



TOXTALK®

VOLUME 42 • ISSUE 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Seasons are marked by changes in weather, planting and harvesting, the tilt of the earth in relation to the sun, and the

passage of time. Even though I entered my fourth quarter as President feeling the winds of winter, I have pressed forward while looking forward. Time for reflection will come when I pass this extraordinary honor and responsibility to Dwain Fuller.

After having served as our Treasurer and VP, I knew about needs and gaps and thought about strategy for managing and closing those to build alignment and strength. More than anything this year, I thought about the advancement of our organization – engaging in conversations, laying foundation, reorganizing some infrastructure, and recruiting people to assist in the march forward.

This year, together we accomplished a great deal – all with an eye to securing and advancing in our future! A committee evaluating our inclusivity as an organization is already making strides for understanding our culture, values, and diversity. We can be leaders in the scientific community to promote, achieve, and herald inclusion and equality. We conducted the first major revision of our bylaws to modernize the language and align our processes with practice to improve transparency and efficiency. We reimagined the Finance Committee and exercised its first year, with a new quarterly internal audit system, and we improved processes and paperwork for issues that come to the Ethics Committee. We received grant support to explore more opportunities to the membership for professional support and growth. We have had many conversations regarding a strategic plan for our future – and we have developed some initiatives that are already in progress and others that will launch in the

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

coming year.

That future will include a History Committee that will prioritize and strategize appropriate archiving our history as a profession and organization and will develop the program to celebrate our 50th Anniversary in a few short years. Several significant initiatives will roll out of this committee to recognize those who invest at the highest level and contributed to the advancement of our organization.

In the coming months, we will reimagine what has been the Website Committee into the Communications and Outreach Committee, stand up a task group to evaluate a formal mentoring program, and explore initiatives with other professional societies. The establishment of new committees, the reimagining and reorganization of established committees has helped to align our culture and values with practice, which will help us prioritize what we do and how in the coming years.

Dwain Fuller, as your new President, also has extraordinary new ideas that I am excited to learn about and support him in.

I have also been thoughtful about other gaps in our community, but frankly just ran out of time! With that said, I will cast out one last significant initiative that I would like for you to consider as you begin to set goals for the coming year: PUBLISH. Publish case reports; publish technical notes. Find a way to do some research and publish those findings. Our science and our community only advance when results are published, reviewed, and scrutinized by fellow scientists. Science advances in the context of organizing criticism. New research and new discovery build upon what is already in the literature and has been added to the lexicon of practice. Robust practice and thoughtful policy rely on the published literature. It is the way to bring objectivity to practice and transparency to policy. It is the way to garner resources. Publishing is *the way to advance*.

I am deeply grateful to the Board of Directors. They have worked hard, been engaged in difficult conversations, and provided a wealth of advice to me this year. I believe I have succeeded in many things because they have helped to guide and lead in every way I have asked them. I am thankful to all of the Committee Chairs who have completed many things in their course of business plus also addressed additional work I asked them to consider. I am thankful to the Council of Past Presidents who have provided support and advice as I worked through issues. I am thankful to Beth and CC, who were vital to every step of reorganization and advancement.

I am honored and humbled to have been entrusted with the future of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists. Thank you for this extraordinary opportunity.

Michelle Peace, Ph.D.
SOFT President

The SOFT 2019 Organizing Committee is requesting abstracts on all topics related to forensic toxicology. The Chairs will select appropriate abstracts to be presented as either a platform presentation or poster presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX, October 13-18, 2019. Click [HERE](#) to access the submission form. Deadline to submit is May 10, 2019!

If you would like to serve as an abstract reviewer or moderate a session at the meeting, please email the Scientific Program Committee Chairs [HERE](#).

The Leo Dal Cortivo Memorial

Fund will allow the Young Forensic Toxicologists Committee to present two awards to young forensic toxicologists at the SOFT 2019 Annual Meeting. The best platform presentation and the best poster presentation will be chosen from among the eligible entries, and the presenting author will be awarded a cash stipend of \$1000 in addition to a free registration for a future SOFT meeting. For eligibility requirements and instructions on how to apply click [HERE](#).

