



# TOXTALK

Publication of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists

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(703) 560-7944

## Fourth Educational Research Award

During February, the Society announced that its Fourth Educational Research Award recipient is Paul W. Hale, Jr., for the project entitled "An Investigation into the Cardiotoxicity of Thioridazine: Emphasis on the Ring Sulfoxide Metabolite." Paul W. Hale, Jr., is presently pursuing his doctorate degree in the Department of Pharmacology at the St. Louis University School of Medicine. A native St. Louisan, Paul is a 1981 graduate of the St. Louis College of Pharmacy where he was a member of the Rho Chi Pharmacy Honor Fraternity. He was also the recipient of the college's 1981 O. J. Gloughly Fellowship for graduate education, an award designed to assist new pharmacists in graduate studies. He is currently a member of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the American Pharmaceutical Association. Mr. Hale's advisor is Dr. Alphonse Poklis.

Mr. Hale joins the three previous awardees, all of whom have now completed their doctoral degrees. The first

awardee was John H. Hebb, Jr., (1980) "Tricyclic Antidepressant Drug Fatalities: The Correlation of an Experimental Model of Cardiotoxicity with Medical Examiner Cases." John worked at the University of Maryland, Department of Pathology, Division of Forensic Pathology under Dr. Yale H. Caplan. John is now with International Clinical Laboratories in Nashville, Tennessee. The second awardee was W. Christopher Long (1981) "Lidocaine's Central Toxicity." Chris worked at St. Johns University, Department of Pharmacology, with Dr. Jesse Bidanset. Chris is now a toxicologist with the Nassau County (N.Y.) Medical Examiner's Office. The third awardee was Barry Levine (1982) "Post Mortem Stability of Drugs in Blood and Tissues." Barry worked at the Medical College of Virginia under the guidance of Dr. Robert Blanke, and has recently accepted the position of Assistant Toxicologist at the Medical Examiner's Office in Baltimore.

Congratulations Paul you're in good company!

## ToxTalk — A New Era

Beginning with this issue, ToxTalk takes on a new look. The editors are planning four issues per year. You should expect to receive ToxTalk during March, June, September, and December of each year.

The first two issues for 1983 will be a little late due to the change in editorship. We expect to be on schedule beginning with the September issue. The newsletter

will take on a new three column format and will include news and announcements from our Society and other toxicology groups. In addition, we intend to introduce several features including case notes, current and contemporary research and issues, profiles of toxicology laboratories, excerpts from the history of toxicology, and other ToxTales and ToxTrivia. We invite your comment and participation.

# Salutations from the President

At this time, I would like to take the opportunity to thank those who have been instrumental in allowing me to serve our organization for the past five years: first as a member of the Board of Directors, then as Secretary, in 1982 as Vice-President, and starting in January, as President. The experience gained over the years has been invaluable and I am confident will allow me to do a reasonable job in 1983.

Our organization has grown in both membership and in responsibilities. Our most important responsibility is that of toxicology education. We must continue to improve and expand in this area in order to maintain and to improve upon the quality of forensic toxicology and forensic toxicologists within our scope. For this reason, the Committee on Education has been increased to seventeen persons and four subcommittees. We have many talented individuals in our organization and *now* is an opportune time to call upon their resources. If you have comments or suggestions regarding

the Educational Research Award, Evaluation of Methods, workshops, annual scientific meetings, or other areas relating to toxicology education, *please* let me hear from you.

Many of you will be called upon during 1983 to assist in a variety of ways. Some of those which come to mind include:

1. mailing in membership update cards
2. evaluation of an analytical method
3. voting by mail on by-laws changes
4. contributing to the Journal of Analytical Toxicology Special Issue
5. contributing to this Newsletter
6. presenting papers at the Annual Meeting

Some of these may seem trivial but *all* are important and should be responded to *promptly* in order for your organization to provide the service you desire.

Together I know we can make significant progress during 1983 and I am enthusiastic about this opportunity.

Most sincerely yours,  
Everett T. Solomons, PhD

## New Newsletter

### Editors Appointed

At the recent meeting of the Board of Directors, in Cincinnati, President Everett Solomons announced that beginning in 1983, Yale H. Caplan and Marina Stajic would assume the editorship of the Society's ToxTalk Newsletter.

