

**Workshop #7: Cannabis Testimony in Today’s Environment**

**Date: Monday, October 30**

**Time: 1:30-5:30 PM**

**Cost:**

<b>MEMBER RATES</b>		
Early Bird Registration June 1 – Aug 31 \$150	Late Registration Begins Sept 1 \$175	On-site Registration Begins October 11 \$200
<b>NON – MEMBER AND DAILY RATES</b>		
Early Bird Registration June 1 – Aug 31 \$200	Late Registration Begins Sept 1 \$225	On-site Registration Begins October 11 \$250

**Chairs**

Jennifer F. Limoges, MS, ABC-GKE  
Associate Director of Forensic Science/Toxicology  
New York State Police Forensic Investigation Center  
[jennifer.limoges@troopers.ny.gov](mailto:jennifer.limoges@troopers.ny.gov)

Stephanie Olofson, MS, D-ABFT-FT, ABC-DA  
Toxicologist  
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**Abstract**

The world of cannabis has been rapidly changing. The number of states who have legalized marijuana either medically and/or recreationally is rapidly increasing. Cannabis products and the ways people choose to use them continue to evolve. Public perceptions of cannabis use being harmless and that it is not as dangerous as alcohol exist and may affect juror perspectives. Scientific research is also evolving and our knowledge about the pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and performance effects of cannabis is continuously increasing. All of this makes expert testimony in cannabis DUID cases extremely challenging.

This workshop will present the latest scientific research on driving performance, perception of safety, execution of field sobriety tests, pharmacological differences between occasional and chronic users, and receptor changes over time. A legal perspective of how cannabis use affects jury selection and today’s court environment will also be presented. Applicable literature to these topics will be explored.

Then we will spend time with a panel of experienced expert witnesses, along with the faculty, to discuss how testimony in cannabis DUID cases is affected by the rapidly changing landscape of scientific knowledge and jury perception. Attendee experience and contribution will be encouraged.

This is an intermediate level workshop. Attendees should have knowledge of cannabis pharmacology, general effects of cannabis, field sobriety testing, tolerance, chronic/naive users, and expert testimony;

these basics will not be reviewed.

### **Learning Objectives**

1. Attendees will be able to apply the latest cannabis research on simulated driving, field sobriety testing and cannabis impairment to their expert testimony.
2. Attendees will learn about emerging research of receptor changes in chronic users and how this may affect tolerance and psychomotor function.
3. A multi-disciplinary panel discussion including legal experts, researchers, testifying experts will tackle challenging questions regarding testimony in cannabis related cases.

### **Faculty**

Jennifer Knudsen, Esq.  
Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor  
Colorado District Attorneys' Council

Robert L. Fitzgerald, PhD, DABCC  
Professor of Pathology  
Director of Clinical Toxicology Laboratory  
Director, Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research Bioanalytical Toxicology Laboratory  
UC San Diego Health

Thomas D. Marcotte, PhD  
Professor of Psychiatry  
Co-Director, Center for Medical Cannabis Research  
UC San Diego

Marilyn A. Huestis, PhD  
Professor Dr. Dr. (h.c.)  
Institute for Emerging Health Professions, Thomas Jefferson University

Nathalie Desrosiers, PhD, F-ABFT  
Forensic Laboratory Team Leader Toxicology  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Curt Harper, PhD, F-ABFT  
Chief Toxicologist  
Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences

Sarah Kerrigan, PhD  
Director of the Institute for Forensic Research, Training and Innovation  
Sam Houston State University

Stephanie Olofson, MS, D-ABFT-FT, ABC-DA  
Toxicologist

Colorado Bureau of Investigation

**Audience Knowledge Level**

Intermediate - Involves more advanced concepts requiring some technical working knowledge or prior exposure to the subject matter

**Workshop Agenda**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
1:30 – 1:40 pm	Welcome & Workshop Overview	Jennifer Limoges
1:40 – 2:00 pm	Staying Out of the Weeds: Ideas for Surviving Court	Jennifer Knudsen
2:00 – 3:30 pm	Toxicology and Field Sobriety Test Determinations of Cannabis Exposure and Impairment	Robert Fitzgerald & Thomas Marcotte
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Break	
4:00 – 4:45 pm	How Do Pharmacological Differences Between Occasional & Chronic Frequent Cannabis Users Influence Interpretation of Cannabinoid Test Results?	Marilyn Huestis
4:45 – 5:30 pm	Panel Discussion - Expert Testimony	Nathalie Desrosiers, Curt Harper, Sarah Kerrigan, Stephanie Olofson, Faculty