



TOXTALK

Publication of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists

SEPTEMBER 1984

VOLUME 8, No. 3

PRESIDENT

Joseph R. Monforte, PhD
Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office
400 East Lafayette Street
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 224-5626

VICE PRESIDENT

Richard W. Prouty, BS
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
901 North Stonewall
Oklahoma City, OK 73117
(405) 239-7141

SECRETARY

H. Horton McCurdy, PhD
Division of Forensic Sciences
Post Office Box 1456
Atlanta, GA 30371
(404) 656-6053

TREASURER

Michael P. McGee, BS
American Institute for Drug Detection
838 Dodge Avenue
Evanston, IL 60202
(312) 475-2300

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kurt M. Dubowski, PhD
Alphonse Poklis, PhD
Michael I. Schaffer, PhD
Marina Stajic, PhD
Norman A. Wade, MS
Yale H. Caplan, PhD, ex officio
Everett T. Solomons, PhD, ex officio

TOXTALK EDITORS

Yale H. Caplan, PhD
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
111 Penn Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
(301) 396-3844
and
Marina Stajic, PhD
c/o Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
3300 Gallows Road
Falls Church, VA 22046
(703) 560-7944

Meet Us in St. Louis!

SOFT members and friends are cordially invited to attend and participate in the 14th Annual SOFT Meeting which will be held jointly with the Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists in St. Louis, October 9-12, 1984, at the Breckenridge Inn. The meeting theme is "Murder by Poison". A special symposium on succinyl choline deaths, Bexar County, Texas, and lidocaine deaths, Riverside, California, will feature the experts who testified on both sides presenting their scientific evidence.

In addition to the scientific presentations, the program will include a round table session on "Toxicology Report Writing" and two workshops:

Computers in the Toxicology
Laboratory
and
Advanced Workshop for Toxi-Lab
Users

Detailed information can be obtained from the program chairman, Dr. Alphonse Poklis at (314) 727-6300.

St. Louis Forensic Profile

In 1977, the City of St. Louis established a medical examiner's system and contracted all professional services, including pathology and toxicology, to St. Louis University School of Medicine. Dr. George E. Gantner, Chief Medical Examiner of St. Louis County and professor of pathology at St. Louis University was appointed Chief Medical Examiner of the city. At this time Dr. Alphonse Poklis accepted a faculty appointment at the University and was made director of the Forensic and Environmental Toxicology Laboratory. The laboratory shares space and instrumentation with the toxicology laboratory of Ms. Mary Ann Mackell, Chief Toxicologist of St. Louis County at the County Medical Examiner's Office. In addition to Dr. Poklis and Ms. Mackell, a fulltime staff of three toxicologists perform analysis on approximately 900 city and 300 county autopsies. Ad-

ditional forensic work includes analysis of blood and urine of drivers charged with "driving while under the influence of drugs". Specimens are submitted by both city and county law enforcement agencies.

The laboratory also performs drug testing by contract with various agencies; drug treatment programs, preemployment urine screening, and emergency toxicologic analysis.

Due to its university association, the laboratory is mandated to contribute to the teaching of residents and students. Forensic and clinical pathology residents regularly rotate through the laboratory. Clinical chemistry or forensic toxicology graduate students, as well as medical technology undergraduates, are also regularly provided bench experience with drug analysis. Ms. Mackell, as a clinical instructor in the department of patho-

St. Louis Profile continued

logy, supervises many of these activities.

As an associate professor and fulltime member of the regular faculty, Dr. Poklis is involved in teaching pharmacology and toxicology to medical students and residents. He also teaches graduate courses in toxicology and is the graduate advisor to Paul Hale, Jr., the 1983 recipient of the SOFT Education Research Award. Dr. Poklis also maintains a modest research laboratory in the Department of Pharmacology, presently supported by the American Heart Association, Missouri Affiliate, and the Monsanto Company. Research is focused on the cardiotoxicity of neuroleptic drugs in mammalian systems.

President's Report

The Executive Officers/Board of Directors held a telephone conference call on July 11, 1984 (conference calls were introduced last year to reduce the cost of transporting individuals for an interim meeting of the Board of Directors). Some of the business conducted included the following.

As provided by the ByLaws, the Board of Directors is to elect one of its members to the Executive Committee. Vice President Prouty conducted this election and Dr. Kurt Dubowski was elected to this position. My personal congratulations to Kurt.

Miami, Florida, has been selected as the 1987 Annual Meeting Site. Dr. Leonard Bednarzyk will be the meeting host.

Patricia Mohn-Monforte applied for, and was selected as the Executive Committee/Meeting Coordinator. She will be working directly with Dr. Poklis on the 1984 Annual Meeting and has received a couple of executive committee projects.

As you know from the announcement of the 1984 Annual Meeting in St. Louis, there will be a forum on Toxicology Report Writing. This is a direct result of a survey conducted by Dr. Ted Siek. My congratulations to Ted for conducting the survey in a punctual fashion and to the membership for responding in a complete and rapid manner.