Thank you,
Dr. Dayong Lee and Dr. Peter Stout
Scientific Program Committee Chairs



SOFT 2018 MEETING UPDATE

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

OCTOBER 7-12, 2018

*H*appy Holidays Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the SOFT 2018 Planning Committee, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for coming to Minneapolis for the 2018 SOFT Annual Meeting. We also wanted to extend a special thank you all our sponsors for their support and acknowledge all the hard work done by our Planning Committee (Erin Spargo, Phil Kemp, Colleen Scarneo, Curtis Oleschuk, Liz Kiely, Ann Marie Gordon, Denice Teem, Courtney Wardwell, Sarah Urfer, Sara Love, Rusty Lewis, and Frank Wallace), our Mayo supervisors (Aaron Getchell, Tom Hartman, and John Geske), and the SOFT staff (Beth Olson and CC Watson). The combined efforts of all the volunteers, SOFT members and sponsors led to another very successful meeting in 2018.

In the end, we had 985 attendees from over 15 countries participate in the high quality educational sessions and the many fun-filled social and networking activities that occurred during the week. We also had 127 people sign up for Karla Moore Fun run/walk from which we donated \$2,540 to the American Cancer Society. For your enjoyment, we have also included a few photos from some of the many activities during the 2018 SOFT Annual Meeting.

In the meantime, we wish everybody a wonderful holiday season and we look forward to seeing everyone next year in San Antonio, Texas where it will be a little warmer than it was in Minneapolis!

Paul Jannetto *Loralie Langman*



2018 Meeting Hosts



Dr. Loralie Langman



Dr. Paul Jannetto

Scientific Program Chairs

Dr. Erin Spargo
Dr. Phil Kemp

Workshop Chairs
Colleen Scarneo
Dr. Curtis Oleschuk

Exhibitor Liaison
Liz Kiely

Food and Beverage
Ann Marie Gordon
Denice Teem

YFT Chair
Courtney Wardwell

Volunteer Coordinators
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CC Watson



2018 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Thank you to our amazing volunteers that helped stuff meeting bags and prep registration packets!



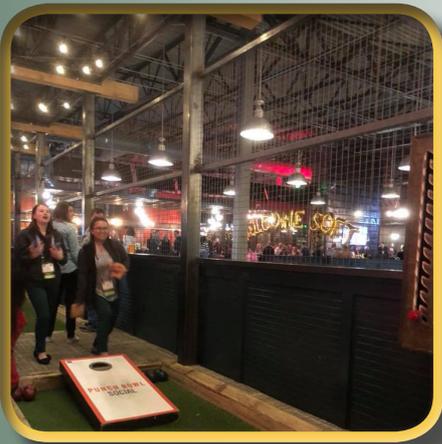
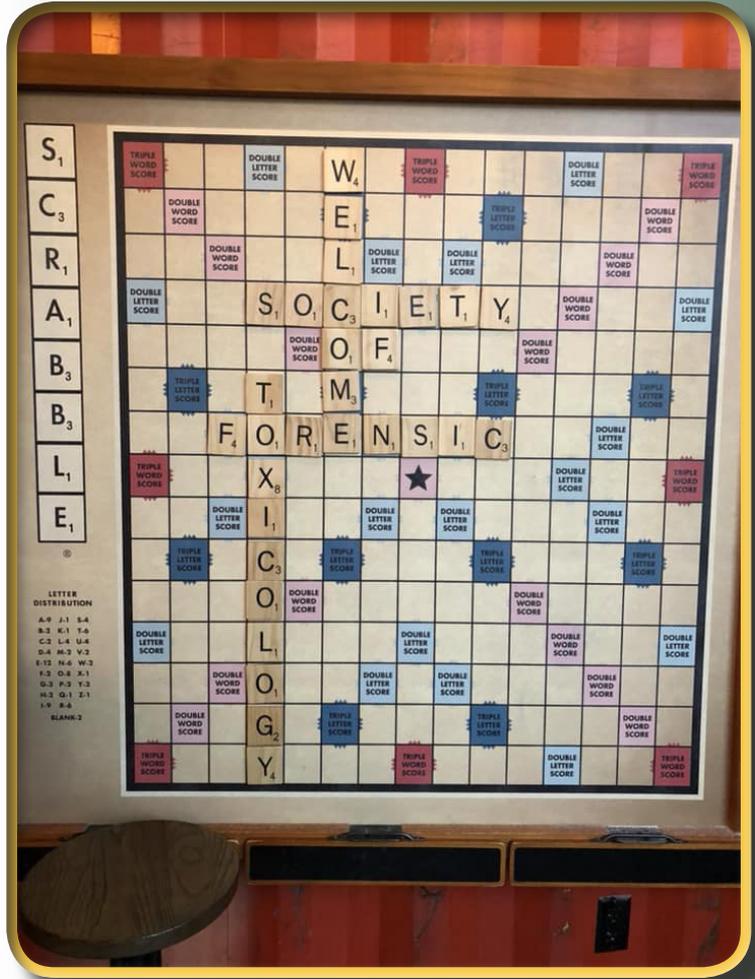
Thank you to our 2018 Workshop Chairs, Speakers, and Attendees!



