

This newsletter is the official publication of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc. Printing and distribution costs are supported as part of the dues paid by members of the organization. Subscriptions are available to non-members at an annual cost of \$5 per year. Address inquiries to J. Bidanset, Newsletter Editor, Dept. of Pharmacology, St. John's University, Jamaica, New York 11439

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EDITORIAL

Where is the Newsletter? Why are there these long delays between publication dates? Newsletter editors respond in kind, where is the material? The bulk of the newsletter continues to be business and announcements generated in large part by the executive committee of SOFT. One of the major functions of a newsletter is to provide organizational information but there is a lot more to forensic toxicology than the formal working of the president and his committees. I think I echo the sentiments of newsletter editors everywhere in asking for your contributions, questions, answers, announcements, etc.

Please direct all articles to J. Bidanset, Department of Pharmacology, St. John's University, Jamaica, New York, 11439.

It's our newsletter!

A SPECIAL ISSUE OF JOURNAL OF ANALYTICAL  
TOXICOLOGY

Fellow-members:

In our continuing pursuit of the advancement of our discipline and in the interest of continuing education in forensic toxicology, a unique opportunity has presented itself.

~~The Journal of Analytical Toxicology has kindly consented to dedicate an entire issue to our efforts with appropriate publicity being given to the Society of Forensic Toxicologists. Our job of course, is to give them worthwhile articles to publish. We propose to attempt to meet a deadline which will assure publication of an issue prior to our next annual meeting in Williamsburg, Va. Our own committee (to be named) will have the privilege of first refereeing all submitted papers. Rules for preparation of papers can be found in any issue of the Journal of Analytical Toxicology.~~

I would ask you, therefore, to respond to this challenge and proffer significant papers in our profession to this special issue. I would ask you also, as the first step, to submit tittles of papers to be offered to Dr. Joseph Balkon. The final paper must be in his hands by July 1, 1979. The entire Society and profession of forensic toxicology will benefit by our efforts and the satisfaction of each contributor will make the project worthwhile and successful.

Please give this proposal your immediate attention and effort and respond without delay so that publication commitments can be fulfilled.

Thomas A. Rejent  
President

ANNOUNCEMENT

The education of specialists in the forensic sciences continues to be a challenge to many of us. The increasing sophistication of methods in forensic toxicology promises to add, to the judicial process, information which was not thought to be possible as late as the 1960's.

The Society of Forensic Toxicologists has dedicated many of its efforts to continuing effective education in the field. With this in mind, it is

my privilege to announce that a grant-in-aid will be awarded by the Society to a graduate or post-graduate student pursuing studies in forensic toxicology. Candidates seeking consideration for such an award should submit a complete curriculum of their studies, title and progress of their current project and a listing of their previous educational and technical accomplishments to:

Dr. Vincent de P. Lunch, Chairman Education Committee, SOFT,  
St. John's University, College of Pharmacy  
Grand Central & Utopia Pkwy  
Jamaica, New York 11439

A single award will be made annually to the candidate pursuing projects thought to be of greatest benefit to the profession of forensic toxicology and to the forensic sciences as a whole.

Thomas A. Rejent, DABFT  
President, Society of Forensic Toxicologist

#### WORKSHOPS

The executive committee of SOFT has appointed a workshop committee consisting of Joe Balkon, Len Bednarczyk and Jesse Bidanset. That group, working with the membership, is to explore possible subjects for workshop activities and then to implement that workshop.

In response to a letter from the President, dated December 19, 1978, the committee proceeded to set up a UV workshop with the co-operation of the Perkin-Elmer Corporation. The specific subject matter was the applications of first and second derivative UV spectrophotometry to problems faced by the Forensic Toxicologist. The first attempt was to invite toxicologists meeting in New Orleans for the joint meeting of SOT, AACT, CACAT, AAPCC and ABMT. The initial response was sufficiently encouraging that the commitment to proceed with the workshop was made. Attendance was disappointing; even respondents failed to attend. On the positive side those organizations are now aware that there is a SOFT active in the educational aspects of toxicology. Perkin-Elmer has expressed their willingness to provide lecturers and instruments for this kind of program.

The workshop committee therefore announces that the next UV-Derivative Spectrophotometry Workshop will be held at St. John's University, Jamaica, New York. It will be held on Friday, May 18, 1979, from 9:30 AM until 4:00 PM. A buffet lunch will be provided. The program will consist of a brief set of lectures in the morning with extensive hands on experience for the remainder of the day. The cost will be \$20. per attendee. Address all inquiries to Jesse Bidanset, Department of Pharmacology, St. John's University, Jamaica, New York 11439.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT) is pleased to announce that the following persons, having successfully passed the Boards Qualifying Examination and met all other requirements have been granted Certificates of Qualification in Forensic Toxicology, thereby becoming diplomates in ABFT:

Nancy B.C. Chen, DABFT  
Downers Grove, Illinois

Larry D. Hobbs, DABFT  
Pasadena, Texas

Richard D. Pinder, DABFT  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Robert H. Cravey  
Secretary

INTERIM REPORT: RECERTIFICATION COMMITTEE  
Joseph Balkon, Ph.D., DABFT, Chm.  
Joseph Monforte, Ph.D., DABFT  
Joseph Forney Jr., Ph.D.

