

## Scientific Working Group Forensic Toxicology

### Co-Chairs

Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D.

Daniel Isenschmid, Ph.D.

Robert Middleberg, Ph.D.

## Mission

The mission of the SWG-Tox is to investigate, analyze, develop and disseminate consensus in standards of practice for forensic toxicology.

## Establishment of SWG-Tox

- SWG-Tox was established by the FTC in October 2009 at the annual meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists.
- Co-Chairs (appointed by the FTC)
  - Bruce Goldberger (University of Florida)
  - Daniel Isenschmid (Wayne County Medical Examiners Office)
  - Robert Middleberg (NMS Labs)
- Three SWG-Tox Committees were formed and assigned to the Co-Chairs. The three Committees are:
  - Standards, Practice, Protocols and Accreditation (Middleberg)
  - Education, Ethics, Outreach and Certifications (Isenschmid)
  - Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (Goldberger)

## SWG-Tox Duties (as defined by FTC)

Incorporate existing recommendations of the SOFT/AAFS Laboratory Guidelines Committee, and other relevant committees, into a best practices document for **standards, practices and protocols**, to include guidelines on quality assurance and method validation, analytical testing methods, interpretive issues, and testimony practices.

## SWG-Tox Duties (as defined by FTC)

Develop recommendations for **education** and training, and continuing professional education in forensic toxicology, and support the development and enforcement of a uniform code of **ethics** in forensic science in general and forensic toxicology in particular.

## SWG-Tox Duties (as defined by FTC)

- Develop recommendations for **research, development, testing and evaluation** to support the underlying science on which the practice of forensic toxicology is based.
- Promote **certification** of individuals practicing forensic toxicology, and **accreditation** of laboratories performing forensic toxicology.
- Provide **outreach** to promote public awareness of the contribution of forensic toxicology to the criminal justice system, and public health and welfare.

## Objectives

- Establish minimum standards for the practice of forensic toxicology:
  - Standards, practice, protocols including quality assurance and quality control
  - Education requirements
  - Accreditation
  - Certification
- Establish a uniform Code of Ethics for forensic toxicologists.
- Identify areas of research and development in the field of forensic toxicology.
- Promote public awareness of the field of forensic toxicology through outreach.

## Terminology

- Co-Chairs – Appointed by Forensic Toxicology Council (FTC) to facilitate the mission of SWG-Tox.
- Committees – The SWG-Tox is comprised of three Committees.
  - Standards, Practice, Protocols and Accreditation
  - Education, Ethics, Outreach and Certification
  - Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation

## Terminology

- Subcommittee – As appropriate, Committees may be divided into smaller working groups facilitated by a Subcommittee Chair, appointed by the Co-Chairs.
- Subcommittee Chair – Responsible for facilitating the mission of the Subcommittee.

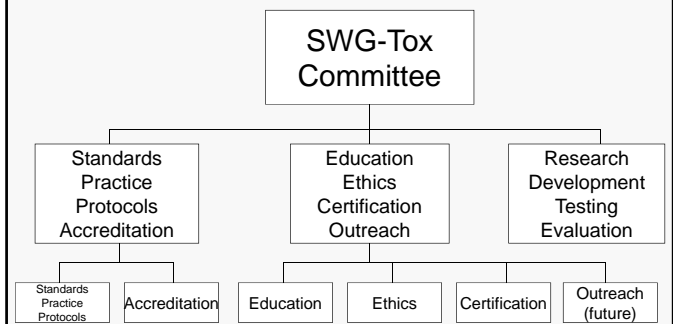
## Terminology

- Member – A diverse group of individuals with various backgrounds experienced in the scope of the Committee or Subcommittee. Members have voting privileges.
- Advisor – A diverse group of individuals with various backgrounds who supplement the expertise of the Committee or Subcommittee. Advisors do not have voting privileges.
- Consultant – A diverse group of individuals with expertise in a particular subject matter related to the scope of the Committee or Subcommittee. Consultants do not have voting privileges.

## Committee Development

- Each Co-Chair determined the need for Subcommittees within their Committee.
- The Co-Chairs were responsible for designating members, advisors and/or consultants, and when appropriate, appointing Subcommittee Chairs.

## Proposed Structure



## Standards, Practice, Protocols

Co-Chair: Middleberg

MEMBERS	CONSULTANTS	ADVISORS
Chris Heartsill	Simon Elliott	Chris Chronister
Graham Jones	Robert Kronstrand	Frank Esposito
Loralie Langman	Frank Peters	Jim Kraner
Marc LeBeau	Matt Slawson	Julia Pearson
Bob Osiewicz		Ruth Winecker
Betsy Spratt		

## Accreditation

Co-Chair: Middleberg

### MEMBERS

- Graham Jones (Subcommittee Chair)
- Mike Baylor
- Fiona Couper
- Laurel Farrell
- Laura Liddicoat
- Robert Osiewicz

## Education

Co-Chair: Isenschmid

### MEMBERS

- Sarah Kerrigan (Subcommittee Chair)
- Yale Caplan
- Barry Levine
- Michelle Peace
- Peter Stout
- Diana Wilkins
- Jarrad Wagner

### ADVISOR

- David Osselton

## Ethics

Co-Chair: Isenschmid

### MEMBERS

- Yale Caplan (Subcommittee Chair)
- Dennis Crouch
- Kurt Dubowski
- Laurel Farrell
- Robert Zettl

## Certification

Co-Chair: Isenschmid

### MEMBERS

- Amanda Jenkins (Subcommittee Chair)
- Deborah Denson
- Christine Moore
- Robert Sears
- John Soper

### ADVISOR

- Mark Fondren

## Outreach

Co-Chair: Isenschmid

This subcommittee remains to be developed. It is anticipated that it will be an outgrowth from the combined efforts of all SWG-Tox activities.

## Research, Development, Testing & Evaluation

Co-Chair: Goldberger

MEMBERS	CONSULTANTS
Patrick Callery	Diana Garside
Kenneth Ferslew	Michele Merves
Marilyn Huestis	Jarrad Wagner
Dave Moody	
Jeri Miller	
Diana Wilkins	

## Meetings

- SWG-Tox and its Committees and Subcommittees will meet periodically in conjunction with the annual meetings of SOFT and AAFS. Additional interim meetings may take place on an as needed basis.
- In addition to face-to-face meetings, other modes of communication will be employed as needed. This includes conference calls, e-mail and web-based conferences.

## Funding

- Initial funding of SWG-Tox was provided by Society of Forensic Toxicologists and the American Board of Forensic Toxicology.
- Additional funding has been provided and will be solicited in the future from the National Institute of Justice.
- Additional sources of funding will be solicited from other sources as needed.

## Expected Outcomes

- Establish written minimum standards for the practice of forensic toxicology in the areas of:
  - Standards, practice, protocols including quality assurance and quality control
  - Education requirements
  - Accreditation
  - Certification
- Establish a written uniform Code of Ethics for forensic toxicologists.
- Identify areas of research and development in the field of forensic toxicology.
- Dissemination of SWG-Tox work product.
- Promote public awareness of the field of forensic toxicology through outreach including written materials and other forms of communication.

## Timeline / Milestones

- 10/09: Establishment of SWG-Tox
- 01/10: Meeting of SWG-Tox Co-Chairs to plan for February 2010 meeting
- 02/10: First Meeting of SWG-Tox
- Mid-10: Develop outline of SWG-Tox Guidelines and Procedures
- 10/10: SWG-Tox progress meeting and presentation to constituency

Thank You!