MilliporeSigma Nite Owl



Punch Bowl Social



Thank You SOFT 2018 Meeting Attendees!



The Purple Ball

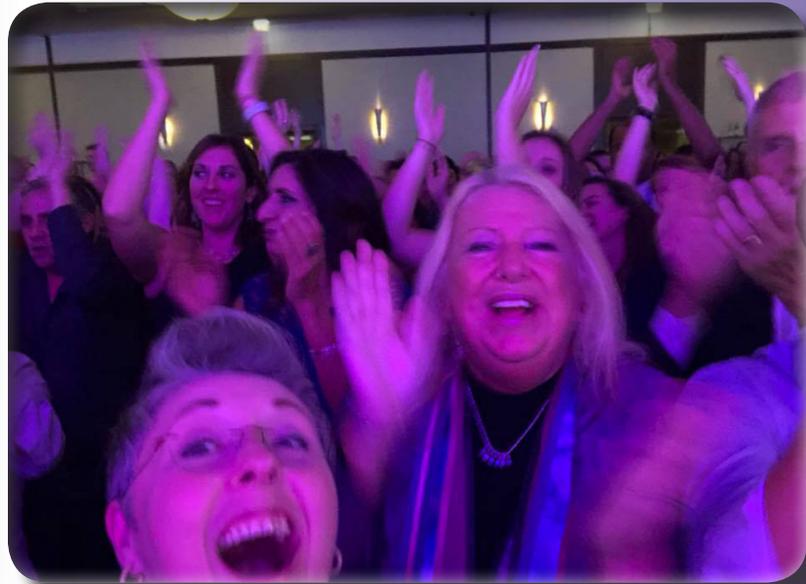
An extra special thank you to this year's meeting hosts, Loralie Langman and Paul Jannetto, and SOFT President, Michelle Peace. Your commitment and dedication to SOFT has made 2018 an amazing year for our organization! Thank you!



The Purple Ball



The Purple Ball

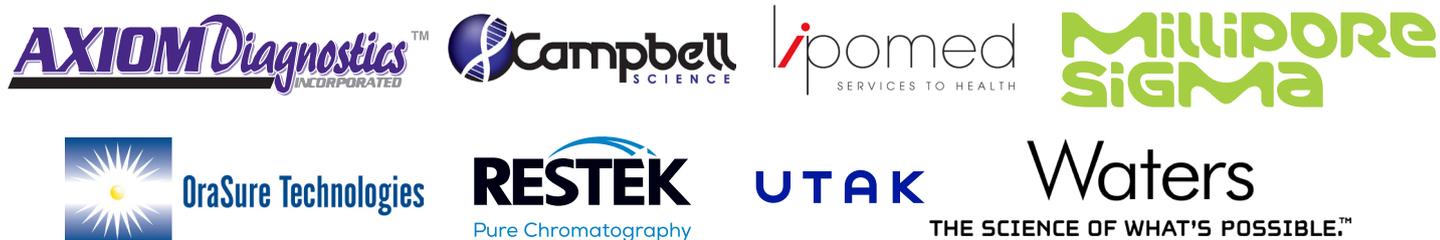


Thank You SOFT 2018 Sponsors and Exhibitors!

