



# TOXTALK

Publication of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists

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## Educational Research Awards to Two Students from Maryland

SOFT recently announced its 5th and 6th ERAs. Bruce Goldberger and Dan Isenschmid, graduate students in Forensic Toxicology at the University of Maryland, Department of Pathology, Division of Forensic Pathology are the awardees. Bruce who originates from New Jersey and did his undergraduate work at Drew University will be studying "An evaluation of the techniques used in the preservation and analysis of alcohol from breath specimens." Dan who hails from New York with undergraduate training at Adelphi University will work on "An improved, simplified assay for  $\Delta^9$ -THC

and its hydroxy and carboxy metabolites in postmortem specimens." Both research projects will be directed by Yale H. Caplan, PhD, Associate Professor and Director of Forensic Toxicology. These awards continue a history of success in the support and development of the field of forensic toxicology. The first ERA recipient was John Hebb, Jr., also from the University of Maryland. John was followed by Chris Long from St. Johns, Barry Levine from the Medical College of Virginia, and Paul Hale from St. Louis University. John, Chris, and Barry have since completed their PhDs.

## AAFS Toxicology Section Awards

At the 36th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences the members of the Toxicology Section had once again the opportunity and privilege to acknowledge two of their distinguished colleagues.

The 1984 Rolla N. Harger Award for Outstanding Contributions to Forensic Toxicology was presented to Mr. Robert H. Cravey. Mr. Cravey entered the field of forensic toxicology 22 years ago and has ever since unselfishly devoted his life to this field. For the past 20 years he has been the Chief Forensic Toxicologist for the County of Orange, California, always

maintaining a high degree of productivity and quality of research. He is author or co-author of about 50 scientific papers, 13 book chapters, and 3 books. Mr. Cravey has been extremely generous of his time over the years to the AAFS, having served two consecutive terms as the Chairman of the Toxicology Section, as a member of the AAFS Executive Committee, as Secretary and as Vice-President of the Academy. He has also been very active in other professional organizations. He is a charter member of SOFT and was elected to the SOFT Board of Directors in 1975. He also served as Secretary,

## AAFS Awards continued

Vice President, and President of CAT and has been a Director of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology since its establishment in 1975. Throughout the profession, Mr. Cravey is known as an individual who readily accepts tasks and accomplishes them quickly and accurately, and as a true gentleman.

The 1984 Alexander O. Gettler Award for Analytical Achievements in Forensic Toxicology was presented to Dr. Henry C. Freimuth. An early interest in the forensic exploits of Sherlock Holmes directed Dr. Freimuth to a path that led to a long and distinguished career in forensic toxicology. He was one of the original students of Dr. Gettler and after working at the FBI for five years, he was appointed the first Chief Toxicologist for the State of Maryland. This position he held for 28 years during which time he helped establish the Medical Examiner's Office in Baltimore as one of the leading educational establishments in forensic toxicology. The list of his many scientific contributions includes about fifty papers and numerous chapters in toxicology texts. Dr. Freimuth is a founding member of the AAFS and has served three terms as the Chairman of the Toxicology Section. Dr. Freimuth is one of the most respected and beloved members of the profession and many active members of the AAFS and SOFT take great pride in saying that their toxicology training was done under "Doc's" direction.

### ERA Notice

Enclosed with this issue is an announcement for the ERA.

Please post it or send it to a nearby University or College that may have interested students.

Futher information may be obtained from:

Yale Caplan, PhD  
Office of the Chief Medical  
Examiner  
111 Penn Street  
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## President's Message

Now in its fourteenth year, the Society of Forensic Toxicologists has experienced many changes and continues to improve upon its viability as a professional organization. This is apparent from the quality of the annual meetings, the Educational Research Awards granted, and the general productivity of the various committees which have performed admirably for more than a decade. The most recent achievement is the procurement of the tax exempt status which is essential for SOFT to function effectively, particularly in the area of education. The constant efforts of Dick Prouty, Kurt Dubowski, and Past-President Everett Solomons need to be recognized. Their perseverance and stamina made tax exempt status a reality. The membership of SOFT is to be complimented as well, since your prompt reply to the questionnaire was a requirement for obtaining tax exempt status.

