



# TOX TALK

Publication of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists

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## 1987 SOFT LEADERSHIP

At the 1986 SOFT annual business meeting, the following members were elected to fill available offices for 1987:

### President

H. Horton McCurdy, Ph.D.

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The following terms do not expire until the date indicated.

### Secretary

C. Nicholas Hodnett, Ph.D. (1987)

### Board of Directors

Alphonse Poklis, Ph.D. (1987)

Robert O. Bost, Ph.D. (1988)

Mark B. Lewis, B.S. (1988)

## A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

*H. Horton McCurdy, Ph.D.*

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve as your President this coming year. I can only promise you hard work on my part to promote and further the purposes and goals of SOFT. Working together, I am sure that we can achieve the anticipated goals of SOFT this year.

Some of the expected achievements for the various standing committees are in the process of being finalized. An entirely new ad hoc committee is being formed to ascertain the state, kind, and quantity of Quality Assurance Programs in forensic toxicology laboratories. The committee will give a summary report of its findings at the next annual meeting in Miami.

Another new committee, also in the formative stages, is one that will hopefully recognize an outstanding young forensic toxicologist each year for his or her contribution to the Society or to the field of Forensic Toxicology or both. Mechanisms already exist for recognizing "lifetime" achievements in Forensic Toxicology but none currently exist to

honor that promising young scientist in the earlier part of his career. I should think that such an award could prove quite valuable to him or her in latter stages of their careers. I am quite excited about this committee and I openly solicit your thoughts and comments.

I also would like to see the Society have a permanent address so that membership information or any other information can be more easily obtained. A permanent telephone number would also be a desirable asset but this may affect an unreasonable burden on our Executive Coordinator, Pat Mohn-Monforte (to whom, by the way, we owe much for her faithful and unflinching service over the past few years).

In closing, I would like to say I look forward to a long and fruitful year as your President. Your ideas and thoughts are always welcome. We, the officers and directors of SOFT, are here to serve you, the membership. Please let us know how we may help.

# 1986 SOFT/CAT MEETING OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

## NORMAN WADE, 1986 MEETING HOST

Comments from members of SOFT and CAT and non-members have been received voluminously praising the Reno/Lake Tahoe meeting as one of the best, if not the best, toxicology meetings they had ever attended. Scientific papers presented, plenary sessions held, and round table discussions debated were of the highest quality — for this reason we must thank those speakers and discussion leaders for their preparation and enthusiasm. Surely without their efforts the meeting could not have been successful.

From the discussion on urine drug testing to the intricacies of triple quad GC/MS many topics were covered. Who can forget Judge Frankel's comment on the anatomy of lawyers or Dr. Jennings' on his enthusiastic presentation on

capillary chromatography. The excellent and timely presentations on cocaine were well received and presented at a time when this area of interest is at its peak.

The poster session was well received as was the SOFT Environmental Committee's report. Even though Jerry Nelson's slides of exploded clandestine labs didn't surprise us, the sophistication as well as lack of sophistication in these laboratories was very informative and sometimes even amusing.

Designer drugs were of great interest to many of the attendees, and those presenters in particular did an excellent job.

Even though most of us lost at the gambling tables or slot machines. I think we can all agree we got a lot of bang for our buck!

## CORPORATE SUPPORT FOR 1986 MEETING

Without the financial support of exhibitors, it would be impossible to offer low registration fees at the annual meetings. The following companies participated in the 1986 meeting as exhibitors and/or provided refreshments for coffee breaks. We appreciate their support and hope to see them all at the 1987 meeting in Key Biscayne, Florida.

Abbott  
Diagnostic Products Corp.  
E M Science  
Finnigan Mat  
JAT (Preston Publications)  
Los Gatos Circuits, Inc.  
Hewlett-Packard Company  
J & W Scientific  
Janssen  
Marion Scientific  
MSD Isotopes  
Perkin-Elmer  
Roche  
Radian Corporation  
Shimadzu Scientific Instruments  
Supelco  
Syva  
VG Instruments

## CONGRATULATIONS, NORMAN — WELL DONE!

There is no real personal gain involved in serving as a meeting host — it is actually a demanding and, at times, nearly overwhelming task. There is, however, a great deal of personal satisfaction and professional pride when the effort results in an opportunity for your colleagues to share knowledge and expertise and further your scientific field. Norman Wade certainly deserves to feel a great deal of personal satisfaction in a job well done. We agree with Norm that it takes the assistance and cooperation from a lot of people to prepare a SOFT meeting, and

to those who played their roles so well, thank you. Yet it is the meeting host who is ultimately responsible for the major decisions as well as the most minute detail involved in the preparation and presentation of a rewarding meeting. On behalf of those who attended the 1986 meeting, we salute Norman Wade for a job well done. His efforts are reflected in the data below.