TIER I



TIER II



TIER III



TIER IV & V

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Joel Phenomenex Tecan SP

EXHIBITORS

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| ApolloLIMS | IonSense | Shamrock Glass |
| Ark Diagnostics, | IsoSciences | Shimadzu |
| Axiom Diagnostics | Jeol USA | Siemens Healthineers |
| Axis Forensic Toxicology | JusticeTrax | SteelFusion Clinical |
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| Center for Forensic Science | MilliporeSigma | Toxicology Solutions |
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| ChemWare LLC | OraSure Technologies | UTAK |
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| DPX Technologies | Proton OnSite | X-Link Bioscience |
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SOFT 2019 MEETING UPDATE

SAN ANTONIO, TX

OCTOBER 13-18, 2019

The 2019 annual meeting for the Society of Forensic Toxicologists will be held in San Antonio, Texas from October 13-18, 2019.

This year, the city of San Antonio is celebrating its tricentennial. Father Antonio Olivares founded the city in 1718 when he established Mission San Antonio de Valero, now known as The Alamo. The city was named after St. Anthony of Padua when a group of Spanish explorers and missionaries came across a Native American settlement along the banks of what is now the San Antonio river. Five additional missions were later built along the San Antonio river.

Downtown San Antonio offers much history, La Villita, The Spanish Governor's Palace, San Fernando Cathedral and Jose Antonio Navarro State Historical Park among others. San Antonio is also famous for its Riverwalk, The Alamo, NBA champion Spurs basketball team and the Tower of the Americas. The meeting will be held at the Grand Hyatt which is located in downtown San Antonio within walking distance of many bars, restaurants, shopping, museums and many other historic destinations. We look forward to welcoming SOFT back to Texas and the great city of San Antonio!



2018 Meeting Hosts



Brad Hall, Ph.D., F-ABFT



Veronica Hargrove, Ph.D., D-ABFT-FT

Scientific Program Chairs
Peter Stout Ph.D., F-ABFT
Dayong Lee, Ph.D., F-ABFT

Workshop Chairs
Teresa Gray, Ph.D., F-ABFT
Erin Karschner, Ph.D., F-ABFT
Exhibitor Liaison
Liz Kiely

Food and Beverage
Ann Marie Gordon
Denice Teem

YFT Chair
Kim Samano, Ph.D.

Volunteer Coordinators
Kayla Ellefsen, Ph.D.
MacKenzie Dunn

Mobile Application Rusty
Lewis, Ph.D., F-ABFT

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Frank Wallace

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2019 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

V. Hargrove Brad Hall



71st American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting Update

Submitted by: Bill Johnson, B.A., D-ABFT-FT
Chemist Supervisor, WSLH-Toxicology
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Toxicology Section Officers and Program Committee,

Please double check your calendars and make arrangements to attend the 71st Annual Meeting, February 18-23, 2019 at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, MD. Dedicated to this year's theme of "Diligence, Dedication, Devotion", we have another science-filled program in store for all attendees. Thanks again to the Toxicology Section officers, chairs, co-chairs, moderators, abstract reviewers, and volunteers for your tremendous efforts towards another successful meeting.

Attendees can expect a wide array of quality workshops, posters and scientific sessions, breakfasts, and luncheons in 2019. The Toxicology Section will continue the traditional special sessions on Drugs and Driving, Postmortem Pediatric Toxicology and our joint session with the Pathology/Biology Section. The Annual Toxicology Lectureship returns this year with Medical Journalist and Forbes Magazine contributing author David Kroll on Thursday, February 21, 2019.

