



# TOXTALK

Publication of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists

DECEMBER 1985

VOLUME 9, No. 4

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## Reno/Lake Tahoe in 86

by Norman A. Wade

The Reno/Lake Tahoe joint meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists and the California Association of Toxicologists will be held from October 29th through the morning of November 1st. A GC/MS hands-on workshop will be held on Wednesday, October 29th.

Several tours are available through the hotel to Lake Tahoe, Virginia City and

the surrounding mountains and resorts. Interest has been expressed and it can be easily arranged to conduct a scuba diving expedition into Lake Tahoe. There may be enough snow for avid skiers to visit some of the many ski resorts around Lake Tahoe.

Some preliminary papers and panel discussions have been arranged, but news of these will be more formalized in the spring issue of ToxTalk. A preliminary program will be available by July 1986.

## Mid-Atlantic Toxicologists Hold Workshop

by James C. Valentour

On May 10, 1985, a Forensic Toxicology workshop was held at the J. W. Marriot Hotel in Washington, DC, in conjunction with the Spring 1985 Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists. About thirty people from five states plus the District of Columbia attended the two hour session. The format was an open discussion of analytical methods and interesting cases. Some of the topics discussed were:

—THC determinations

- opiate determinations by RIA and HPLC with electrochemical detection
- acid-neutral drug extractions
- derivatization reagents and methods
- GC/MS Selected Ion Monitor use in confirmations
- the appearance of ethyl cocaine in urine

A number of attendees commented favorably on the open discussion and good interaction. Similar workshops were recommended for future MAAFS meetings.

# Summary of the 1985 Board of Director's Meetings

The SOFT Board of Directors during 1985 met for a total of three times. The Board first met in Las Vegas on February 12th during the AAFS annual meeting. The second time the Board met was by telephone conversation on August 1st and a third meeting was convened in Montreal, Quebec, on September 24th. During the February meeting, the Board dealt with several important issues. One issue concerned a company's interest in having several representatives of the Society "preview" a new product it was marketing for use by forensic toxicologists. The Board firmly denied this request. It was stated for the record that the Society could never be involved in any kind of product endorsement.

Other matters discussed at this meeting were the NIDA/CDC drug mortality reporting which would in effect be a central depository for drug deaths and also the possible resurrection of the CDC urine drug proficiency testing program. The Board of Directors took an affirmative and positive position in support of both of these worthwhile programs. However, the Board learned later this year that these programs were given a low priority for funding and are essentially dead issues for the near future.

The Board also decided at this meeting that the 1986 Annual Meeting in Reno/Lake Tahoe should be a joint meeting between CAT and SOFT.

The Board of Director's telephone conference occurred on August 1st where two important issues were discussed and action taken. The first matter on the agenda was a decision by the Board that the membership roster could be sold by the President or his appointees to interested parties for the sum of \$50. This fee could be waived for qualified individuals or groups seeking our membership list for worthwhile purposes. This action was taken because current and past presidents have received several requests for a list of the members of SOFT. President Prouty indicated to the Board that this was already a matter of policy with the AAFS and CAT organizations. It was further decided the membership directory should be copyrighted.

Another important matter brought up for discussion was the report to the President by the Grants and Endowments Committee. This committee recommended that the Society could do more to fund the Educational Research Award (ERA) by helping to build an endowment fund sufficiently large to be self sustaining. The ERA is a very important function of SOFT which gives aid to deserving graduate students pursuing a degree in forensic toxicology. One method the committee recommended to help build the ERA endowment (which could hopefully reach \$10,000 in 5-7 years) was for each member to donate \$10 per year to the ERA fund. The Board's decision was that the \$10 amount would not be a donation, but would rather be made mandatory by means of a dues increase. This action was taken for two primary reasons:

- (1) to ensure that this endowment base would be made in the shortest possible time so that it could do the most good, and
- (2) a mandatory contribution was more likely to be paid by the member's employer where applicable. This dues increase begins with the 1986-87 fiscal year.

