensic Toxicologists. We are a growing organization that is making a positive contribution to the field of forensic toxicology despite the growing pains that we have experienced from time to time.

The Board of Directors, previous officers, and myself have identified the following goals for the coming year:

- 1) generation of the necessary alterations in our by-laws to achieve a reasonable tax status.
- 2) formalizing the process by which the SOFT Educational Research Award (ERA) program shall function.
- 3) preparation of a SOFT Special Issue of the Journal of Analytical Toxicology.
- 4) identify and implement ways to increase SOFT visibility in the forensic community.
- 5) aid in preparations for the joint SOFT-MAFS meeting in Arlington, Virginia.
- 6) develop written standards for Toxicology Laboratories such as minimum staffing, budget guidelines, etc.
- 7) evaluate the potential for the promulgation of acceptable methodological approaches in the practice of forensic toxicology.
- 8) actively solicit membership from all of those who engage in the practice of forensic toxicology. Each of us has a special responsibility to educate our toxicological colleagues as to the potential and realized value our organization holds.

The following individuals have been appointed to serve on committees for 1982:

Membership

*H. Horton McCurdy
Rosemary Alstott
Mark B. Lewis

ByLaws

*Kurt Dubowski
Thomas Rejent
Yale Caplan

Grants and Endowments

*Nick Hodnett
Ray Bath

Education:

*Vincent Lynch
Jesse Bidanset
Yale Caplan

Workshop

*Jesse Bidanset
Thomas Kubic

Newsletter

*Jesse Bidanset, Ed.
Brian Donnelly
Rosemary Alstott

Professional Relations

*Ronald Backer
Leonard Bednarczyk
Jesse Bidanset

Standards for Personnel and Resources

*Thomas Rejent

Educational Awards Review

*Thomas Rejent
Jesse Bidanset
Yale Caplan

Richard Prouty
Randall Baselt

1982 Meeting

*Marina Stajic

Standardization of Methodological Approach

*Leonard Bednarczyk
Brian Donnelly
Walter Matusiak

Finally, preparations are already underway for the meeting in Rosslyn. Joe Monforte is currently clearing the details for the meeting in 1983 in Detroit, and the Board of Directors has unanimously selected St. Louis as our meeting site in 1984. With the Board's consent we are presently pursuing a major joint meeting in 1985-6 which would draw together SOFT, SAT, and CAT toxicologists.

Your input is always welcome. Please feel free to contact the officers, committees, or myself with your comments or questions.

Joseph Balkon, Ph.D., DABFT,
President
(516) 427-0065
(212) 990-6161, Ext. 5129

**CAPILLARY COLUMN GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY
IN THE FORENSIC LABORATORY**

An introduction to the subject of Capillary Column Gas Chromatography in the Forensic Laboratory is planned for Wednesday, October 13, 1982, to be held in conjunction with a joint meeting of SOFT and MAAFS. The workshop will take place in the Rosslyn Westpark Hotel and is part of the scientific program.

The rationale for the use of capillary gas chromatography, its advantages and disadvantages, and basic working theory will be considered. The selection, evaluation, use and preventive maintenance of capillary column gas

chromatography instrumentation and columns will be discussed. The use of Kovats retention indices, including their reproducibility and reliability will be considered. Procedures and practices will be recommended for getting the most from a capillary column gas chromatographic system in everyday laboratory operation. Selected applications will be demonstrated. Equipment will be available but actual hands-on will be limited due to the time constraints. The actual applications and demonstrations will be dictated by the workshop participants.

Registration will be limited to twenty. First come - first served. Send your registration fee of \$10 to Marina Stajic by September 1, 1982. The course faculty include Dave Stafford and Bill Anderson of the University of Tennessee, Center for Health Sciences.

THIN-LAYER IMMUNOASSAY (TIA) WORKSHOP

A TIA workshop is being planned for October 13, 1982, at the MAAFS/SOFT meeting in Rosslyn, Virginia. TIA is a new non-radioimmunoassay which requires no instrumentation, is less expensive than conventional immunoassays and is more sensitive than EMIT. The workshop will deal with the theory of TIA as well as its application to forensic serology, forensic toxicology and forensic drug chemistry. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to gain "hands-on" experience in either of the following areas of their choice: blood stain analysis or drug detection in biological materials or dosage forms.

The registration form and the workshop fee (\$10) must be received by September 1, 1982. The number of participants will be limited;

For further information contact:

Nicholas T. Lappas
Department of Forensic Sciences
The George Washington University
Washington, D.C. 20052

MISSING MEMBERS

The following are SOFT members for whom mail has been returned as undeliverable. If you have information about their whereabouts, please notify the Secretary, Bob Eberhardt.