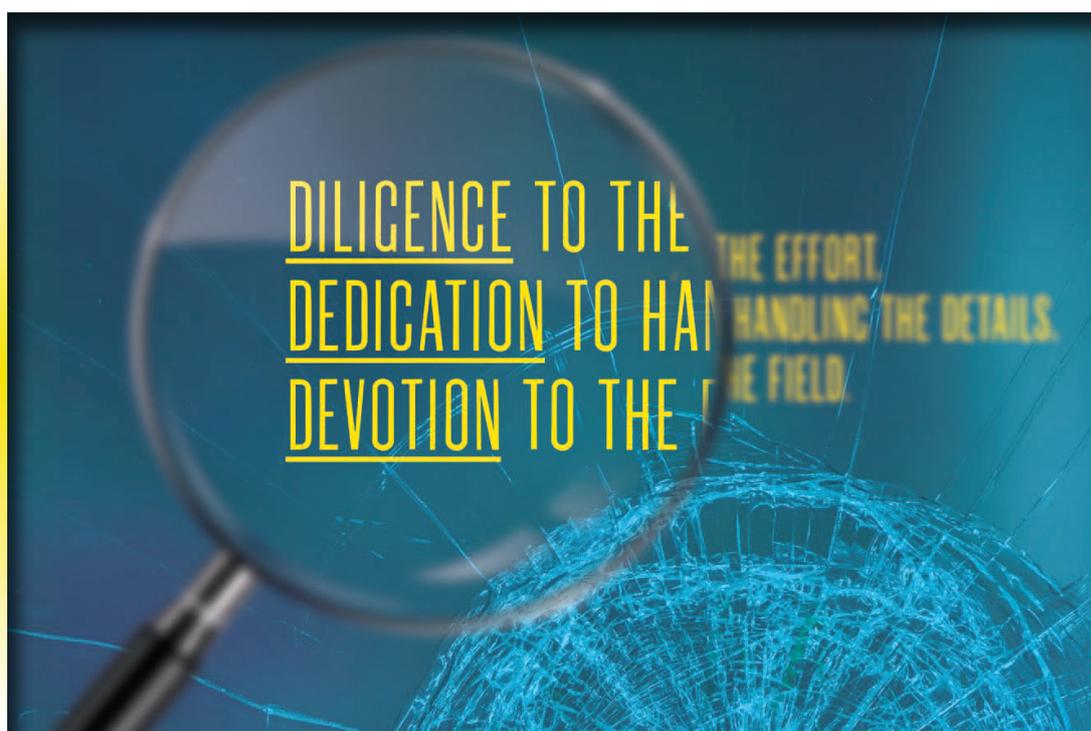
- The **Academy Cup** returns on Wednesday, February 20, at 8:00 AM. Come early for what is always a fun and exciting start to the day and you can help your team on to victory in 2019. Please email Toxicology Section Chair Nikolas Lemos at drnplemos@gmail.com if interested in being an official member of Team Toxicology!
- The annual **Toxicology Section Luncheon** will take place immediately prior to the Toxicology

Section Business Meeting on Wednesday, February 20, 2019. Members choosing to attend the Toxicology Section Luncheon **must register and pay for it during pre-registration** as this luncheon is not included in the regular registration and on-site registration is unavailable.

- During our Toxicology Section Business Meeting we will acknowledge the following award winners: **Ruth Winecker** (Rolla N. Harger Award); **Mandi Mohr** (Irving Sunshine Award) and **Courtney McGowan** (June K. Jones Scholarship).
- Hotel accommodations are available now via the AAFS website and the **Advance Program** is set for release on November 1, 2018.

Finally, we cannot overemphasize our gratitude to those generous vendors who have committed financial sponsorship towards the Toxicology Section Program: Agilent Technologies, Inc; Biotage; Center for Forensic Science Research and Education; Immunalysis Corporation; Lemos Toxicology Services, LLC; Lipomed, Inc; NMS Labs; RTI International, UCT; UTAK Laboratories, Inc; and Waters Corporation. If your organization would like to offer support to the Toxicology Section, please contact Sabra Botch-Jones, sabraaj@bu.edu for more details.

Thanks again and see you all in Baltimore!