The Board of Directors met again in Montreal, Quebec. Among items discussed was the

feasibility of having a certified public accountant review and audit our financial records every two years. A final recommendation on this matter should be forthcoming in the near future. Another matter discussed was a proposed change in the By-Laws to require full members to have a continuing and ongoing involvement in forensic toxicology. There was considerable discussion on this proposal but no final decision was reached.

Also at this meeting, the third edition of the membership directory was presented to the Board. In further business, the Board accepted the resignation of eight SOFT members and removal of fifteen members from the rolls for nonpayment of dues. For this reason and probably for the first time, the Society did not

have any significant growth in membership this year. Four members in 1985 requested and were granted retirement status by the Board.

In a final matter of business, the Board is looking forward to a successful Annual Meeting next year in Reno/Lake Tahoe. The meeting dates have been set from October 29 to November 2, 1986. Director Norm Wade has stated that one of the featured attractions at this meeting will be a "hands-on" GC/MS workshop. The Board of Directors expressed hope that as many of our members as possible will plan to attend and support the annual meeting in 1986.

Respectfully submitted,  
H. Horton McCurdy, PhD  
Secretary, SOFT

## Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

Le Grande Hotel, Montreal, Quebec  
Thursday, September 26, 1985

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The annual business meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists was called to order by President Richard Prouty at approximately 3:30 p.m. EDT. It was determined by a showing of hands that a quorum was established and that a sufficient number of voting members was present to conduct business.

### 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

With one minor modification of the agenda, the President called for a motion for approval of the agenda. A motion was made to approve the agenda, seconded, and the motion was carried.

### 3. PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

President Prouty reminded those in attendance that the government of Canada was most generous in its support of the meeting in Montreal and that we should show our appreciation of this fact. The President then announced the arrival of the Special Issue of the Journal of Analytical Toxicology and also reminded those in attendance of the upcoming FBI Symposium on Drugs and Driving in March 1986.

### 4. READING OF THE 1984 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously that the reading of the minutes of the 1984 Annual Business Meeting be dispensed with since they had been previously published in ToxTalk.

### 5. APPROVAL OF THE 1984 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes be approved as published. The motion was approved unanimously.

### 6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Michael McGee gave the Treasurer's Report (printed after the minutes) for the fiscal year 1984-1985. The balance in the checking account as of July 1, 1984, was \$2657.47. Income from dues, interest, and donations amounted to \$5997.90 giving a total of

\$8255.37. Expenses for the year were \$4675.35 leaving a balance as of June 30, 1985, of \$3580.02. Also as of June 30, 1985, this balance included \$2312.08 which was earmarked for the ERA fund. The Treasurer's Report was not completed in time for review by the Budget and Finance Committee; however, Mr. McGee promised that the budget would be published in ToxTalk. Mr. McGee then outlined the proposed budget for fiscal year 1986-1987 (printed after the minutes). Expected income from dues, interest, and meetings totaled \$6300. Expected expenses for meeting advances, budgets for officers, etc., also totaled \$6300.

Dr. Jesse Bidanset made a motion that voting members present approve and accept the Treasurer's Report and approve the proposed Budget as approved by the Board of Directors. The motion was seconded and in discussion Dr. Leo Dal Cortivo strongly urged the approval of the Treasurer's Report. The motion was carried without dissent.

### 7. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

President Prouty reported that the Board of Directors met face-to-face in Las Vegas in February, by telephone conference on August 1, and met once again at the Montreal meeting. The President reported that the attempt by NIDA to develop a program by which uniform reporting of meaningful data on tox deaths could be accomplished has now been abolished due to lack of funding. The President also reported that a project by CDC to resurrect the urine drug proficiency testing program has also come up "empty-handed" due to lack of funding. President Prouty expressed hope that there might be a joint effort by NIDA and CDC to eventually get these projects underway.