The following are the recommendations of the committee:

1. Primary Requirement for Recertification:

Demonstration of continuing involvement in the area of Forensic Toxicology, including membership participation in any of the Forensic Toxicology/Sciences regional or national groups.

2. Period of Evaluation:

Official recertification should be accomplished during a period of 3 to 5 years following initial certification. Curriculum vitae updates should be submitted annually.

~~If a scoring system is established, Diplomates should be advised of their progress towards meeting criteria for recertification on a yearly basis~~  
If a change in employment occurs during the recertification evaluation period, documentation regarding continuing Forensic Toxicologic involvement should be requested and supplied to maintain certification.

3. Fees:

- a. Yearly maintenance fee \$10 - 20 /year to cover administrative costs relevant to C.V. update management.
- b. Recertification Fee; payable on announcement of Recertification: \$50 to 75.

4. Criteria for Recertification:

In addition to paragraph 1 stipulations, the following represents a reasonable approach to the evaluation of credentials for the purposes of recertification.

a. On the basis of curriculum updates over the 3-5 year evaluation period, the accumulation of Certification Equivalent Units (C.E.U.), weighted similarly to that determined in the recent ABFT surveys (10/18/70).

i. Most heavily weighted-

Teaching of Toxicologic Principles either in workshops or in academic surroundings; for those whose primary function is of an academic nature, extracurricular teaching only will be credited.  
Publication in the Field of Forensic Toxicology, participation in Proficiency Testing Programs relevant to the area of Forensic Toxicology, for those certified at the baccalauriate or masters level, acquisition of graduate degree (s).

ii. Medium weighted:

Presentation or testimony in scientific or regulatory areas.  
Committee participation in regional or national professional organizations.

Pursuit of graduate education - matriculated.

iii. Lesser weighted:

Attendance at workshops or in coursework relevant to the upgrading of skills utilized in the practice of Forensic Toxicology. Miscellaneous achievements related to the maintenance or upgrading of skills and knowledge pertaining to the practice of Forensic Toxicology; may be acquired by petition by the Diplomate.

iv. If one were to weight the areas above:

Items in category i ..... 3 C.E.U.  
category ii ..... 2 C.E.U.  
category iii .... 1 C.E.U.

then the acquisition of 9 to 12 C.E.U. per year would be required for satisfying criteria for recertification by this route.

b. If at the end of the evaluation period, a diplomate is determined to be deficient in C.E.U.'s for recertification, an examination designed to evaluate the extent that the diplomate has kept abreast of the art and science of Forensic Toxicology during the evaluation period should be administered, in conjunction with a national meeting site. Passage of the exam would satisfy requirements for recertification with the stipulation that paragraph 1 of this report would also be satisfied.

5. Non/Doctoral Certification of Qualifications:

It is proposed that a second certification track be established by ABFT, to formulate a Registry of otherwise qualified Forensic Toxicologic personnel who are holders of baccalaureate and/or Masters degrees and working in the area of Forensic Toxicology.

6. Comments on these recommendations is solicited.

#### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The chairman of the membership committee apologizes to all applicants anxiously awaiting a response to their applications. In moving from one office to another and one home to another, not only has time been at a premium, but quite honestly some files remain safely packed away. The committee did meet in Atlanta in February and the actions of the committee are forthcoming.

#### ACCREDITATION GRANT

Hearing of SOFT's proposal to accredit forensic forensic toxicology programs, Hoffman La Roche has presented a grant of \$1500 in support of the Society's efforts. Similar grants are being solicited from other major corporations with an interest in forensic toxicology. At the same time the accreditation committee is actively preparing a list of programs, obtaining curricula and investigating the necessary steps to becoming an accrediting body.

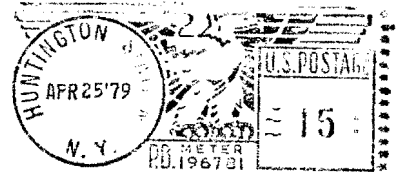
WANTED

Scientific evidence of interferences, cross reactions, false-positives, false negatives etc. with breath-analyzing systems, primarily designed for the detection of ethanol. It is highly desirable to secure this information for all past and present instruments regardless of their operating principles. A review of these systems together with the information submitted will be compiled in a format consistent with rapid reference as well as accuracy. Biased information is not wanted; an in-depth investigation, if available, is what is looked for. Reply to Thomas A. Rejent, if you are able to supply any part of the data. The merits are obvious.

Thomas A. Rejent, President

**Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc.**

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