There is always room for improvement and growth in any organization. Committees have been appointed and approved for 1984 and their efforts should be quite apparent at year's end. By-Laws revisions need to be made to achieve a better sense of organization and viability. A new position has been recommended and approved, that of Executive-Meeting Coordinator. This will accomplish the difficult task of establishing continuity of officers, documentation of policy decisions, and meeting arrangements.

Above all, it is imperative that SOFT maintain a sense of cohesiveness and unity among its membership. I continue to be impressed with the ease of picking up a telephone and obtaining assistance with almost any unusual or difficult analysis. The members have always been unselfish in this respect, and this attitude has been an invaluable, but sometimes overlooked, component of SOFT. Even through the difficult years of certification and requalification, it was obvious to me that without the unity and sincerity of the SOFT membership, professional enrichment and growth of the organization would not have occurred.

Finally, I would like to thank the members for selecting me as your President. I consider this an honor and a privilege and will work diligently to meet your expectations. I have a talented Executive Committee and Board of Directors with which to work, and I sincerely look forward to an exciting and productive year.

—Joseph Montforte, PhD

## JAT Special Issue

The Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) has received confirmation from the Journal of Analytical Toxicology that another "Special Issue", dedicated to Forensic Toxicology, will be published in September-October 1984.

The Special Issue Editorial Committee is composed of:

Michael A. Peat, PhD — Editor  
Yale Caplan, PhD — Co-Editor  
Dennis Crouch, BS — Co-Editor

To meet the September-October publication date, the following schedule of deadlines must be FIRMLY adhered to:

- April 1-30 . . . Receipt of titles and abstracts
- April 30 . . . . Manuscripts due
- June 1 . . . . . Manuscripts requiring scientific revision returned to authors
- July 1 . . . . . All final forms of manuscripts forwarded to JAT
- August 1 . . . . Galley proofs forwarded to authors
- September 1 . . . Galley proofs are back to JAT
- October 1 . . . . Publication

Titles, abstracts, and manuscripts (original plus four copies) should be forwarded to:

Michael Peat, PhD  
Associate Director  
Center for Human Toxicology  
University of Utah  
38 Skaggs Hall  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112  
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### 1984 SOFT-SAT MEETING

Joint Meeting of SOFT with  
Southwestern Association of  
Toxicologists

October 9-13, 1984

Breckenridge Inn  
St. Louis, MO

Host:  
Dr. Alphonse Poklis

Workshops  
Scientific Papers  
Special Symposium

# Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

## October 13, 1983

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Dr. Everett Solomons, President of SOFT, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:20 A.M. on Thursday, October 13, 1983. Copies of the agenda and copies of biographical data on the nominees for the various offices were distributed to those in attendance. President Solomons asked those present to review the qualifications of the nominees prior to the voting and urged participation in the form of questions or suggestions from all present. He then discussed the purpose and benefits of the society, the growth in number (from approximately 50 to 250 since it was officially organized eight years ago) and the growth in complexity and programs.

### TRIBUTE TO

#### DR. ROLLA N. HARGER

Dr. Naresh Jain read a tribute he prepared to Dr. Harger who passed away on August 8, 1983, at the age of 93. The Society sent a check to the Indiana University Foundation in memory of Dr. Harger. We have received a note of thanks from Dr. Harger's daughter, Barbara.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the annual meeting held in Rosslyn, Virginia, were approved as published (motion made by Dr. Bidanset and seconded by Dr. Stajic.)