The President then reported the decision by the Board of Directors to allow interested parties to obtain a membership roster of the Society for an optional fee of \$50. President Prouty also reported that the Board approved travel expenses for the President to attend SOFT annual meetings.

### 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice President Kincaid who was the overseer of the committees this year presented to

the membership the chairman of each committee for a summary of their activities during the past year.

**A. Nominating Committee:** Dr. Joseph Monforte, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers to the membership. He reminded the membership that his committee had published the slate of officers for 1986 in ToxTalk thirty days before the annual meeting as required by the By-Laws. Therefore a slate was presented as follows:

Dr. Rosemary L. Kincaid – President  
Dr. H. Horton McCurdy – Vice President  
Dr. C. Nicholas Hodnett – Secretary  
Dr. Robert O. Bost – Board of Directors  
Mr. Mark B. Lewis – Board of Directors

President Prouty called for a motion for the acceptance of the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee. Such a motion was made, seconded, and the motion carried without dissent.

**B. Membership Committee:** The Secretary and Membership Committee Chairman reported to the membership that since the last annual meeting, the Society has received 19 new full members of which 10 were new members and 9 were promoted from associate to full member status. The Society has received 10 new associate members during this past year. Also, two members, June Jones and John Kenhart, have been approved for retirement status by the Board of Directors. The Secretary reported that the Society now has 163 full, charter, or retired members, 43 associate members, and 14 student members. The Secretary informed the members in attendance that the third edition of the membership directory has been published and will be mailed shortly. This year's edition is copyrighted and contains the Society's By-Laws.

The Secretary reported that although the Society had been growing at some twenty members per year, it did not do so this year. This was because eight members have resigned and fifteen were dropped from the rolls for non-payment of dues. In response to a question by Dr. Bidanset, the President explained that the members who were dropped from the rolls were given two years and several chances to continue their membership in SOFT. The last notice was sent to these members by registered mail.

In closing, the Secretary thanked the members of his committee this year, particularly Dr. Neal Reading who was especially helpful. A motion was then made to receive the report, seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**C. Evaluated Methods Committee:** Vice President Kincaid reported that Dr. Bost and the Evaluated Methods Committee is working on an evaluation of a method for diazepam and nordiazepam. This committee hopes to have some data on this method ready by early next year.

**D. Budget and Finance Committee:** Dr. Kincaid reported that this committee has not been able at this time to do a complete review of the financial records for reasons stated in the Treasurer's Report above.

**E. Education Research Award Committee:** Dr. Yale Caplan stated that although funds were available for the award there are currently no applicants. He does, however, expect two or three applicants for the award quite soon.

**F. Publications Committee:** Vice President

Kincaid commended Dr. Bill Anderson and his committee for a job well done on the JAT Special Issue this year.

**G. By-Laws Committee:** Dr. Caplan as a member of the By-Laws Committee gave the report. The President had directed this committee to change the By-Laws to ensure that full members should have a continuing engagement and involvement in forensic toxicology. Therefore the proposed By-Laws change (Chapter II, Section 2A) to reflect this idea would have the present wording changed from:

"Regular members are those who fulfill qualifications set forth in Section 1 above" to read:

"Regular members are those who fulfill the qualifications set forth in Section 1 above and who are actively engaged in the practice of forensic toxicology."

President Prouty explained in further discussion that there currently is no facility or method for determining continuing involvement of the members of SOFT in forensic toxicology.