The Society is greatly appreciative of the pioneering effort of Jesse Bidanset who was responsible for the creation of the Newsletter in 1977. Jesse served as editor during the developmental years taking the Newsletter through several format changes.

Yale is past president of the Society and Marina is a member of the Board of Directors.

The editors wish to thank all the SOFT members who contributed articles for this, our first issue. We ran out of space and we will publish the remaining articles in the next issue.

We encourage all SOFT members to contribute to your newsletter.

—The Editors

## SOFT 1983 Committees

President Solomons has appointed the following committees for 1983.

### TAX EXEMPT STATUS

Richard Prouty, Chairman  
Michael McGee  
Kurt Dubowski

### EDUCATION

Joseph Monforte, Co-Chairman

### Subcommittee A: E.R.A.

Yale Caplan, Chairman  
Joseph Balkon  
Jane Speaker

### Subcommittee B: S.O.F.T. Impact On Education

Robert Blanke, Chairman  
Tully Speaker  
Jesse Bidanset  
Vince Lynch

H. Horton McCurdy, Co-Chairman

### Subcommittee C: Evaluated Methods

Leonard Bednarczyk, Chairman  
Frederic Rieders  
Walter Matusiak  
Brian Donnelly  
Joseph Balkon

### Subcommittee D: Endowments and Grants

Alphonse Poklis, Chairman  
Thomas Rejent  
Michael Schaeffer

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Rosemary Alstott, Chairman  
Robert Eberhardt  
Mark Lewis

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Thomas Rejent  
Ronald Backer

### SURVEYS

H. Horton McCurdy, Chairman  
Randall Baselt  
C. Nicholas Hodnett  
Thomas Rejent

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MEETING GUIDELINES  
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Joseph Monforte  
Alphonse Poklis  
Richard Prouty

### PUBLICATIONS (JAT)

Joseph Balkon, Chairman  
Yale Caplan  
James Valentour

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Joseph Balkon, Chairman  
Randall Baselt  
Robert Eberhardt

### PUBLICITY

Ronald Backer

### POLICY

Joseph Monforte, Chairman  
Robert Eberhardt

### BY-LAWS

Kurt Dubowski, Chairman  
Yale Caplan

### BUDGET

James Valentour, Chairman  
Marina Stajic

# Roslyn Meeting

The 12th Annual SOFT Meeting was held jointly with the semiannual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists in Roslyn, Virginia, on 13-15 October 1982. The joint meeting offered about 240 forensic scientists an opportunity to exchange information, share experiences, and enjoy the Nation's Capital.

A new feature at the meeting was two workshops, one Pharmacokinetics and one on Thin-Layer Immunoassay. The workshops attracted 65 participants and resulted in a lot of positive comments. Judging by the response and attendance, this type of activity should be strongly encouraged at the future SOFT meetings.

The three Educational Research Award winners, Drs. Hebb, Long, and Levine, were honored by the entire group at the Dinner Banquet by being presented with their ERA certificates.

At the Annual Business Meeting, the following members were elected:

President — Everett Solomons  
 Vice President — Joseph Monforte  
 Secretary — Robert Eberhardt  
 Treasurer — Michael McGee

Board of Directors  
 Marina Stajic  
 H. Horton McCurdy

## CONGRATULATIONS!

The scientific session included three symposiums: "Death on the Sigmoid," "Drug Use Prevention Program," and "Current Problems (Technical and Administrative) in the Practice of Forensic Toxicology," as well as a number of excellent technical presentations.

## PAPERS GIVEN AT THE 12th ANNUAL SOFT MEETING, ROSSLYN, VIRGINIA

Forensic Pharmacokinetics of Alcohol — Kurt Dubowski, The University of Oklahoma HSC, Department of Medicine, Room 38-R, Box 26901, Oklahoma City, OK 73190; (405) 271-2270

The Results of One Analytical Approach in a Hotel Fire with Four Fatalities — Michael Schaffer, Reng-Lang Lin, Robert Stein, Cook County Institute of Forensic Medicine, Office of the Medical Examiner, 1828 West Polk Street, Chicago, IL 60612; (312) 443-5010

# Another SOFT 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 1983.

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

April 1 - April 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 for-

warded 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:

Joseph Balkon, PhD  
 School of Pharmacy  
 St. John's University  
 Jamaica, NY 11439