George Hime	A. Phillips
Steve Krebe	J. Snyder
Elaine Matofey	S. Wang
William Park	R. Wymer

**HIGHLIGHTS OF SOCIETY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
November 3, 1981**

FUTURE MEETINGS:

1982

Marina Stajic reported the tentative choice was the Westpark Hotel in Rosslyn, Virginia. The date of the meeting will be Wednesday, October 13 through Friday, October 15. The meeting will be jointly sponsored by SOFT and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Sciences. A registration fee of approximately \$30.00 was considered to be

reasonable.

1983

Joe Monforte - meeting in Detroit

1984

St. Louis, Missouri

1985

Society would probably meet in Canada.

MEETINGS IN GENERAL

The expense of attending meetings is becoming increasingly great both for those attending and for the Society. Some of the suggestions which were considered included:

- 1) meeting on weekends
- 2) using University or College campus facilities.
- 3) meeting away from urban areas

TREASURY REPORT

There is approximately \$3,500. in operating funds, but that only a small percentage of the membership have paid their dues. Computer numbers have been assigned to the membership - soon have the treasury report on a computer basis.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Membership Committee has encountered a need for a more precise definition of what qualifies a forensic toxicologist at the bachelor's degree level to determine whether a person should be accepted as a full member or associate member.

A SOFT SPONSORED JOURNAL ISSUE

The subject of the Society sponsoring another issue in a scientific journal was discussed.

TOXTALK

Editor Jesse Bidanset reported that he had received favorable feedback with regard to the new format. It was generally agreed that the minutes should not be published before review and corrections are made.

EDUCATIONAL AWARD COMMITTEE

The Committee presented a proposal to the Board for consideration.

MISCELLANEOUS

The topics of proficiency testing and tax exempt status were briefly discussed.

A complete copy of the Minutes may be requested from Secretary, Bob Eberhardt.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SOCIETY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS, ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING November 6, 1981

The Minutes of the 1980 Annual Business Meeting in Toronto were approved as printed in ToxTalk.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Mike McGee)

Balance \$3,702.17 - \$1,204.08 Scholarship Fund
\$2,498.09 General Budget

The Minutes of the Board of Director's meeting in Chicago, November 3, 1981, were read. A motion to approve was carried.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee has received and processed:

11 applications for full membership, 5 applications for associate membership, 3 applications for student membership.

Received during the Chicago meeting - 4 additional applications for full membership.

A Membership Directory has been successfully compiled and should provide needed information within the membership and externally, and favorable publicity literature.

The booth set up by Joe Balkon and Everett Solomons at the AAFS meeting in Los Angeles produced approximately ten new applications for membership.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE REPORT

This past year we have received approximately 22 applications. Our growth has been about 10% of the total membership. Out of every ten members, only one member has asked someone else to join.

BY-LAWS REVISION/TAX EXEMPT STATUS

Tax exempt status could be sought under one of two categories:

- 1) 501(c)(3) - not readily available anymore
- 2) 501(c)(6) - basically business league, or Chamber of Commerce, or comparable organization, largely organized to benefit its members or evaluate standards of practice of a particular business, trade or profession.

Dr. Dubowski suggested that we give up pursuing 501 (C) (3) status and expend our energies toward 501 (C) (6) status.

Existing by-laws must be rewritten for successful application. A motion was made to assemble committees as necessary to make by-laws changes and to aim for 501 (C) (6) status. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

WORKSHOP COMMITTEE

Committee worked with the Northeastern Association of Forensic Sciences to put on a full day alcohol determination school. A TIC workshop was planned for Saturday following this annual SOFT meeting. Due to a lack of participation, it was cancelled.

NEWSLETTER REPORT

Dr. Bidanset again restated the need for input from the membership and indicated that he may call individual members and prod them to make contributions. A suggestion was made that district editors be appointed to submit information from their regions.

GRANTS AND ENDOWMENTS

There is a need to reorganize the approach to gather funds. - What mechanism is used to make the award? How will the money be disbursed? Increments? Quantities? - What will be done to publicize the awarding of the money?

ESTIMATED ASSESSMENT OF EXPENSES/1981 MEETING

Thirteen booths were sold to exhibitors at \$350. each.

Registration brought in a fair return and covered the expenses quite well. Wine and cheese were contributed by Syva. After all is accounted for, Dr. Berman estimated a profit of about \$1,000.