—Joseph R. Monforte, PhD

ToxTrivia

The Gentle Art of Poisoning

“Murder by poison” is the theme of the 1984 SOFT meeting in St. Louis. Lovers of trivia and history may want to test their knowledge by matching the names of toxicologists with those of the poisons and defendants in ten famous trials.

TOXICOLOGIST	POISON	DEFENDANT
Curry	Aconite	Armstrong
Dal Cortivo/Rieders	Arsenic	Barlow
Nickolls	Curare	Bocarme
Orfila	Digitalin	Buchanan
Stas	Insulin	Coppolino
Stevenson/Dupre	Hyoscine	Crippen
Tardieu	Morphine	Jascalevich
Umberger	Nicotine	Lafarge
Willcox	Secobarbital	Lamson
Witthaus	Succinyl Choline	Pommerais

Dr. Gettler's case included in Ripley's "Believe It or Not!"

THE MAN WHO HAD MORE LIVES THAN A CAT

MICHAEL MALLOY, murdered in 1933 by a gang to collect his insurance, had survived such attempts as being saturated with ice water and left in a park in winter, run over by a car, forced to drink antifreeze and eat sandwiches made of contaminated sardines and ground glass — but finally died of **CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING**

1985 Nominations

The Nominating Committee convened (via telephone) on July 11 and unaniously chose the following candidates: for President

Richard W. Prouty

for Vice President

Rosemary L. Kincaid

for Treasurer

Michael P. McGee

for Board of Directors

Alphonse Poklis

Respectfully submitted by

Everett T. Solomons, PhD



Chairman,
Nominating Committee

SOFT's Globetrotter

Pierre Margot, our only overseas member, joined SOFT while in temporary residence at the Center for Human Toxicology at the University of Utah. Subsequently he returned to his native Switzerland and he has been recently appointed Head of the Forensic Science Research Unit at the Australian National University in Canberra. How far will SOFT members go?

Election Candidates

PRESIDENT

RICHARD W. PROUTY

Present Position

Chief Forensic Toxicologist, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, State of Oklahoma

Education

BS from Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, in 1953

Professional Experience

1951-1953 - Analyst in Toxicology and Criminalistics, State of Alabama, Department of Toxicology and Criminal Investigation, Auburn, Alabama

1953-1954 - Associate Toxicologist and Director of Divisional Laboratory at Montgomery, Alabama with State of Alabama Department of Toxicology and Criminal Investigation

1955-1958 - Toxicologist and Director of Toxicology Division of the 406 Medical General Laboratory of the United States Army, Tokyo, Japan

1958-1960 - Graduate Assistant in Toxicology with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Baltimore, Maryland

1960-1961 - Research Fellow in Toxicology with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Baltimore, Maryland

1961-1972 - Professor of Toxicology, North Dakota State University

North Dakota State Toxicologist and Director of State Toxicology Laboratory Director, Alcohol Methods and Systems Testing Laboratory, Fargo, North Dakota Scientific Consultant of Office of Alcohol Programs, U.S. Department of Transportation

Consultant Toxicologist, Veterans Administration Hospital, Fargo, North Dakota Consultant Toxicologist, North Dakota Poison Information and Control Center Director, North Dakota Alcohol and Traffic Safety Program

Certifications

Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology

Professional Societies

American Academy of Forensic Sciences (Fellow in Toxicology and Past Section Chairman)

International Association of Accident & Traffic Medicine

International Association of Forensic Toxicologists

National Safety Council, Committee on Alcohol and Drugs (Past Chairman)

Society of Forensic Toxicologists

Southwestern Association of Toxicologists (Past President)

SOFT Activities

1981-1983 - Member, Board of Directors
1982-1983 - Chairman, Tax Exempt Status Subcommittee

1983 - Director, Capillary Gas Chromatography Workshop

1984 - Vice President

VICE PRESIDENT

ROSEMARY L. KINCAID

Present Position

Chief Toxicologist, Department of Health and Social Services, State of Wyoming

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

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

Society of Forensic Toxicologists

Iota Sigma Pi, Honorary Chemistry Society for Women, Cobalt Chapter, Lifetime Member

SOFT Activities

1980-1983 - 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

TREASURER

MICHAEL P. McGEE

Present Position

American Institute for Drug Detection, Evanston, Illinois

Education

BS from Wheeling College, Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1970

Professional Experience

1971-1974 - Chemist, Toxicology Laboratory, Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office

1974-1981 - Chemist, Toxicology Section, Bureau of Forensic Science, Richmond, Virginia

1981-1984 - Associate Director, Galveston County Forensic Laboratory, Galveston, Texas

Senior Research Assistant (dual appointment), Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Texas, Galveston, Texas

Certifications

Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology

Professional Societies

American Academy of Forensic Sciences - Fellow

Society of Forensic Toxicologists

Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists, Member

The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists, Member

Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists, Member

Southwestern Association of Toxicologists, Member

SOFT Activities

1979 - Meeting CoChairman, Annual Meeting, Williamsburg, Virginia

1981-1984 - Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ALPHONSE POKLIS

Present Position

Director of Forensic and Environmental Toxicology Laboratory, Department of Pathology, St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri

Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology, St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri

Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri

Education

BS from University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, in 1969

PhD from University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, in 1974