DUID and Oral Fluid Workshop

Recognizing the importance of oral fluid testing in drug-impaired driving investigations, the [New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee \(GTSC\)](#) used grant funding from GHSA and the [Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility \(Responsibility.org\)](#) to host a two-day DUID and Oral Fluid Workshop in June 2018.

Held in partnership with the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, the training brought together more than 150 traffic safety professionals from 15 states, including law enforcement officers, toxicologists and attorneys. Workshop sessions, led by a faculty of subject matter experts, considered the science of oral fluid testing, roadside testing capabilities, lab-based

testing, and result interpretation. Workshop faculty also addressed policy and legal considerations and discussed how to implement a state-wide program. Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to network with each other and hear from a number of roadside oral fluid testing manufacturers.

GTSC's Workshop provided attendees with a better understanding of the difference between roadside and lab-based oral fluid testing, and how either or both methods could be implemented in their communities. The event was extremely well-received, creating a model for other states to consider replicating as they work to deter drug-impaired driving.



Governor's Traffic Safety Committee



October. It signals the start to so many wonderful things; the weather begins to cool, leaves change colors, and it ushers us into the start of the holiday season. These are just a few things that October generously brings to us, but did you know that October is also *National Disability Employment Awareness Month*?

Natalie Alloway is a Forensic Scientist, she has a Master of Science in Forensic Science, she has been a SOFT member since 2010, and she is deaf. Natalie was recently featured on [Fox 10 News](#) and [AZ Family](#) to help bring awareness to the deaf community and hiring individuals with disabilities.

Natalie notes in her interviews that once she left school it was difficult for her to secure employment because employers did not know what to do with a deaf employee. In 2010 Natalie attended the Annual SOFT meeting in Richmond, VA and met fellow SOFT member, Mr. Bart Gary. He informed Natalie of an open position at AZ DPS Crime Lab and en-

couraged her to apply. After a year long hiring process she was hired on with the Crime Lab. She is currently a Forensic Scientist in the drug toxicology unit with AZ DPS.

[CSD](#), a nonprofit organization, whose mission is to change the conversation on deaf people away from misconceptions and towards authenticity, notes that only 13.6% of businesses actively recruit to hire individuals with disabilities. With such low numbers it is vital that we help to shine a light on the disabled community and the positive impact they have in the workforce.

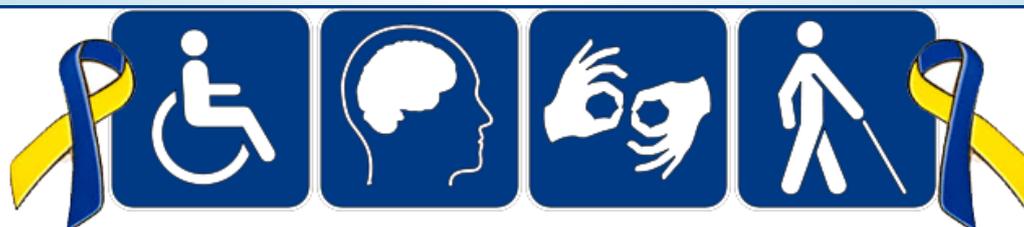
Some may see hiring an employee with a disability as a hinderance to the work flow, but Natalie discusses how her disability has helped to strengthen her other senses, giving her abilities to see what others may not. Hiring Natalie has also helped to build a positive bond between her and her co-workers at the crime lab. Technical leader, Mr. Bart Gray, states "it would never be the same without her. I don't look at her as anything

else but Natalie, I'm very proud, very proud to call her my friend and very proud she works here at DPS." Natalie expressed her gratitude to SOFT and how the annual meeting helped her find employment in a deaf friendly environment.

"Thank you, SOFT! If it wasn't for SOFT, I wouldn't have met Bart or had an opportunity to apply for AZ DPS."

We are ecstatic that Natalie not only found employment, but she found employment with a group of toxicologists that understand her, respect her and support her. Their ability to look past her disability has helped to advance her career and the field of toxicology.

We encourage you to click on the links above to see Natalie's story and how you may benefit from hiring an individual with a disability. We look forward to seeing what the future holds for Natalie.



