Meet Us in St. Louis!

SOFT members and friends are cordially invited to attend and participate in the 14th Annual SOFT Meeting which will be held jointly with the Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists in St. Louis, October 9-12, 1984, at the Breckenridge Inn. The meeting theme is "Murder by Poison". A special symposium on succinyl choline deaths, Bexar County, Texas, and lidocaine deaths, Riverside, California, will feature the experts who testified on both sides presenting their scientific evidence.

In addition to the scientific presentations, the program will include a round table session on "Toxicology Report Writing" and two workshops:
- Computers in the Toxicology Laboratory
- Advanced Workshop for Toxi-Lab Users

Detailed information can be obtained from the program chairman, Dr. Alphonse Poklis at (314) 727-6300.

St. Louis Forensic Profile

In 1977, the City of St. Louis established a medical examiner's system and contracted all professional services, including pathology and toxicology, to St. Louis University School of Medicine. Dr. George E. Gantner, Chief Medical Examiner of St. Louis County and professor of pathology at St. Louis University was appointed Chief Medical Examiner of the city. At this time Dr. Alphonse Poklis accepted a faculty appointment at the University and was made director of the Forensic and Environmental Toxicology Laboratory. The laboratory shares space and instrumentation with the toxicology laboratory of Ms. Mary Ann Mackell, Chief Toxicologist of St. Louis County at the County Medical Examiner's Office.

Due to its university association, the laboratory is mandated to contribute to the teaching of residents and students. Forensic and clinical pathology residents regularly rotate through the laboratory. Clinical chemistry or forensic toxicology graduate students, as well as medical technology undergraduates, are also regularly provided bench experience with drug analysis. Ms. Mackell, as a clinical instructor in the department of patho-
St. Lollis Profile continued

ology, supervises many of these activities. As an associate professor and fulltime member of the regular faculty, Dr. Poklis is involved in teaching pharmacology and toxicology to medical students and residents. He also teaches graduate courses in toxicology and is the graduate advisor to Paul Hale, Jr., the 1983 recipient of the SOFT Education Research Award. Dr. Poklis also maintains a modest research laboratory in the Department of Pharmacology, presently supported by the American Heart Association, Missouri Affiliate, and the Monsanto Company. Research is focused on the cardiotoxicity of neuroleptic drugs in mammalian systems.

President’s Report

The Executive Officers/Board of Directors held a telephone conference call on July 11, 1984 (conference calls were introduced last year to reduce the cost of transporting individuals for an interim meeting of the Board of Directors). Some of the business conducted included the following.

As provided by the Bylaws, the Board of Directors is to elect one of its members to the Executive Committee. Vice President Prouty conducted this election and Dr. Kurt Dubowski was elected to this position. My personal congratulations to Kurt.

Miami, Florida, has been selected as the 1987 Annual Meeting Site. Dr. Leonard Bednarczyk will be the meeting host.

Patricia Mohn-Monforte applied for, and was selected as the Executive Committee/Meeting Coordinator. She will be working directly with Dr. Poklis on the 1984 Annual Meeting and has received a couple of executive committee projects.

As you know from the announcement of the 1984 Annual Meeting in St. Louis, there will be a forum on Toxicology Report Writing. This is a direct result of a survey conducted by Dr. Ted Siek. My congratulations to Ted for conducting the survey in a punctual fashion and to the membership for responding in a complete and rapid manner.

—Joseph R. Monforte, PhD

ToxTrivia

The Gentle Art of Poisoning

“Murder by poison” is the theme of the 1984 SOFT meeting in St. Louis. Lovers of trivia and history may want to test their knowledge by matching the names of toxicologists with those of the poisons and defendants in ten famous trials.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOXICOLOGIST</th>
<th>POISON</th>
<th>DEFENDANT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Curry</td>
<td>Aconite</td>
<td>Armstrong</td>
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<td>Dal Cortivo/Rieders</td>
<td>Arsenic</td>
<td>Barlow</td>
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<td>Nickolls</td>
<td>Curare</td>
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<td>Orfila</td>
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<td>Stas</td>
<td>Insulin</td>
<td>Coppolino</td>
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<td>Stevenson/Dupre</td>
<td>Hyoscine</td>
<td>Crippen</td>
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<td>Tardieu</td>
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<td>Willcox</td>
<td>Secobarbital</td>
<td>Lamson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witthaus</td>
<td>Succinyl Choline</td>
<td>Pommerais</td>
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Dr. Gettler’s case included in Ripley’s “Believe It or Not!”