### SUMMARY OF

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Mr. Eberhardt very briefly touched on the high points of the Board of Directors meeting held last night (October 12th) and left the bulk of the material to be reported by the committee chairmen. However, in Dr. Dubowski's absence, Mr. Eberhardt did state that the Board had directed the By-Laws Committee to look into the following:

- A. The advisability of retaining the requirement that the membership be notified of the Nominating Committee's recommendations in writing and 30 days before the Annual Meeting. This is in contrast to the provision that nominations can be made from the floor with no previous notice. The Nominating Committee feels that the requirements for each source of candidates should be the same.
- B. A mechanism needs to be developed for the replacement of members of Board of Directors who have been elected to offices of the Society before their terms on the Board have expired.
- C. The possibility of having the Society Secretary as one of the members of the Membership Committee. This would expedite the processing of membership applications.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. McGee asked for questions or comments about the Treasurer's Report which had been published in the Newsletter. There being none, President Solomons asked for a motion for acceptance. The motion was made by Dr.

Balkon and seconded by Dr. Bidanset. The motion was carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Budget/Audit

Dr. Valentour stated that he and Dr. Stajic had examined the Treasurer's records and determined that all income and expenditures were verified to their satisfaction. To forestall the need to increase dues in the near future, the committee made the following recommendations:

1. The use of conference calls to replace face-to-face meeting be continued where possible to contain operating costs.
2. Guidelines should be prepared for the Treasurer regarding the reimbursement of expenses. They should include: those expenses which are reimbursable as well as examples of those for which reimbursement will not be made; reasonable costs for meals; type and class of transportation allowed; telephone expenses; etc.
3. The books should be audited on a regular basis and at least every time there is a change of Treasurer. The audit should take place at a time when the auditors are in the same city, i.e., before, during, or after a SOFT or AAFS meeting.

Dr. Jain stated, in essence, that he would like to know what criteria were used to decide which meetings merit official representation on the part of SOFT, and how that representative is selected. Dr. Jain said he read in the Newsletter that we had been represented at the Pan Am meeting (in California) but that he had no advance notice, or opportunity, to make application for funds to attend as SOFT's representative. He said there were meetings scheduled in Singapore and Oxford, England, that he would be pleased to attend as SOFT's representative. He said he would like to make an open application for funds for the meetings. Dr. Jain felt that the arrangements for the Pan Am meeting had been somewhat secretive.

Dr. Solomons said he would attempt to answer Dr. Jain's questions. He said that the Society only rarely approves expenses for someone to represent us at a meeting. When it has happened, it has been the result of a majority vote of the Board who felt that representation was desirable. Dr. Solomons said this was expensive and very likely in the future other means would be used in such situations. He hoped that the Budget Committee would cover this in their guidelines/recommendations.

Dr. Jain asked what we learned, or how had we benefited, from representation at the Pan Am meeting. Since no report of the meeting appeared in the Newsletter, Dr. Solomons called upon Dr. Balkon (who was our representative) to respond to Dr. Jain's questions.

Dr. Balkon elaborated on why the officers felt that representation at the Pan Am meeting was desirable. This meeting had representation by CAT, AAFS Toxicology Section, ABFT, and one other organization. It was believed that SOFT should also have a "visibility factor."

The Board approved the concept and support equal to the amount of the airfare. As a result of attendance at this meeting, Dr. Balkon said that the Society learned that we integrated well with the other associations.

Dr. Solomons added that it is often difficult to predict the benefits which can be derived. He stated that more might have been learned if attendance at the meeting had been greater.

Dr. Jain stated that in view of the fiscal restraints recommended by the Budget Committee, he thought the financial aid provided by SOFT for attendance at the Pan Am meeting was an extravagance, particularly since other Society members were present.

At this point Dr. Monforte stated that Dr. Jain raised a very important point. It is the responsibility of the officers and the Board to make certain that only necessary and prudent expenses are incurred by the Society. He said that he, as well as every other member of the Board, must take responsibility for approving this trip. If fault is found with this decision, we must all share the blame. Dr. Monforte further stated that the Budget Committee will be setting down guidelines to cover this type of situation. He further stated that he will ask for certain requirements such as: a written request; written justification; request for a specific sum of money; and that a written report be made available to the Society which will at least summarize the events of the trip. Dr. Monforte said he agreed with Dr. Jain, in principle, that formal rules are needed to govern this type of activity.

