



TOXTALK

Publication of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists

JUNE/SEPTEMBER 1985

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Combined SOFT/CSFS Meeting Montreal—September 24-27, 1985

by Harold W. Peel, PhD

Arrangements for the one day workshop on Tuesday, September 24th, are going well. The morning session on immunochemical procedures will consist of presentations by scientific representatives from

Syva Corporation (EMIT)
and

Roche Diagnostics (RIA)

followed by a panel discussion by
Bhushan Kapur
Addiction Research Foundations
Toronto, Canada

Larry Slightom
Georgia State Crime Lab
Moultrie, Georgia

Vina Spiehler
Orange County Coroner's Office
Santa Ana, California

This topic has not been reviewed in our meeting for some time and will be an excellent opportunity to learn about recent immunoassay products and the various innovations applicable to the toxicology laboratory.

The afternoon session revives the round table symposium to promote guided discussion in an open forum with your colleagues in topics of your choice. The eleven topics to choose from are:

- (1) Microcomputers in the Laboratory
- (2) Interpretation: What Can the Toxicologist Say?

- (3) Modern Approaches to General Toxicology Sciences
- (4) Stability of Drugs and Postmortem Release
- (5) Approaches to Cannabinoid Analysis
- (6) Innovations Using Capillary Gas Chromatography
- (7) Quality Assurance Practices in the Toxicology Laboratory
- (8) Training Toxicologists
- (9) Toxicological Analysis in Fire Victims
- (10) Drugs & Driving—Current Activity and Future Role
- (11) Problems Associated with the Handling and Conservation of Breath and Blood Samples for Alcohol Determinations

This symposium has previously been one of the most rewarding sessions of a meeting. It is a unique opportunity for American and Canadian toxicologists to discuss and learn about solutions to their problems. Be sure and send in the list of preferred topics in which you wish to participate. If you have any questions on this workshop please call

Harold Peel, PhD

Central Forensic Laboratory
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Post Office Box 8885
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3M8
(613) 998-6025

SOFT/CSFS Meeting continued

Carole Pelet, Toxicology Chairman for the CSFS advises that 35 papers have been received with more being expected. Aside from many reports involving fatalities from specialized compounds, there are many papers on cannabis analysis and interpretation. Some other topics include recent studies in ethanol absorption; new methods of drug analysis; recent patterns of drug use; site dependency for postmortem determination of drug levels; and some fundamental principles of pharmacokinetics on thioridazine. So far the content of the papers is consistent with the usual quality when SOFT and CSFS toxicologists meet jointly.

The organizing committee in Montreal has put together a unique program of scientific, cultural, and social events. Come and enjoy one of North America's oldest and most fascinating cities.

Bienvenue.

1986 Nominations

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate of officers:

Rosemary L. Kincaid for President

H. Horton McCurdy for Vice President

C. Nicholas Hodnett for Secretary

Robert O. Bost for Board of Directors

Mark B. Lewis for Board of Directors



Notes from SOFT

Board of Directors Meeting

February 12, 1985

Las Vegas, Nevada

— The Board approved the cooperation of SOFT in the implementation of a comprehensive national program for the reporting of drug deaths. The program is to be a joint project of NIDA and CDC and the assistance of forensic toxicologists and medical examiners is solicited.

— The 1986 SOFT Meeting will be in Reno, Nevada.

— Kurt Dubowski was the Board of Directors member elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

Special Notice

Please note that this is a special combined issue of *ToxTalk*. It was necessitated due to a technical problem with the printer and the need to produce an issue prior to the Annual Meeting which is scheduled a month earlier this year. The next issue will be in December 1985.

Members are invited to submit case notes, laboratory statistics and experiences, research items and other toxicology facts and fancies to the Editors. Deadline for the December issue will be *October 15, 1985*, but don't wait until then.