(212) 990-6161 ext 5129  
 or  
 (516) 427-0065

A Fatality Involving Propoxyphene and Chlordiazepoxide in a Ten Year Old Child: Suicide or Accident? — Michael Schaffer, Reng-Lang Lin, Nancy Wu Chen, Yuksel Konakci, Mary Ann Suero, Mary Lyn Kurland, Robert Stein, Cook County Institute of Forensic Medicine, Office of the Medical Examiner, 1828 West Polk Street, Chicago, IL 60612; (312) 443-5010

Toxicological Findings in Digoxin Cases — Vina Spiehler, R. H. Cravey, Office of the Sheriff-Corner, Orange County, 550 North Flower Street, Room 201, Santa Ana, CA 92702; (714) 834-3073

Analysis of Ethylchlorovynol (Placidyl) in Driving-Under-the-Influence Cases — Larry Wellen, H. Horton McCurdy, Division of Forensic Sciences, Box 1456, Atlanta, GA 30371; (404) 656-6053

Cannabinoids in Plasma after Passive Inhalation of Marijuana Smoke — Andrew Mason, Mario Perez-Reyes, Arthur McBay, University of North Carolina, Room 903, Preclinical Education Building, Chapel Hill, NC 84112; (919) 966-2258 and Rodger Foltz, Center for Human Toxicology, Salt Lake City, UT

Analysis of LSD in Body Fluids — Judy Johnson, Michael Peat, Center for Human Toxicology, University of Utah, 38 Skaggs Hall, Salt Lake City, UT 84112; (801) 581-5117

Detection of Opiates in Blood by Means of Thin-Layer Immunoassay — L. C. Shughart, N. T. Lappas, Department of Forensic Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC 20052; (202) 676-7319

Detection of Opiate Drugs by Latex Agglutination-Inhibition Tube Test Method — Naresh Jain, University of Southern California School of Medicine and Rancho Los Amigos Hospital, 7601 East Imperial Highway, Downey, CA 90242; (213) 922-7973

Identification of Basic Drugs in Urine by Dual Fused Silica Capillary Column Gas Chromato-

graphy — George Hime, Leonard Bednarczyk, Dade County Medical Examiner's Department, 1050 Northwest 19th Street, Miami, FL 33136; (305) 325-7347

Quantitation of Cis Thiothixene in Human Blood by High Pressure Liquid Chromatography — Stuart Bogema, Nedathur Narasimhachari, Department of Pathology and Psychiatry, Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, VA 23298; (804) 786-5065

Analysis of Disopyramide and Mono-N-Despropyl Disopyramide Using High Performance Liquid Chromatography — Roy Altman, D. Greer Falls, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA 30912; (404) 828-2179 and Bernard Thompson, Laboratory Procedures/Smith-Kline, King of Prussia, PA

Liquid Chromatographic Analysis of Thiopental in Blood and Tissues — Barry Levine, James Valentour, Robert Blanke, Department of Pathology and Legal Medicine, Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, VA 23298; (804) 786-0339

Amoxapine: Acute and Chronic Overdose as Determined by a Method Employing Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectroscopy — Edward Briglia, Jesse Bidanset, Leo Dal Cortivo, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, St. John's University, Jamaica, NY, and Office of the Medical Examiner, Suffolk County Office Building, Hauppauge, NY 11788; (516) 360-5555

GC and GC/MS Analysis of Maprotiline (Ludomil) and its Tissue Distribution in Fatalities — Nancy Wu Chen, Michael Schaffer, Reng-Lang Lin, C. Trojan, S. Wang, Robert Stein, Cook County Institute of Forensic Medicine, Office of the Medical Examiner, 1828 West Polk Street, Chicago, IL 60612; (312) 443-5010

Toxicological Findings in a Darvon Overdose — Arvind Chaturvedi, N. G. S. Rao, Michael Hurley, Department of Toxicology, Box 5195, North Dakota State University College of Pharmacy, Fargo, ND 58105; (701) 237-8297

# Meeting

## Highlights

### Administrative Officers Meeting

August 13, 1982

Baltimore, MD

- The 1982 annual meeting in Rosslyn, Virginia, was discussed in detail, including program and administrative details
  - The bylaws revisions were discussed and Dr. Dubowski was scheduled to present these to the Board and membership at the Rosslyn meeting
  - Future meeting sites were considered
  - A compilation of past minutes and policy decisions will be prepared by the secretary
  - Membership questions were discussed
- The policy is now that membership begins with the receipt of the first years dues not with the notification of acceptance by the membership committee
- Applicants approved prior to April 1 owe full dues for the current year, those approved after April 1 have dues credited to the next fiscal year
- A new membership directory will be prepared in 1983
  - Awards - the concept certificate only awards was approved by the education committee
  - Long term goals were discussed including encouraging and supporting education and research in forensic toxicology, development of referred methods and greater involvement with other toxicology groups
  - A means to facilitate a permanent record depository will be considered

