

**WS13: “Can I Say That?” Mastering Expert Testimony in Forensic Toxicology****Date:** Tuesday, October 28**Time:** 1:30-5:30 PM**Audience Knowledge:** Basic- suitable for individuals new to the field, requires little prior knowledge to the subject matter**Rates:**

<b>Membership</b>	<b>Early Bird (June 25 - Sep 10)</b>	<b>Late (Begins Sept 11)</b>	<b>Onsite (Begins Oct 9)</b>
Member	\$150	\$175	\$200
Student	\$150	\$175	\$200
Non-Member	\$200	\$225	\$250

**Workshop Chairs:**

Robert Johnson, PhD, F-ABFT

Chief Toxicologist

Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s Office

[Rdjohnson@tarrantcountytexas.gov](mailto:Rdjohnson@tarrantcountytexas.gov)

Kei Osawa, MFS, D-ABFT-FT

Forensic Toxicologist

Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s Office

[kaosawa@tarrantcountytexas.gov](mailto:kaosawa@tarrantcountytexas.gov)**Abstract**

Forensic toxicologists play a critical role in the intersection of science and law, specializing in the application of scientific principles to analyze, detect, and quantify the presence of alcohol and/or drugs in biological samples. In court, they discuss not only the accuracy and reliability of these results, but also educate the judge and jury on how the detected substances may have impacted an individual’s driving abilities and behavior. This session will discuss the role of the forensic toxicologist as an expert witness in impaired driving investigations, including the interpretation of both driving under the influence of alcohol and driving under the influence of other drugs. Attendees will hear from both forensic toxicologists and attorneys. The toxicologists will separate alcohol only and DUID case testimony incorporating ASB standards 122 and 037. Two highly regarded TSRPs will discuss the testimony of a forensic toxicologist from the attorney’s perspective. Finally, the workshop will conclude with an interactive case presentation to include the audience and the entire panel of experts.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Attendees will learn about providing expert testimony in alcohol-related DWI cases, including what can and cannot be testified to, as well as the necessary information for conducting ethanol-specific calculations.

2. Attendees will gain an understanding of expert testimony in a drug-related DWI cases, focusing on interpreting toxicological results in DUID cases and educating the judge and jury on the potential effects of the identified drugs.
3. Attendees will gain insight into effective techniques for interpreting and presenting toxicology results in court from an attorney's perspective, covering what types of testimony are typically persuasive to a jury and which may be less effective.

### **Speakers**

Chris Heartsill, BS, D-ABFT-FT  
Regional Toxicology Liaison, Region 7  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
[chris@soft-tox.org](mailto:chris@soft-tox.org)

Amy Miles, BS  
Program Project Manager  
National Resource Toxicologist  
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
UW School of Medicine and Public Health  
[amy.miles@slh.wisc.edu](mailto:amy.miles@slh.wisc.edu)

Timothy P. Rohrig, PhD, F-ABFT  
Consultant in Pharmacology and Toxicology  
Visiting Professor - Emporia State University  
Visiting Professor - University of Lincoln, United Kingdom  
Director [Ret] Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center  
[DrTimRohrig@gmail.com](mailto:DrTimRohrig@gmail.com)

Deena Ryerson  
Sr. Assistant Attorney General  
Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor  
Oregon Department of Justice  
[Deena.A.Ryerson@doj.oregon.gov](mailto:Deena.A.Ryerson@doj.oregon.gov)

Amy Seely  
Sr. Assistant Attorney General  
Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor  
Oregon Department of Justice  
[Amy.Seely@doj.oregon.gov](mailto:Amy.Seely@doj.oregon.gov)

## Workshop Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
1:00-1:15 pm	Welcome and Introductions	Kei and Robert
1:15-2:00 pm	Alcohol Testimony: It's easy, right?	Chris Heartsill
2:00-2:45 pm	DUID Testimony: A Roadway from the Laboratory to the Courthouse	Timothy Rohrig
2:45-3:30 pm	Toxicology Testimony: Techniques and Challenges	Deena Ryerson & Amy Seely
3:30-4:00 pm	Break	
4:00-5:00 pm	Case Presentation: Toxicology Testimony in Action (Interactive with audience and panel)	Amy Miles
5:00-5:30 pm	Q&A – Further Discussion	Panel