In discussion of the proposed By-Laws change, Dr. Jane Speaker remarked that a person's profession should make little difference in his or her standing as a full member of SOFT. Dr. Everett Solomons suggested this matter should have a greater bearing on the acceptance of new members rather than on members already accepted. In response to a query from Dr. Paula Childs, President Prouty explained that there are provisions in the By-Laws for persons not actively engaged in forensic toxicology to have associate membership status. Dr. Reading reminded those in attendance that SOFT is not a certifying organization but instead is a forum for toxicologists to share each other's experiences and a chance to express their interest in forensic toxicology. He expressed further that the goals of SOFT would not be served by this proposed By-Laws change. President Prouty replied that the proposal was not meant to suggest certification of its members but only that verification that its members are still "actively engaged in forensic toxicology." Dr. Tully Speaker suggested that SOFT was in danger of becoming a much too structured and rigid organization and was losing sight of its original goals. Dr. Dal Cortivo made the suggestion that the members present at the meeting be polled as to their opinion of the proposed By-Laws change. President Prouty called for a show of hands for those wishing not to change the present By-Laws as written. Those members favoring the present By-Laws not be changed was virtually unanimous.

**H. Meeting Site Committee:** Mr. Mark Lewis, Chairman of the committee, reported that 1986 is the Reno/Lake Tahoe Annual Meeting occurring on the dates October 29 through November 2 and is a joint meeting between SOFT and the California Association of Toxicologists (CAT). The 1987 meeting is to be in Miami in mid-October and the 1988 is to be in Philadelphia also in mid-October. Mr. Lewis stated that the 1989 and 1990 meetings are still open but that it was suggested that in 1990 SOFT return to its "birthplace" for its 20th annual meeting. Mr. Tom Rejent reminded the organization that SOFT has traditionally met with the CSFS every five years and that would occur again in 1990.

**I. ToxTalk:** Dr. Marina Stajic informed the Society that the ToxTalk newsletter is alive and

well and that due to technical problems the last issue was a combined June/September issue of the newsletter. She explained that ToxTalk is now back on schedule and the editors are eagerly awaiting contributions from the membership.

**J. Endowments and Grants Committee:** Dr. Richard Phillips explained to the group that one of the functions of SOFT is to promote the education of forensic toxicologists. Last year, as Chairman of the committee, Dr. Phillips wrote to approximately 85 companies asking for contributions to the ERA fund and received only five positive replies for which very little money was generated (except for the generosity of Dr. Phillips' company, Miles Labs).

The Endowments and Grants Committee decided that this year a better approach would be for the Society to do its part in promoting and funding the Education Research Awards. This could be accomplished by asking each member to make either a voluntary contribution to the ERA fund or simply raise the dues by \$10 per year for a number of years until a sufficient amount of monies had been accumulated for the award to be self-sustaining. If SOFT through its membership could raise a sufficiently large endowment, then industry might be more willing to donate to the fund. The committee felt that a capital base of \$10,000 for the endowment would help to produce a reasonably large award every year.

In response to a query from Dr. Pat Field, Mr. McGee explained that all interest currently earned on all monies is directed to the ERA fund. Dr. Joe Monforte pointed out also that money generated over expenses from the annual meetings is earmarked for the ERA. President Prouty added also that the Board of Directors is empowered to approve awards of up to \$1000. Dr. Reading pointed out that a base of \$10,000 could be obtained by asking for a voluntary contribution of approximately \$50 from each full member. Dr. Al Poklis explained the importance of the ERA fund as a resource for research grants into areas of particular interest to the forensic toxicologist. He stated further that the ERA fund is the sole basis of support in order that certain fundamental questions in forensic toxicology could be answered. Dr. Poklis then cited several examples of research that needed to be done for which the ERA fund was the only basis of support. Dr. Reading felt that a base of \$10,000 was far too modest an amount and that the committee should consider presenting an actuarially sound program that would generate the size of awards and programs that would be really meaningful. Dr. Phillips replied that could certainly be a next step.