Total meeting attendance . . . . . 278  
SOFT and/or CAT members . . . . 158  
Non-members . . . . . 120

## PRESIDENT KINCAID AWARDS RECOGNITION CERTIFICATES

At the recent SOFT/CAT meeting in Reno, President Rosemary Kincaid recognized persons who made a significant contribution to SOFT by awarding them certificates of appreciation during the banquet program. Honored were Drs. Kurt Dubowski and Michael Schaffer for serving on the board of directors from 1984-1986, Michael McGee for his

service as SOFT treasurer for the past six years, Norman Wade for his outstanding efforts as 1986 meeting host, Dr. Michael Peat for assisting with the meeting preparations, and S. C. Helsley of the California Department of Justice for the support and cooperation he and the C.D.O.J. provided toward the success of the Reno meeting.

## ABSTRACTS OF RENO PRESENTATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

If you would like a copy of the abstracts of papers presented at the Reno meeting, contact:

Norman A. Wade, M.S.  
California Department of Justice  
Bureau of Forensic Services  
P.O. Box 13337  
Sacramento, CA 95813  
(916) 739-5128

Mr. Wade has offered to forward a printed copy as appeared in the meeting program. This service is available to SOFT and CAT members only.

## PHOTO COLLAGE

Special thanks to Dr. Richard Pinder of the Connecticut Medical Examiner's Office for submitting the photos on the next page. Dick took all the photographs during the business meeting in Reno. ToxTalk can identify 29 faces in the photo-collage. How many can you name? Our list will appear in the next ToxTalk.

# SOFT ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 1986



# DRUGS OF ABUSE DATA

Richard S. Frank, Chief, Forensic Sciences Section, Drug Enforcement Administration, Washington, D.C. 20537

Two systems for collecting data on drugs of abuse utilized by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) were described to attendees at the combined meeting of the California Association of Toxicologists and Society of Forensic Toxicologists held during October 1986, in Reno, Nevada. The presentation described each of the systems, identified strengths and weaknesses of each system, presented six year data, and provided some analysis of the data.

One system, the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), is an ongoing abuse data collection system sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The major objectives of the system are:

- to identify substances associated with drug abuse episodes that are reported by DAWN affiliated facilities;
- to monitor drug abuse pattern and trends and to detect new abuse entities and new combinations;

- to assess health hazards associated with drug abuse; and
- to provide data for national, state and local drug abuse policy and program planning.

The data provided for the top 20 controlled substances based on national estimate of DAWN Emergency Room Mentions is shown in Table 1.

The second system, the system to Retrieve Information from Drug Evidence (STRIDE), is an ongoing system which collects data on drug evidence examined by DEA laboratories. The objectives of the system are:

- to monitor the amount of each drug that is removed from illicit distribution channels;
- monitor availability of controlled substances;
- maintain information on the location

of each exhibit of evidence from the time it enters a DEA laboratory until it is no longer required as evidence and may be disposed of;

- develop intelligence on the seizures of tablets and capsules having common origin;
- maintain information on the use of manpower resources within the DEA laboratories.

The STRIDE data provided for the same top 20 controlled substances that were identified in Table 1 are shown in Table 2.

This brief synopsis, along with the data, is presented here due to expressed interest in the data following the presentation in Reno. The entire paper is being submitted to the Journal of Analytical Toxicology for publication.

TABLE 1 — Top 20 Controlled Substances Based On National Estimates Of DAWN Emergency Room Mentions

