

**Workshop #9: Win. Lose or Withdrawal: The pharmacology, management, and interpretation of drug withdrawal.**

**Date: Tuesday, October 31**

**Time: 8:00 AM – 12:00 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**

Aaron Shapiro, PhD, F-ABFT  
Associate Scientific Director  
British Columbia Provincial Toxicology Centre  
[aaron.shapiro1@phsa.ca](mailto:aaron.shapiro1@phsa.ca)

Nathalie Desrosiers, PhD  
Forensic Laboratory Team Leader  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
[Nathalie.Desrosiers@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:Nathalie.Desrosiers@rcmp-grc.gc.ca)

**Abstract**

As toxicologists, we are often asked to comment on the effects of drugs in death investigations, human performance cases, and drug-facilitated crimes; but what happens when the absence of a drug causes impairment – or even death? Drug withdrawal can be defined as the physiological response to sudden abstinence of a drug for which dependence or tolerance has been developed. During this workshop, you will learn about the pharmacology of several forensically significant drugs, the adaptations that occur in response to chronic administration, and the physiological outcomes that follow withdrawal. Subsequent presentations will focus on management of withdrawal symptoms and forensic examples in which withdrawal may have been a significant determinant of the outcome. By the end of the workshop, you will have a new perspective on interpreting low – or absent – drug results.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Understand the pharmacology of withdrawal
2. Recognize the severity of withdrawal and learn how patients are managed
3. Develop tools for assessing withdrawal in casework

**Faculty**

Stephanie T. Weiss, M.D.Ph.D.

Staff Research Physician

Translational Addiction Medicine Branch Intramural Research Program National Institute on Drug Abuse  
National Institutes of Health

Loralie J. Langman, PhD

Laboratory Director Division of Clinical Biochemistry and Immunology  
Mayo Clinic

Aaron M. Shapiro, PhD, F-ABFT

Associate Scientific Director

BC Provincial Toxicology Centre

Barry K. Logan, PhD, F-ABFT

Executive Director

Center for Forensic Science Research and Education (CFSRE)

**Audience Knowledge Level**

Advanced – devoted to highly advanced concepts requiring extensive background or technical working knowledge of the subject matter

**Workshop Agenda**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
8:00-8:10 am	Introduction	Aaron Shapiro
8:10-9:05 am	Pharmacology of withdrawal	Stephanie Weiss
9:05-10:00 am	Clinical management of withdrawal	Loralie Langman
10:00-10:30 am	Break	
10:30-11:00 am	Forensic examples of withdrawal cases - PM	Aaron Shapiro
11:00-11:30 am	Forensic examples of withdrawal cases - DUID	Barry Logan
11:30-12:00 pm	Panel Discussion: What to look for in forensic casework	All