Dr. Balkon stated that he had reported on the trip to the Board. Dr. Monforte believed that such reports should be submitted in writing.

Dr. Bath asked if the Budget Committee will be seeking a professional audit at certain specified intervals (i.e., every 5 or 6 years). Mr. Prouty answered that he intended to find out specifically what the government requires in the way of bookkeeping for a tax-exempt organization.

#### Education Research Award

Dr. Caplan stated the Committee has been operating for several years and has made four awards. Three of the recipients have since completed their doctorate degrees and are actively pursuing careers in toxicology. The fourth recipient presented the results of his work at the technical sessions of this meeting. The program has been both successful and rewarding. While there are presently no new applicants, Dr. Caplan is aware of two probable applicants who will be contacting him before the end of the year. He urged any member who was aware of a qualified applicant to contact him without delay. He also said the Society will be seeking to promote greater awareness of the award by announcing it in selected journals. We now have \$1500 available for distribution which will cover three \$500 awards. Some discussion followed regarding the announcements. Dr. Caplan said we would not be placing paid ads, but would put the notice in those journals having a news section.

Dr. McCurdy asked if previous award recipients could apply for another award. Dr. Caplan stated that there was no clause prohibiting it, but that no one has ever applied a second time. The student would have to be at a point where some further research is required. Most often, by the time the award is received, the student is near completion of his research, or has developed other funds.

#### Membership

Dr. Alstott, chairman of this committee, stated that the other members of her committee were Messrs. Lewis and Eberhardt, and that Dr. McCurdy had assisted during the time Dr. Alstott was relocating in Wyoming. Dr. Alstott reported that so far in 1984 we approved 12 full, 7 associate, and 2 student members. Dr. Alstott announced the names of the new members, and had those that were present stand to receive applause from the membership. She also stated that we had an associate member request reclassification to student status. This was done, but Dr. Alstott reminded those present that the individual will have to reapply to the committee to again change status.

#### Evaluated Methods

The chairman of this committee, Dr. Bednarczyk, was not able to be present. Dr. Solomons said that although the committee did not achieve as much as it had hoped, it remains an important committee and work will continue. Mr. Donnelly, who is a member of this committee, stated that the committee needed feedback from the membership regarding the need/desire for evaluated methods. He suggested a mail questionnaire.

Dr. Bath emphasized the importance and desirability of this committee's goals. He said there is a flurry of activity among clinical chemists in the area of selected/evaluated methods. He urged SOFT to go ahead with this committee.

Dr. Solomons agreed and pointed out that at previous meetings both the general membership and the Board of Directors had voted to initiate and continue this work.

#### Newsletter Editors

Dr. Caplan, who with Dr. Stajic co-edits the Newsletter, reported that three issues have already been mailed out, and a fourth is in preparation. It is planned that the Newsletter will be generated quarterly, with issues mailed out in March, June, September, and December. Dr. Caplan solicited any news from members such as: case reports; information about your laboratory; anecdotal information about events involving members; or anything which may be of interest to the membership. The information is needed five to six weeks preceding the issue in which it is to appear. Dr. Caplan said the editors are remaining within budget.

#### Endowments and Grants

Dr. Poklis, chairman of the committee, was not available to report. Dr. Solomons restated what Dr. Poklis had said at the Board meeting. This was "that by the time we had established an agreement with the Forensic Sciences Foundation to receive contributions solicited for the ERA fund, SOFT appeared to be on the threshold of achieving tax-exempt status. It appears then that the simplest and best approach is to hold up on all solicitations until SOFT has reached that status. This committee will resume their efforts at that time."

#### JAT Special Issue

Dr. Balkon said the issue was available and speaks for itself. He thanked all those who contributed articles, Drs. Caplan and Valen-tour who helped evaluate papers, and the Managing Editor of Preston Publications, Therese Pedraza. Miss Pedraza will be leaving Preston with the publication of this most recent issue of JAT. The new Managing Editor is Linda Factor. The next special issue is already in planning. The required deadlines will be announced in the January/February 1984 issue of JAT.