Other Meetings

October 17-18, 1985

Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic
Scientists
Dover, Delaware

Carol Wilkinson

Delaware State Police Laboratory
Box 430
Dover, DE 19903

November 8-9, 1985

Southwestern Association of
Toxicologists
Houston, Texas

Larry Hobbs

Harris County Medical Examiner's Office
Fort Worth, TX

November 8-9, 1985

California Association of Toxicologists
Curry Village, Yosemite, CA

Ray Cole

San Diego Sheriff's Office
(619) 299-8580

July 1987

The International Association of Forensic
Toxicologists
Banff, Alberta, Canada

Graham Jones, PhD

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6H 5R8

August 2-7, 1987

International Association of Forensic
Sciences 11th Meeting
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

IAFS

Suite 801

750 Jervis Street
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6E 2A9

Election Candidates

PRESIDENT

ROSEMARY L. KINCAID

Education

BS from Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, in 1961
MS from Indiana University, IUMC Campus, Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1967
PhD from Indiana University, IUMC Campus, Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1971

Professional Experience

1959-1961 - Medical Technologist at Cabell-Huntington Hospital, Huntington, West Virginia
1961-1965 - Medical Technologist at Indiana University Medical Center, Clinical Laboratory, Indianapolis, Indiana
1967-1968 - Teacher of Chemistry and Physics, Gwyn Park Senior High School, Brandywine, Maryland
1973-1975 - Chief Toxicologist at Physician's Clinical Laboratory, Lafayette, Indiana
1975-1983 - Chief Toxicologist at the Medical Laboratory of Drs. Thornton, Haymond, Costin, Buehl, Bolinger, Warner, McGovern, and Hooker of Indianapolis, Indiana
1983-1985 - Chief Toxicologist, Department of Health and Social Services, State of Wyoming

Certifications

Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology
Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicological Chemistry

Professional Societies

American Academy of Forensic Sciences - Fellow
American Association of Clinical Chemists, Member, DABTC
American Society of Clinical Pathologists, Associate Member
Society of the Sigma Xi, Research Honorary, Member
Iota Sigma Pi, Honorary Chemistry Society for Women, Cobalt Chapter, Lifetime Member

SOFT Activities

1980-1982 - Member, Board of Directors
1981-1982 - Member, Planning Committee
1981-1982 - Member, Membership Committee
1982-1983 - Member, Newsletter Committee
1981-1984 - Chairman, Membership Committee
1984 - Chairman, Evaluated Methods Committee
1985 - Vice President

VICE PRESIDENT

H. HORTON McCURDY

Present Position

Research Toxicologist, Division of Forensic Sciences, Decatur, Georgia

Education

BA from Berry College, Mt. Berry, Georgia, in 1967
PhD from University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi, in 1972

Professional Experience

1972-1973 - Forensic Toxicologist, Division of Forensic Sciences, Decatur, Georgia
1972-present - Instructor in Forensic Toxicology and Pharmacology of Drugs and Alcohol, Georgia Police Academy
1973-1975 - Senior Forensic Toxicologist, Division of Forensic Sciences, Decatur, Georgia
1979-1980 - Instructor, Department of Chemistry, Georgia State University
1979-present - Instructor, School of Law, Continuing Education Center, University of Georgia
1980-present - Instructor, Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Georgia
1982-present - Director and Consultant, Alcohol and Drug Laboratory, Georgia Mental Health Institute, Atlanta, Georgia

Certifications

Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology

Professional Societies

Southern Association of Forensic Scientists
Society of Forensic Toxicologists
The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists

SOFT Activities

1980-1985 - Member, Membership Committee
1980 - Chairman, Membership Committee
1983 - Member, Board of Directors
1984-1985 - Secretary

SECRETARY

C. NICHOLAS HODNETT

Present Position

Director of Toxicological and Forensic Science Services, Westchester County Department of Laboratories and Research, Valhalla, New York

Education

BS from Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio, in 1964
MS from Cleveland University, Cleveland, Ohio, in 1970
PhD from University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, in 1974

Professional Experience

1963-1964 - Laboratory Assistant, Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio
1964-1969 - Assistant Chemist, Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office, Cleveland, Ohio
1969 - Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont
1970-1973 - Predoctoral Trainee, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont
1973 - Toxicologist, Project CRASH, State of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont
1973-1974 - Toxicologist, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont
1974-1978 - Toxicologist, Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1975-1976 - Instructor, Chemistry, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1975-1978 - Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1978-present - Clinical Assistant Professor of Pathology, New York Medical College, Valhalla, New York
1979-1981 - Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, Arnold and Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Long Island University, Brooklyn, New York
1983-present - Adjunct Associate Professor of Natural Sciences, State University of New York at Purchase, Purchase, New York

Certifications

Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology

Professional Societies

American Academy of Forensic Sciences - Fellow
American Association for the Advancement of Science
Society of the Sigma Xi
The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists
Society of Forensic Toxicologists
New York Academy of Sciences

SOFT Activities

1980-1982 - Member, Board of Directors
1981-1983 - Member, Committee on Educational Funding
1983 - Chairman, Committee on Educational Funding
1983 - Member, Committee on Laboratory Surveys
1984 - Member, Committee on Report Interpretation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROBERT O. BOST