### Officers and Board of Directors

October 13, 1983

Rosslyn, VA

- 1983 Meeting in Detroit was announced and other meeting sites discussed
  - Treasurer's report: balance of approximately \$4200.00 (\$1331 in ERA Fund)
  - Board authorized a standard line item in each year's budget of \$500.00 as an advance for the following year's meeting
  - An announcement for the ERA was prepared for mailing to educational institutions and others
  - Net proceeds from the 1981 annual meeting were transferred to the ERA Fund
  - Policy established to annually review the Society's finances with the intent of transferring excess funds to the ERA Fund
  - Present tax status was discussed
- Since this question has been delayed, it was decided to take immediate action to facilitate the process during 1983
- Journal of Analytical Toxicology/SOFT special issues will become annual for the Sept/Oct issue of the Journal
  - New SOFT Brochure is now available

# FUTURE MEETINGS

1983

Detroit, MI, 11-14 October

Dr. Joseph R. Monforte  
Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office  
400 East Lafayette Street  
Detroit, MI 48226

1984

St. Louis, MO, 10-13 October

Dr. Alphonse Poklis  
Department of Pathology  
St. Louis University School of Medicine  
1402 South Grand  
St. Louis, MO 63104

1985

Montreal, Canada

joint meeting with Canadian Society of Forensic Science

Thomas A. Rejent  
462 Grider Street  
Buffalo, NY 14215

1986

Reno, NE

Norman Wade  
California Department of Justice  
Bureau of Forensic Science  
Post Office Box 13337  
Sacramento, CA 95813

1987

Miami, FL

Dr. Leonard R. Bednarczyk  
1050 Northwest 19th Street  
Miami, FL 33136

1988

Philadelphia, PA

Dr. Jane H. Speaker  
Office of the Medical Examiner  
321 University Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

1990

Long Island, NY

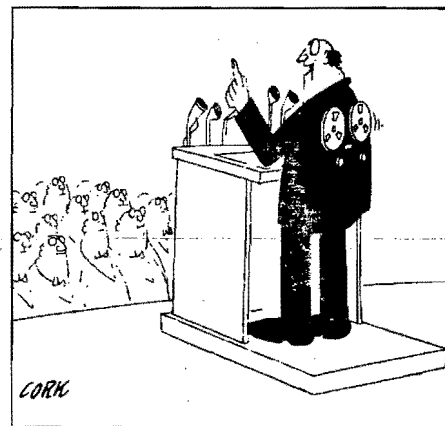
Dr. Joseph Balkon  
Department of Pharmacology/Toxicology  
St. John's University  
Jamaica, NY 11439

The expenses for attending a convention held on a cruise ship are now deductible up to \$2000 per individual per year. Deductions apply *only* if the meeting is held on a U.S. flag cruise ship and if all ports of call are in the United States or a U.S. possession. The attendee must sign a statement that includes information on the total days of the trip, number of hours daily devoted to scheduled business activity and a program of busi-

ness activity. In addition, a representative of the organization must sign a statement that includes the business activities and the number of hours the attendee spent at the meeting. Both of these must be filed with the tax return. This law becomes effective January 1, 1983. Under the above stipulations, deductions apply to cruises on only four ships: two Mississippi River cruise ships (Delta Queen and Mississippi Queen) and two Hawaiian inter-island cruise ships (Oceanic Constitution and Oceanic Independence.)

1989 is still open for suggestions for the meeting site. Any volunteers to host a Mississippi cruise out of Memphis? (Source: Thomas Rejent)

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## SOFT 1983 Meeting

The Society of Forensic Toxicologists will hold its 1983 annual meeting in Detroit, Michigan, on October 11-14, 1983, at the Book-Cadillac Hotel. In addition to the scientific sessions, the program will feature workshops on capillary column gas chromatography on Tuesday, October 11th, and laboratory management on Friday, October 14th. For further information contact:

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