OCTOBER IS
Disability History and Awareness Month

JAT SPECIAL ISSUE



Submitted by: Kayla N. Ellefsen, Ph.D.
Deputy Chief Toxicologist
Travis County Medical Examiner's Office
kayla.ellefsen@traviscountytx.gov

Since its beginnings, the Journal of Analytical Toxicology (JAT) has played a critical role in disseminating information within the scientific community and advancing the field of forensic toxicology as the official journal of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT). Annually, the editors and publisher of JAT invites SOFT to produce a special issue that coincides with our annual meeting. It is my honor and privilege to serve as the Guest Editor for the October 2019 SOFT Special Issue of JAT. I would like to thank the incoming

President, Dwain Fuller, for entrusting me with this opportunity and look forward to this challenging endeavor. Success of the JAT special issue will be dependent on all of you! The SOFT 2019 annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas will be here before you know it, and with that, so will the deadlines for abstract and manuscript submissions for the special issue. I encourage the membership to participate in this important process by submitting a manuscript for consideration. The work you perform in your laboratories can greatly assist others in

the field. I also invite you to serve as a reviewer for the peer-review process; volunteers are needed to perform thorough and timely reviews of each submitted manuscript. The submitted manuscripts will be carefully reviewed for originality, technical content and quality, and scientific design. All accepted manuscripts, in which the first author is a SOFT member, will be eligible for the 2019 Experimental Design and Impact on Toxicology (EDIT) Award. This prestigious annual award recognizes the lead author of the manuscript selected for its outstanding scientific content and wide impact on forensic toxicology.

Thank you in advance for your contributions towards a successful special issue! I look forward to receiving many valuable manuscripts that will strengthen the field of forensic toxicology.

DEADLINES!!!

March 1, 2019: Title and abstract submissions due to Kayla Ellefsen [HERE](#)

March 15, 2019: Completed manuscripts due at JAT. Please submit your manuscript [HERE](#) and designate the manuscript for the SOFT special issue.





Don't forget to Like us on Facebook for the latest SOFT News, Annual Meeting Updates and Networking!

February 1 for March Issue

May 1 for June Issue

August 1 for September Issue

TOXTALK® Deadlines for Contributions

Year	Location	Dates	Host(s)
2019	San Antonio, TX	October 13-18, 2019	Veronica Hargrove and Brad Hall
2020	San Diego, CA	September 21-25, 2020	Denice Teem and Dani Mata
2021	Nashville, TN	September 26 – October 1, 2021	Jennifer Colby
2022	Cleveland, OH	October 30-November 4, 2022	Doug Rohde
2023	Denver, CO	October 29- November 3, 2023	TBD

Future SOFT Meetings

Bylaws	Yale Caplan, Ph.D., F-ABFT	ConEd Workshops	Robert Johnson, Ph.D., F-ABFT
Membership	Amy Miles, B.S.	YFT	Courtney Wardwell, M.S.
ToxTalk Editor	Robert Johnson, Ph.D., F-ABFT	Drug Facilitated Crimes	Laureen Marinetti Ph.D., F-ABFT
Publications	Matt Slawson, Ph.D	Ethics	Jennifer Limoges, M.S., DABC
JAT Special Issue	Justin Poklis, B.S., D-ABFT-FT	Nominating	Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D., F-ABFT
Awards	Erin Spargo, Ph.D., F-ABFT	Exhibitor Liaison	Elizabeth Kiely, B.S.
Meeting Resource	Dwain Fuller, B.S., F-ABFT, TC-NRCC	Finance	Sumandeep Rana, Ph.D.
Designer Drugs	Dani Mata, M.S., F.S., D-ABFT-FT	Drugs & Driving	Amy Miles, B.S.
Policy & Procedures	Amy Miles, B.S.		Colleen Scarneo M.S., D-ABFT-FT
IT	Matthew Juhascik, Ph.D., F-ABFT		

2018 SOFT Committee Chairs

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For advertising opportunities please email Beth Olson at beth@soft-tox.org

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