President Prouty reported that the Board of Directors considered and discussed the committee's recommendation on August 1, 1985, and the Board approved raising the dues from \$25 to \$35 with \$10 going into the ERA fund. The new dues would begin July 1, 1986.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Tully Speaker questioned the wisdom of selling the membership list of SOFT. He further stated that if the membership list is to be sold, it should be for much more than \$50. Dr. Stajic explained that the fee of \$50 was the same that the Academy charges for its membership list and according to President Prouty there are no constraints placed by the Academy on the sales of its membership list. Dr. Spiehler indicated that CAT sells its list for cost plus \$50 for one time use only. Dr. Stajic, in res-

ponse to a suggestion by Dr. Joel Milzoff and others, said that an insert would be enclosed with the mailing of the directory so that members could choose whether or not they wished their names to be included in the sale of membership lists.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. McGee stated that according to Dr. Ron Backer the Toxicology Registry is accepting (and also searching) data on drug deaths. He then gave to those in attendance forms to be filled out for the Tox Registry.

**11. NOMINATIONS**

President Prouty opened the floor for nominations. There being no nominations from the floor, Dr. Poklis moved that the nominations be closed. The motion was seconded by Dr. Stajic and was passed unanimously. Dr. Caplan then made a motion that the slate as nominated by the Nominating Committee be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded and passed by the members present unanimously. Therefore, the slate (listed under the report by the Nominating Committee above) was duly elected.

**12. CLOSING REMARKS**

President Prouty expressed his gratitude in being allowed to serve as President of SOFT this year and stated that it has been an honor and privilege. He also thanked the officers and Board of Directors of SOFT. Dr. Dal Cortivo indicated that the minutes should reflect the appreciation of the members of SOFT for Mr. Richard Prouty's excellent leadership this year. The other members present enthusiastically expressed their appreciation also.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The President entertained a motion for adjournment. A motion was made and seconded by Mr. Lewis. The motion was passed without dissent and the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:55 p.m. EDT.

# Treasurer's Report

## Fiscal Year 1984-1985

Balance in checking account,  
July 1, 1984 . . . . . \$2657.47

**INCOME:**

\$4710.00 Dues and application fees  
48.63 1983 meeting income over expenses  
239.27 Interest from checking account  
600.00 Donations to ERA fund

-----  
\$5597.90 Total Income . . . . . \$5997.90

Total Funds Available . . . . . \$8255.37

**EXPENSES:**

\$1646.02 Newsletter  
730.00 SAT share of 1984 meeting income  
500.00 7th ERA award  
350.00 President's reception at AAFS meeting

234.21 By-Laws revision and mail ballot  
200.00 Membership directory deposit  
183.20 Board of Directors meeting  
160.00 Legal fees  
160.00 Executive Coordinator's fees  
156.91 Conference call (Board of Directors)  
153.72 Vice President's expenses  
75.00 Secretary's expenses  
50.66 Treasurer's expenses  
43.33 President's expenses  
32.30 Miscellaneous expenses

-----  
\$4675.35 Total Expenses . . . . . -\$4675.35

Balance in checking account,  
June 30, 1985 . . . . . \$3580.02

NB: \$2312.08 of the balance in the checking account is allocated to the ERA fund.

# Proposed Budget

## Fiscal Year 1986-1987

**EXPECTED INCOME:**

\$5250.00 Dues (210 charter, full & regular @ \$25)  
300.00 Dues (20 student @ \$15)  
500.00 Repayment of annual meeting advance  
250.00 Interest from checking account

-----  
\$6300.00 Total Expected Income

**EXPECTED EXPENSES:**

\$1700.00 Newsletter  
250.00 President's expenses  
250.00 Vice President's expenses  
250.00 Secretary's expenses  
250.00 Treasurer's expenses  
500.00 Annual Meeting advance  
300.00 Board of Director's meeting  
400.00 President's reception at AAFS meeting  
300.00 Legal fees  
1000.00 Administrative Coordinator's consulting fee

# GAS-CHROMATOGRAPHIC RETENTION INDICES OF TOXICOLOGICALLY RELEVANT SUBSTANCES ON SE-30 or OV-1

Under the auspices of The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT), a committee operates to study the need for reference analytical data in support of systematic toxicological analysis. Over the past few years, this working group (STA Committee) has gathered, tested, and validated reference analytical data for gas-chromatography, thin-layer chromatography, and GC-mass spectrometry.