Professional Experience

1969-1973 - Graduate traineeship at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Baltimore, Maryland

1972-1974 - Forensic Chemist, Medical Examiner's Office, Wilmington, Delaware

1974-1977 - Assistant State Toxicologist, State University Station, Fargo, North Dakota

1975-1976 - Visiting Consultant, Pharmacy Services, Veteran's Administration Hospital, Fargo, North Dakota (consulted on analytical methodology in Pharmacokinetics Control Laboratory)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE HISTORY
OF
FORENSIC SCIENCES
International Study Group
Box 8282
Wichita, KS 67208
(316) 689-3707
(316) 685-7612**

Organizational Information:

General — This activity is the culmination of informal discussions and dialogue which has been ongoing for the past several years among many of us who have been interested in History and specifically history of the Forensic Sciences. Some of us have already started collections of data while others have been interested in learning of resources available. It is to

Candidates continued

- 1974-1977 — Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, School of Pharmacy, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota
1977-1982 — Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri
1979-1984 — Editorial Board, Canadian Society of Forensic Science Journal
1980-1984 — Editorial Board, American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology
1981-1984 — Editorial Board, Journal of Analytical Toxicology
1981-1984 — Consultant Member, Local Epidemiology Work Group, National Institute of Drug Abuse
1983-1984 — Consultant Member, Toxicology Resource Committee, College of American Pathologists
1984 — Editorial Board, Journal of Forensic Sciences

Certifications

Registered Pharmacist, Maryland
Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology

Professional Societies

American Academy of Clinical Toxicology
American Academy of Forensic Sciences — Fellow
American College of Toxicology
American Chemical Society
Canadian Society of Forensic Science
International Association of Forensic Sciences
International Association of Forensic Toxicologists
Society of Forensic Toxicologists

SOFT Activities

1984 — Meeting Chairman, Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri
1984 — Member, Meeting Site Selection and Meeting Guidelines Committee

this end that we are organizing this study group.

Objectives:

1. To stimulate interest and knowledge in the History of Forensic Sciences.
2. To bring together those interested in History of Forensic Sciences and of events which have had a dramatic role the development of this field.
3. To locate, collect, and catalogue resources including literary works, case reports and records, court proceedings, and information on people who have lived history, or are expert in individual cases or events.
4. To develop a clearinghouse of information for the purpose of collecting, storage, and dissemination of historical material in the field of the forensic sciences.
5. To develop information about individuals interested in the history of the Forensic Sciences or have written in the field as an additional resource of special interests in this field.
6. To disseminate periodic informational material to the members of this group as a permanent record of the group activities.

For further information, please write William G. Eckert, MD, in care of the above address. An informational resource list was included with the last ToxTalk issue.

CAT Meetings

November 3, 1984 Quarterly Meeting
Los Angeles hosted by Larry
Marriott Plutchak
UTAK Laboratories
(805) 259-1041

February 1, 1985 Workshop on GCMS
Finnigan MAT hosted by Norman
San Jose Wade
Department of Justice
(916) 739-5128

February 2, 1985 Quarterly Meeting
Amfac Hotel hosted by Randall
Burlingame Baselt
University of California, Davis
(916) 752-2710

Toxicology

Alert

HEROIN SUBSTITUTES

by Richard F. Shaw
County of San Diego Coroner's Office
San Diego, California

One of the combinations of prescription drug alternatives to the use of heroin continues to appear in the positive toxicology findings in cases examined by the San Diego County Coroner's Office. This combination of drugs, Doriden® (glutethimide) and codeine, is referred to on the street as "Loads" or "Four Doors". A "Load" is said to consist of 1 gram of glutethimide (usually as two 500 mg Doriden® tablets) and four grains of codeine (usually in combination with aspirin or acetaminophen). Consumption of multiple "Loads" per day leads to addiction and tolerance and potential overdose. Nine cases reported by San Diego County reveal blood concentrations of codeine averaging 1.09 mg/mL (range 0.13 — 2.8), and glutethimide averaging 12.5 mg/mL (range 4.5 — 26.4). These seven males (ages 24-42 years) and two females (ages 20-22 years) all had histories of chronic alcohol and drug abuse. In seven cases only codeine, glutethimide, acetaminophen and morphine were found, and in two cases, in addition to the drugs mentioned above, cocaine and diazepam were found. The use of codeine and glutethimide is known to produce a synergistic central nervous system depression leading to coma and death. Use of other drugs with this combination may potentiate the effect. All positive codeine cases with appropriate histories of drug abuse should be screened for glutethimide to determine the extent of use of this heroin substitute in evaluating drug deaths.

Curry, Insulin, Barlow; Dal Cortivo/Rieders, Curate, Jascawelich; Nickolls, Secobarbital, Armstrong; Ortila, Arsenic, Lafarge; Stas, Nicotine, Bocarme; Stevenson/Dupre, Aconite, Lamson; Tardley, Digitalin, Pommerrats; Umlberger, Succinyl Choline, Coppolino; Wilcox, Hyoscine, Crippen; Withaus, Morphine, Buchanan.

TOXITVIA QUIZ ANSWERS