THE MAN WHO HAD MORE LIVES THAN A CAT

MICHAEL MALLOY, murdered in 1933 by a gang to collect his insurance, had survived such attempts as being saturated with ice water and left in a park in winter, run over by a car, forced to drink antifreeze and eat sandwiches made of contaminated sardines and ground glass — but finally died of CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

1985 Nominations

The Nominating Committee convened (via telephone) on July 11 and unanimously chose the following candidates: for President Richard W. Prouty for Vice President Rosemary L. Kincaid for Treasurer Michael P. McGee for Board of Directors Alphonse Poklis Respectfully submitted by Everett T. Solomons, PhD Chairman, Nominating Committee

SOFT’s Globetrotter

Pierre Margot, our only overseas member, joined SOFT while in temporary residence at the Center for Human Toxicology at the University of Utah. Subsequently he returned to his native Switzerland and he has been recently appointed Head of the Forensic Science Research Unit at the Australian National University in Canberra. How far will SOFT members go?
Election Candidates

PRESENT

RICHARD W. PROUTY

Present Position
Chief Forensic Toxicologist, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, State of Oklahoma

Education
BS from Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, in 1953

Professional Experience
1951–1953 – Analyst in Toxicology and Criminalistics, State of Alabama, Department of Toxicology and Criminal Investigation, Auburn, Alabama
1953–1954 – Associate Toxicologist and Director of Divisional Laboratory at Montgomery, Alabama with State of Alabama Department of Toxicology and Criminal Investigation
1955–1958 – Toxicologist and Director of Toxicology Division of the 406 Medical General Laboratory of the United States Army, Tokyo, Japan
1958–1960 – Graduate Assistant in Toxicology with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Baltimore, Maryland
1960–1961 – Research Fellow in Toxicology with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Baltimore, Maryland
1961–1972 – Professor of Toxicology, North Dakota State University
North Dakota State Toxicologist and Director of State Toxicology Laboratory, Director, Alcohol Methods and Systems Testing Laboratory, Fargo, North Dakota
Scientific Consultant of Office of Alcohol Programs, U.S. Department of Transportation
Consultant Toxicologist, Veterans Administration Hospital, Fargo, North Dakota
Consultant Toxicologist, North Dakota Poison Information and Control Center
Director, North Dakota Alcohol and Traffic Safety Program

Certifications
Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology

Professional Societies
American Academy of Forensic Sciences – Fellow
Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists, Member
Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists, Member

SOFT Activities
1979 – Meeting CoChairman, Annual Meeting, Williamsburg, Virginia
1981–1984 – Treasurer

VICE PRESIDENT

ROSEMARY L. KINCAID

Present Position
Chief Toxicologist, Department of Health and Social Services, State of Wyoming

Education
BS from Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, in 1961
MS from Indiana University, IUMC Campus, Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1967
PhD from Indiana University, IUMC Campus, Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1971

Professional Experience
1959–1961 – Medical Technologist at Cabell Huntington Hospital, Huntington, West Virginia
1961–1965 – Medical Technologist at Indiana University Medical Center, Clinical Laboratory, Indianapolis, Indiana
1967–1968 – Teacher of Chemistry and Physics, Gwyn Park Senior High School, Brandywine, Maryland
1973–1975 – Chief Toxicologist at Physician’s Clinical Laboratory, Lafayette, Indiana
1975–1983 – Chief Toxicologist at The Medical Laboratory of Drs. Thornton, Haymond, Costin, Buehl, Bolinger, Warner, McGovern, and Hooker of Indianapolis, Indiana

Certifications
Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology
Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicological Chemistry

Professional Societies
American Academy of Forensic Sciences – Fellow
American Association of Clinical Chemists, Member, DABTC
American Society of Clinical Pathologists, Associate Member
Society of the Sigma Xi, Research Honorary, Member
Society of Forensic Toxicologists
Iota Sigma Pi, Honorary Chemistry Society for Women, Cobalt Chapter, Lifetime Member

SOFT Activities
1980–1983 – Member, Board of Directors
1981–1992 – Member, Planning Committee
1981–1982 – Member, Membership Committee
1982–1983 – Member, Newsletter Committee
1981–1984 – Chairman, Membership Committee
1984 – Chairman, Evaluated Methods Committee

TREASURER

MICHAEL P. McGEE

Present Position
American Institute for Drug Detection, Evans­ton, Illinois

Education
BS from Wheeling College, Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1970

Professional Experience
1971–1974 – Chemist, Toxicology Laboratory, Cuyahoga County Coroner’s Office
1974–1981 – Chemist, Toxicology Section, Bureau of Forensic Science, Richmond, Virginia
1981–1984 – Associate Director, Galveston County Forensic Laboratory, Galveston, Texas
Senior Research Assistant (dual appointment), Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Texas, Galveston, Texas