Present Position

Chief Toxicologist, Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences, Dallas, Texas

Certifications

Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology

Professional Societies

American Chemical Society
Society of Forensic Toxicologists
American Academy of Forensic Sciences
The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists

SOFT Activities

1985 - Chairman, Evaluated Methods Committee

MARK B. LEWIS

Present Position

Forensic Scientist IV, New York State Police Crime Laboratories, Albany, New York

Candidates continued

Certifications

Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology

Professional Societies

American Academy of Forensic Sciences
Society of Forensic Toxicologists
Canadian Society of Forensic Sciences
Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists

SOFT Activities

1980 - Chairman, Membership Committee
1981 - Member, Membership Drive Committee
1982-1984 - Member, Membership Committee

ABFT

Three new Diplomates have been certified by the ABFT during 1985. They are:

Vina R. Spiehler, PhD
No. 158

February 12, 1985

Emelina G. Saker, DSc
No. 159

June 1, 1985

Robert G. Havier, PhD
No. 160

June 1, 1985

Congratulations!

The ABFT announces new officers for July 1, 1985, to June 30, 1986:

President Robert H. Cravey
Vice-President. . . Randall C. Baselt, PhD
Secretary-Treasurer . Yale H. Caplan, PhD

George Cimbura was newly elected as a Director and Kurt M. Dubowski and Richard F. Shaw were relected as Directors. Additional Directors continuing to serve on the Board include Joseph Balkon, James C. Garriott, Thomas A. Rejent, Irving Sunshine, and Jack E. Wallace.

Requalification is now an ongoing function. Diplomates are reminded to file their applications at least two months prior to the expiration date to insure continuous certification and notification prior to expiration. For further information contact the Secretary,

Yale H. Caplan
111 Penn Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
(301) 396-3844

New applicants may obtain complete application packages by writing

ABFT

c/o Forensic Sciences Foundation
225 South Academy Boulevard
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

Job Opportunities

CHIEF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGIST

The Los Angeles County Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner's Department is seeking to hire a Chief Forensic Toxicologist to manage all aspects of its large post-mortem Forensic Toxicology Laboratory. The Laboratory has been extensively modernized over the past three years and will continue upgrading major instrumentation.

Minimum Requirements: Applicants must possess a Bachelor's degree in chemistry, biochemistry, or a closely related scientific field and one year's experience as a Supervising Forensic Toxicologist or three year's experience as a Senior Forensic Toxicologist in a recognized postmortem forensic toxicology laboratory.

The salary range is \$3249 to \$4026. Placement can be on any salary step dependent upon qualifications.

Qualified applicants may submit their resume and official or unofficial copies of all college transcripts or direct inquires to:

Gary L. Siglar, Chief
Forensic Science Laboratories
Division
Department of Chief Medical
Examiner-Coroner
County of Los Angeles
1104 North Mission Road
Los Angeles, CA 90033

FORENSIC TOXICOLOGIST

The Territory of Guam is looking for a fully qualified forensic toxicologist.

The candidate must be a MS or PhD degree holder in the chosen field with a minimum of five years practical experience in dealing with medical examiner cases. A chemist with a BS degree alone may be accepted provided that he or she is fully qualified in forensic toxicology. We need an expert who should be able to set up the facility and run it without supervision.

The prospective employee shall be hired through a contract with the Government of Guam under the Chief Medical Examiner's Office and the salary range is from \$35,000 to \$48,000 per annum with a comprehensive fringe benefit

package.

Interested parties should write to:
Hee-Young Park, MD
Territory of Guam
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Post Office Box 7147
Tamuning, Guam 96911



New Members

SOFT welcomes our following colleagues as Full Members:

Patricia A. F. Prinitis
Corinda F. Yep
Reng-Lang Lin
Raymond J. Matejczyk
Paula Childs

Correction

In the September 1984 issue of *ToxTalk* (Volume 8, No. 3) there was an article on page four entitled "Toxicology Alert: Heroin Substitutes." Some of the data contained in that article was quoted incorrectly. It should have read as follows:

"Nine cases reported by San Diego County reveal blood concentrations of codeine averaging 1.09mg/L (range 0.13 - 2.8), and glutethimide averaging 12.5 mg/L (range 4.5 - 26.4)."

We regret any confusion the wrong information may have caused.



"An apple a day keeps OSHA away."