Dr. Balkon explained the review and evaluation process for contributed articles and stressed that the publisher actually has the final say on what will, or will not, appear in the journal.

#### Meeting Site Selection

##### Meeting Guidelines

Chairman, Dr. Stajic, reported that the 1984 meeting will be in St. Louis, 1985 in Montreal, Canada, jointly with CSFS, 1986 in Reno, and 1988 in Philadelphia.

Dr. Stajic and her committee members (Drs. Poklis and Monforte and Dick Prouty) have prepared guidelines intended to be of help to future program chairmen. These have to do with timetables and details not particularly of interest to the general membership.

This committee has also recommended to the Board that an Executive Secretary be hired by the Society. This would be a permanent part-time position involved primarily with handling nontechnical aspects of the annual meeting.

#### Survey

Dr. McCurdy, who chairs this committee, asked subcommittee chairman, Norm Wade, to report on the Equipment and Manpower Survey which was recently completed. Mr. Wade briefly summarized the results.

It should be remembered that the terms "case" and "toxicologist" were not defined and could vary considerably depending upon which questionnaire respondent was contacted. Subsequent surveys will tighten up these definitions and details.

Considerable discussion followed concerning the difference between clinical and forensic toxicology. However, one could not escape the need for some means of documenting productivity in a forensic toxicology laboratory and being able to compare that productivity with laboratories having reasonably similar work loads.

#### Tax-Exempt Status

Dick Prouty chaired this committee and reported that all necessary papers are in the hands of the IRS. We should hear from them by year's end. (Secretary's note: Tax exempt status was awarded to SOFT on 12-16-83.)

Mr. Prouty thanked all members for their rapid response to the mail ballot.

#### Nominating

Dr. Balkon, chairman of this committee, read the names of the nominees and gave a very brief description of the service each has rendered to the Society. The slate had been mailed to all voting members prior to the meeting. Dr. Balkon clarified the mail-out to explain that two members were nominated to full terms on the Board to replace members whose terms had expired. An additional two nominations were made for the Board to complete the unexpired terms of members who have been nominated for offices in the Society (assuming that such nominees were indeed elected.)

#### ELECTIONS

The nominees for 1984 were:

President - Joseph Monforte, PhD  
Vice President - Richard Prouty, PhD  
Secretary - H. Horton McCurdy, PhD  
(2 year term)

#### Board of Directors

Kurt Dubowski, PhD - full 3 year term  
Michael Schaffer, PhD - full 3 year term  
Alphonse Poklis, PhD - 1 year term  
Norman Wade, MS - 2 year term

A motion was made and seconded to accept the recommendations of the Nominating Committee by acclamation. The President asked for a show of hands, and the motion was carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS

The new officers and Board members were congratulated and applauded for their election. Similar appreciation was shown to Dr. Monforte for an excellent meeting and to Mr. Eberhardt, the outgoing secretary.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 A.M.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Eberhardt, DABFT

## Meeting Highlights

### Officers and Board of Directors Meeting October 12, 1983 Detroit, Michigan

- A contribution to the Indiana University Foundation in the name of Dr. Rolla N. Harger was approved.

- The net proceeds from the 1982 annual meeting were approved to be placed in the ERA fund.

- Extra copies of the JAT/SOFT special issue are available from Dr. Monforte.

- No site was approved for the 1987 meeting, however, the 1988 meeting was approved for Philadelphia.

- Tom Rejent was appointed as SOFT official liaison with CSFS for the 1985 joint meeting.

- The results of the mail ballot for the restated By-Laws were impressive. 80% of the full members returned their ballots and 100% of voting members were in favor.

- Additional changes to the By-Laws with regard to the development of new procedures for the election of officers were directed for examination by the By-Laws Committee. In addition, study of the problem created by the vacancy of board members being elected to office will also be considered.