DRUG	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
+ Heroin	1 (26,586)	3 (23,308)	2 (21,834)	2 (20,014)	2 (15,225)	4 (12,802)
° Cocaine	2 (26,263)	2 (23,522)	3 (14,544)	5 (11,592)	8 (8,606)	11 (7,450)
x Diazepam	3 (25,921)	1 (28,315)	1 (32,569)	1 (36,099)	1 (40,411)	1 (44,053)
+ Marijuana	4 (11,413)	5 (11,288)	7 (10,117)	7 (10,543)	7 (8,938)	8 (8,320)
x Codeine Comb	5 (10,904)	6 (10,243)	5 (11,003)	6 (11,056)	5 (10,948)	7 (9,138)
x Alprazolam	6 (10,414)	8 (7,542)	16 (4,248)	— (----)	— (----)	— (----)
° Dex/Amp/Meth Prep	7 (9,476)	4 (11,380)	4 (11,674)	3 (12,065)	3 (14,141)	5 (11,641)
+ PCP and PCP Comb	8 (8,932)	7 (10,157)	8 (9,803)	10 (7,575)	13 (5,731)	12 (7,219)
x D-Propoxyphene	9 (7,505)	10 (7,404)	9 (7,211)	8 (8,030)	9 (8,434)	6 (9,560)
x Flurazepam	10 (5,634)	9 (7,540)	6 (10,210)	4 (11,859)	4 (12,767)	2 (13,059)
x Lorazepam	11 (5,371)	13 (5,441)	13 (5,453)	14 (5,073)	14 (4,930)	20 (3,435)
x Chlordiazepoxide	12 (5,190)	12 (6,155)	11 (6,559)	11 (7,294)	11 (7,577)	9 (7,626)
x Phenobarbital	13 (5,189)	11 (6,341)	10 (7,122)	12 (7,039)	10 (7,619)	10 (7,502)
x Oxycodone	14 (4,705)	14 (5,124)	14 (4,904)	15 (4,755)	16 (4,504)	14 (4,254)
x Clorazepate	25 (4,570)	15 (4,982)	12 (5,604)	13 (5,415)	12 (5,798)	— (----)
x Butalbital Comb	16 (3,745)	16 (3,691)	17 (4,066)	17 (4,322)	17 (4,451)	13 (4,308)
x Methadone	17 (3,035)	17 (3,138)	18 (3,890)	2 (3,709)	19 (3,736)	19 (3,557)
x Temazepam	18 (2,845)	— (----)	— (----)	— (----)	— (----)	— (----)
+ LSD	19 (2,810)	20 (2,813)	20 (2,823)	18 (4,274)	18 (3,851)	18 (3,573)
x Codeine	20 (2,328)	18 (3,009)	— (----)	— (----)	— (----)	— (----)
x Methaqualone	— (----)	19 (2,896)	15 (4,837)	9 (7,752)	6 (10,815)	3 (12,846)
x Pentazocine	— (----)	— (----)	19 (3,313)	16 (4,629)	15 (4,905)	15 (3,857)
x Ethchlorvynol	— (----)	— (----)	— (----)	19 (3,796)	20 (3,714)	16 (3,781)
x Secobarb/Amobarb	— (----)	— (----)	— (----)	— (----)	— (----)	17 (3,615)
Total Mentions	182,836	184,289	181,784	186,891	187,094	181,596
Total Mentions Involving Licit Substances	97,756	102,748	111,845	121,478	131,618	131,487
Percentage of Total Mentions Involving Licit Substances	53.5	55.8	61.5	65.0	70.3	72.4

**TABLE 2 — Number of Federal Exhibits Listed in STRIDE in Order of 1985 Top 20 Controlled Substances Based on National Estimates of DAWN Emergency Room Mentions**

DRUG	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Heroin	4,649	5,038	5,196	5,549	4,917	3,163
Cocaine	12,926	10,763	9,200	7,194	5,304	5,446
Diazepam	371	363	456	413	257	288
Marijuana	6,368	6,418	6,141	6,156	6,665	5,090
Codeine Comb	35	15	12	21	27	10
Alprazolam	13	2	—	—	—	—
Dex/Amp/Meth	2,213	1,464	1,297	1,082	913	1,170
PCP and PCP Comb	3,208	2,695	1,678	722	383	299
D-Propoxyphene	17	10	10	7	12	17
Flurazepam	19	13	17	14	13	16
Lorazepam	4	1	8	3	5	4
Chlordiazepoxide	34	12	17	20	13	49
Phenobarb	40	21	32	36	32	70
Oxycodone	61	60	61	50	37	40
Clorazepate	8	6	4	10	5	3
Butalbital Comb	2	10	5	7	3	4
Methadone	53	73	53	61	73	53
Temazepam	6	6	0	2	0	0
LSD	232	223	281	311	355	473
Codeine	30	76	106	88	56	74
Methaqualone	107	157	244	435	601	1,058
Pentazocine	22	29	50	60	99	33
Ethchlorvynol	8	6	13	4	7	11
Secobarb/Amobarb	19	38	61	65	24	76
Total	30,498	27,688	24,932	22,301	19,789	17,434
Total Exh's Involving Licit	826	882	1,139	1,287	1,252	1,789
Percentage	2.7	3.1	4.6	5.8	6.3	10.3

**NEW E.R.A.  
RECIPIENT  
ANNOUNCED**

Peggy Kelly, M.P.H. of the University of California - San Francisco, has been named a 1986 E.R.A. redipient for her project, "Estimation of the Time THC Use." Ms. Kelly is working with Dr. John Thornton of the School of Public Health, University of California - Berkley.