Certifications
Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology

Professional Societies
American Academy of Forensic Sciences – Fellow
Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists, Member
Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists, Member

SOFT Activities
1979 – Meeting CoChairman, Annual Meeting, Williamsburg, Virginia
1981–1984 – Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ALPHONSE POKLIS

Present Position
Director of Forensic and Environmental Toxicology Laboratory, Department of Pathology, St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri
Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology, St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri
Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri

Education
BS from University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, in 1969
PhD from University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, in 1974

Professional Experience
1969–1973 – Graduate traineeship at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Baltimore, Maryland
1972–1974 – Forensic Chemist, Medical Examiner’s Office, Wilmington, Delaware
1974–1977 – Assistant State Toxicologist, State University Station, Fargo, North Dakota
1975–1976 – Visiting Consultant, Pharmacy Services, Veteran’s Administration Hospital, Fargo, North Dakota (consulted on analytical methodology in Pharmacokinetics Control Laboratory)
Organizational Information:
General — This activity is the culmination of informal discussions and dialogue which has been ongoing for the past several years among many of us who have been interested in History and specifically history of the Forensic Sciences. Some of us have already started collections of data while others have been interested in learning of resources available. It is to

Candidates continued

1974–1977 – Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, School of Pharmacy, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota
1977–1982 – Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri
1981–1984 – Consultant Member, Local Epidemiology Work Group, National Institute of Drug Abuse
1983–1984 – Consultant Member, Toxicology Resource Committee, College of American Pathologists

Certifications
Registered Pharmacist, Maryland
Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology

Professional Societies
American Academy of Clinical Toxicology
American Academy of Forensic Sciences – Fellow
American College of Toxicology
American Chemical Society
Canadian Society of Forensic Science
International Association of Forensic Sciences
International Association of Forensic Toxicologists
Society of Forensic Toxicologists

SOFT Activities
1984 – Meeting Chairman, Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri
1984 – Member, Meeting Site Selection and Meeting Guidelines Committee

To stimulate interest and knowledge in the History of Forensic Sciences.
2. To bring together those interested in History of Forensic Sciences and of events which have had a dramatic role the development of this field.
3. To locate, collect, and catalogue resources including literary works, case reports and records, court proceedings, and information on people who have lived history, or are expert in individual cases or events.
4. To develop a clearinghouse of information for the purpose of collecting, storage, and dissemination of historical material in the field of the forensic sciences.
5. To develop information about individuals interested in the history of the Forensic Sciences or have written in the field as an additional resource of special interests in this field.
6. To disseminate periodic informational material to the members of this group as a permanent record of the group activities.

For further information, please write William G. Eckert, MD, in care of the above address. An informational resource list was included with the last ToxTalk issue.

CAT Meetings
November 3, 1984
Los Angeles Marriott
Quarterly Meeting hosted by Larry Plutchak
UTAK Laboratories
(805) 259-1041

February 1, 1985
Finnigan MAT
San Jose
Workshop on GCMS
Department of Justice
(916) 739-5128

February 2, 1985
Amfac Hotel Burlingame
Quarterly Meeting hosted by Randall Baselt
University of California, Davis
(916) 752-2710

HEROIN SUBSTITUTES
by Richard F. Shaw
County of San Diego Coroner’s Office
San Diego, California

One of the combinations of prescription drug alternatives to the use of heroin continues to appear in the positive toxicology findings in cases examined by the San Diego County Coroner’s Office. This combination of drugs, Doriden® (glutethimide) and codeine, is referred to on the street as “Loads” or “Four Doors”. A “Load” is said to consist of 1 gram of glutethimide (usually as two 500 mg Doriden® tablets) and four grains of codeine (usually in combination with aspirin or acetaminophen). Consumption of multiple “Loads” per day leads to addiction and tolerance and potential overdose. Nine cases reported by San Diego County reveal blood concentrations of codeine averaging 1.09 mg/mL (range 0.13 – 2.8), and glutethimide averaging 12.5 mg/mL (range 4.5 – 26.4). These seven males (ages 24–42 years) and two females (ages 20-22 years) all had histories of chronic alcohol and drug abuse. In seven cases only codeine, glutethimide, acetaminophen and morphine were found, and in two cases, in addition to the drugs mentioned above, cocaine and diazepam were found. The use of codeine and glutethimide is known to produce a synergistic central nervous system depression leading to coma and death. Use of other drugs with this combination may potentiate the effect. All positive codeine cases with appropriate histories of drug abuse should be screened for glutethimide to determine the extent of use of this heroin substitute in evaluating drug deaths.