This work has resulted in the publication of a book which provides retention indices for 1600 compounds important to forensic and clinical toxicologists. The retention data are cross-indexed to an alphabetical

850.00 Meetings and teleconferences  
250.00 Transfer of Interest to ERA fund

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\$6300.00 Total Expected Expenses

## January 31, 1986 Workshop on Multivariate Analysis

A workshop on multivariate analysis is to be held on January 31, 1986, in conjunction with the quarterly meeting of the California Association of Toxicologists, February 1, 1986, in Los Angeles, California.

Guest speakers will include:  
Dr. Bruce Kowalski  
Dr. William Dunn  
Professor Guiseppa Musumarra  
For information call or write:  
Dr. Martha Harkey  
SmithKline Bio-Science Labs  
7600 Tyrone Avenue  
Van Nuys, CA 91405  
(818) 989-2520 ext 2392

# Job Opening

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Division of Forensic Sciences, Toxicology Section, has an opening for a person with a BS, MS, or PhD in toxicology, chemistry, biochemistry, or related medical-chemical area. Undergraduate physical chemistry is a pre-requisite.

An on-the-job training program is provided. We are now in a new facility equipped with modern instrumentation including capillary gas chromatographs, high pressure liquid chromatography, various immunoassay equipment, atomic absorption, GC-Mass Spectrometry, etc.

The job responsibilities include: the maintenance of custodial procedures of evidence, the analysis of human biological fluids and tissues for drugs and poisons, and the interpretation of the results in courts of law.

The salary range is \$16,000-30,000 per year and is very dependent on educational and work experience.

If interested, please call or write:  
Dr. Everett Solomons  
Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Division of Forensic Sciences  
Box 370808  
Decatur, GA 30037-0808  
(404) 244-2500

listing and also CAS numbers and names. This makes the data particularly easy to use.

The book is published by VCH in Germany for the German Research Foundation with whom the TIAFT STA Committee worked. In consequence, it is not generally sold through retail bookstores in the United States, but is available at the address below:

Dr. Bryan Finkle  
Genentech Inc  
460 Point San Bruno Boulevard  
South San Francisco, CA 94080  
(415) 952-1000

The cost is \$11.00 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling.



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J A T SPECIAL ISSUE

CALL FOR PAPERS

The September/October 1986 "Special Issue" of the Journal of Analytical Toxicology will be once again dedicated to forensic toxicology. The 1986 Special Issue Editors are Yale H. Caplan and Marina Stajic.

To meet the September/October publication date the following deadlines must be adhered to firmly:

March 15	Receipt of titles and abstracts
April 15	Manuscripts due
June 1	Manuscripts requiring revision returned to authors
July 1	Final forms of manuscripts forwarded to JAT
August 1	Galley proofs forwarded to authors
September 1	Galley proofs returned to JAT
October 1	Publication

Titles, abstracts, manuscripts (original plus four copies) and any correspondence should be forwarded to:

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Baltimore, MD 21201  
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or  
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DECEMBER 19, 1985

NOTICE

CHANGE IN TELEPHONE NUMBER

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Chief Toxicologist

Toxicologist, \$29,400 per year plus fringe benefits. Position involves the analysis of postmortem specimens for alcohol, drugs and poisons. Requires a Ph.D. in chemistry or a related field, with 3 years of technical experience. Experience with capillary gas chromatography and high pressure liquid chromatography highly desirable. Position available February 1, 1986.

Chemist, \$17,900 per year plus fringe benefits. Position involves the analysis of postmortem specimens for alcohol, drugs and poisons. Requires a Bachelor's Degree in chemistry or a related field. Position available approximately April 1, 1986.

Send CV to: Ronald C. Backer, Ph.D.  
Chief Toxicologist.