**JAT SPECIAL ISSUE**

Joseph Monforte, 1987 special issue guest editor, reports that a timeline for the SOFT special issue of the journal of Analytical Toxicology has been established. Once again, Preston Publications will make complimentary copies available at the SOFT meeting, but to coincide with the 1987 meeting dates, manuscripts must be submitted earlier than usual. A call for Papers will be published in the January/February issue of JAT requesting that abstracts be submitted by **MARCH 31st** and papers by **APRIL 15th**.

Dr. Monforte encourages SOFT members to submit abstracts as soon as possible. All materials should be mailed to Dr. Monforte's attention **AT THE OFFICIAL SOFT MAILING ADDRESS** (1013 Three Mile Drive, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230-1412). For further information, contact Dr. Monforte at (313) 224-5626 from 9:00 to 5:00 (E.S.T.) Monday-Friday, or (313) 884-4718 at other times.

**SOFT ANNOUNCES  
FUTURE MEETING  
SITES**

- 1987 ..... Key Biscayne, FL
- 1988 ..... Philadelphia, PA
- 1989 ..... Chicago, IL
- 1990 ..... New York  
(20th Anniversary)

**SOFT ESTABLISHES OFFICIAL ADDRESS**

All general correspondence regarding the Society of Forensic Toxicologists and materials for ToxTalk may be sent to:

S.O.F.T.  
1013 Three Mile Drive  
Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230-1412

Items addressed to specific persons or officers should be sent directly to the person addressed.

## ELMER GORDON OPEN FORUM

Elmer Gordon was a toxicologist from New York who felt strongly that SOFT should serve as an instrument of informal communication between forensic toxicologists. In this spirit, the last four annual meetings have included an Elmer Gordon Open Forum section in the program. ToxTalk hopes to present a similar opportunity for all members on an ongoing basis by introducing the Elmer Gordon Open Forum as a regular feature in ToxTalk.

Have you got a laboratory problem for which you would like a possible solution? Have you developed an analytical procedure that may be helpful to others? Do you have a personal note to share? Send your questions, comments, solutions, etc. to ToxTalk.

Personal note: Condolences to Mike McGee whose father recently died.

## MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

The following "Membership Directory Update" forms have been received. Secretary Hodnett reports that a new SOFT Membership Directory will be issued in 1987. Look for details in the next issue of ToxTalk.

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**SPEAKER, JANE H., Ph.D.**  
Toxicology Services, Inc.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 823-7460

## DUES

If you have not already paid your SOFT annual dues, please send your payment immediately to the 1987 treasurer:

James C. Valentour, Ph.D.  
Bureau of Forensic Science  
P.O. Box 999  
Richmond, VA 23208

## TOXTALK MATERIAL SOUGHT

Would you like to write an article for ToxTalk? Or express a professional opinion to your peers? Is there an area of interest you would like ToxTalk to explore? Send all materials for consideration to:

ToxTalk  
1013 Three Mile Drive  
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230-1412

ToxTalk will continue to be published in March, June, September and December.

## PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

**Jan. 19-21 1987: DRUG-ABUSE IN THE WORKPLACE — PREVENTION AND CONTROL**, Newport Beach, CA. Kurt M. Dubowski, Ph.D., Program Chairman. Contact Meetings Department, American Association for Clinical Chemistry, 1725 K Street, NW, Suite 1010. Washington, DC 20006.

**Feb. 17-21, 1987: AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES** annual meeting, Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, CA. Contact AAFS 225 S. Academy Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80910 (telephone: 303-596-6006)

**March 9-13, 1987: CURRENT CONCEPTS IN TOXICOLOGY — ANALYTICAL METHODOLOGY**, San Antonio, TX. Designed for clinical chemists, pathologists and medical technologists working in analytical, clinical or forensic toxicology. Contact Dr. Jack Wallace, Course Director, UTHSCSA, 7703 Floyd Curl Drive, San Antonio, TX 78284 (telephone: 512-567-4000).

**July 28-31, 1987: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS**, Banff, Alberta. Contact Graham Jones, Ph.D., TIAFT '87, 4070 Bowness Road, N.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3B 3R7.

**Aug. 2-7, 1987: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCES** 11th Meeting, Vancouver, Contact AIFS, Suite 801, 750 Jervis Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6E 2A9.

**Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, 1987: SOFT NATIONAL MEETING**, Key Biscayne, FL. Contact Leonard Bednarczyk, Ph.D., 864 Northwest 23rd Street, Room 203, Miami, FL 33127 (telephone: 305-638-5765)

**1988: SOFT ANNUAL MEETING**, Philadelphia.