LIASON REPORT FROM ABFT

ABFT is presently in the process of requalifying diplomates and have at this time requalified 26 applicants. Diplomates whose expiration dates are arriving will receive six months advance notice. Dr. Dubowski is polishing a draft dealing with the subject of an emeritus status for those who are no longer active in their profession of forensic toxicology.

AMERICAN ACADEMY TOX SECTION NEWS

Discussed the manual for chairpersons and officers, the Registry, workshops sponsored by the Toxicology section of the AAFS, the History of Toxicology Committee, applications and the discontinuance of proficiency testing programs.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee (composed of Len Bednarczyk, Robert Blanke and Ron Backer) proposed the following slate:

President, Joe Balkon

Vice President, Everett Solomons

Secretary, Robert Eberhardt

Member of the Board, Dick Prouty

The above slate was unanimously elected.

A complete copy of the Minutes may be obtained from Secretary, Bob Eberhardt.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MINUTES OF THE INTERIM (WINTER) MEETING OF THE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SOFT February 9, 1982

NEW MEMBERS

The Secretary will send a notice of acceptance to those applicants who have successfully met the requirements for membership. Membership becomes effective with the receipt of the current year's dues of \$25.00. The president will send a letter of acceptance and congratulations to the new member and will include a copy of the most recent issue of ToxTalk.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Mike McGee, reported a balance on hand of \$3,812.48 which included funds of twelve or thirteen hundred dollars for education. Dr. Berman will forward to SOFT treasury \$750., which represents the profit from the 1981 annual mtg. 52 people have not yet paid their 1981-82 dues. Some discussion followed regarding those who are more than one year in arrears on their dues. No action was taken at this time.

RESIGNATIONS

One letter of resignation was received from Michael R. Krajewski.

(Cont'd Next Page)



ANNUAL MEETING BANQUET

At the head table starting at the right, is twice Past President, Len Bednarczyk; Program chairperson and Host, Eleanor Berman; Health and Science Editor, Roger Field and his lovely wife.



Joe Balkon filling in for Yale Caplan at the Annual Banquet.



Everett Solomons (on left) presenting his last Secretary's report, now he's our V.P. Joe Balkon (on right) presides over business meeting.

PERMANENT RECORD REPOSITORY

Bob Eberhardt suggested that we have a permanent repository for all past records since it becomes cumbersome to transfer these records with each change of officers.

Asked about the desirability of a "corresponding member" status, it was agreed that since our associate membership status was non-restrictive, there was no need for a "corresponding member" category in SOFT. Some discussion followed regarding equal dues for members and associates since the latter were allowed no vote.

DEPARTED MEMBER

Dr. Balkon announced the death of member, Dick Coumbis, and stated that he had sent a letter to the family expressing our sadness and offering our sympathy.

1982 MEETING

Exhibitor booths will be \$300., and registration will be in the range of \$30 to \$35. This is to be a joint meeting with MAAFS, and the profits will be prorated based on the number of members from each association in attendance. The technical meeting will take place on a Thursday and Friday with a probable workshop offered on Wednesday.

RECORDING OF PAPERS

Dr. Balkon stated that Dr. Forney, Jr. had asked for some support for blank video tapes to be used to record selected papers at meetings. SOFT would lend support to the amount of \$100. Com-

plete editing facilities are available at St. John's University.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A letter was received from Vince Lynch which stated that the Education Committee is still working on their original project. The Committee intends to send out letters to selected institutions requesting participation.

1983 MEETING

Dr. Monforte reported the 1983 meeting will be held in Detroit. The meeting will be held during the week including October 25, 26, 27, and 28.

1984 MEETING

We had received letters of intent from representatives of Hartford, Connecticut, and St. Louis, Missouri, for the 1984 SOFT meeting. Following a presentation by Dr. Poklis, it was agreed that the 1984 meeting will be in St. Louis, Missouri.

NEW COMMITTEE

Dr. Balkon suggested that we create a committee to survey budget and personnel in medical examiner's laboratories.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Dr. Balkon announced that Mark Lewis, of Albany, New York, would replace Bob Eberhardt on the Membership Committee.

A complete set of minutes may be requested of Secretary, Bob Eberhardt.

ToxTalk Newsletter
Jesse Bidanset, Editor
St. John's University
Dept. of Pharmacology
Jamaica, New York 11439



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11300 ARROWHEAD TRAIL
HALES CORNERS WI 53130

Attend your annual meeting