

SWGTOX Update (AAFS, Feb. 2011)

SWGTOX
A Short Existence with a Long History

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SWGTOX Co-Chair

History of SWGTOX

- ▶ Established in October, 2009 by the Forensic Toxicology Council (FTC)
- ▶ SWGTOX operations are independent of the FTC
- ▶ Three Co-Chairs were appointed
 - Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D., DABFT - **Academia**
 - Dan Isenschmid, Ph.D., DABFT - **Government**
 - Rob Middleberg, Ph.D., DABFT, DABCC(TC) – **Private Sector**

History of Self-regulation in Forensic Toxicology

- ▶ **American Board of Forensic Toxicology**
 - Established – 1976
 - First individual certification – 1976
 - Laboratory accreditation program established – 1996
 - First laboratory accredited – 1997
- ▶ **Forensic Toxicology Certification Board**
 - Established – 1993
 - First individual certification – 1995
- ▶ **SOFT/AAFS Forensic Toxicology Laboratory Guidelines**
 - 1991 / 1997 / 2002 / 2006

Bylaws Enacted Dec. 16, 2010

www.swgtox.org

SWGTOX Scope

- ▶ The scope of SWGTOX activities concern toxicological matters related to the law including, but not limited to, postmortem toxicology, human performance toxicology, and workplace drug testing.
 - **NOTE: SWGTOX will address areas not currently regulated by any agency, including breath testing, probation and parole, etc.**
- ▶ While the work product developed by SWGTOX is the standard of practice in all forensic toxicology disciplines, the scope of SWGTOX activities will not necessarily include those specialized areas where mandated, codified rules and regulations currently exist.

SWGTOX Structure

- ▶ Modeled after IWGs
 - Standards, Practices & Protocols
 - Education, Ethics, Outreach and Certification
 - Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation
- ▶ Committees, Subcommittees and Task Groups

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SWGTOX Membership

- ▶ Original Concept
 - Members, Consultants & Advisors
 - Government Labs; Private Labs; Non-profits; Academia; Non-U.S.-based individuals (Australia, Canada, France, Great Britain, Germany, Sweden)
- ▶ New Model
 - Members – Voting Privileges
 - **Maximum number = 50**
 - Advisors, Consultants and Invited Guests – No voting privileges
 - **No limit to number**
 - Executive Secretary – Non-voting

SWGTOX Governance

- ▶ Executive Committee
 - Composition
 - SWGTOX Chair(s)
 - Committee Chairs
 - Two Members at Large
 - **Elected by members**
 - Functions
 - Ensure timeliness of SWGTOX work product
 - Organize SWGTOX meetings
 - Select Members
 - Assign tasks to Members
 - Liaise with SWGTOX funding authority
 - Appoint Executive Secretary
 - Perform annual assessment of SWGTOX

SWGTOX Governance

- ▶ Committee Chairs
- ▶ Subcommittee Chairs
- ▶ Task Group Chairs

SWGTOX Operations

- ▶ Meetings
 - Minimum: 2x year – pending funding
 - Members only
 - Parliamentary order
 - Other communication means
- ▶ Voting of SWGTOX Documents
 - Members only
 - Quorum (3/4 membership)
 - Consensus vote of 2/3 of attending members
 - Email voting

SWGTOX Operations

- ▶ Approval Process for Standards
 - 8 step process
- ▶ Document Control
- ▶ Document formatting

Meetings to Date

- ▶ Co-Chairs met on 2 separate occasions
 - Funding Source: ABFT and SOFT
- ▶ Many phone conferences
- ▶ Feb. 22, 2010 – AAFS Meeting, Seattle
 - Members, Advisors, Consultants
 - Funded by NIJ
- ▶ Oct. 2010 – SOFT Meeting, Richmond, VA
- ▶ Dec. 14–16 – Nat'l. Conf. Ctr., Lansdowne, MD
 - Members only
 - Intensive 3-day meeting
 - Funded by NIJ

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Current Accomplishments

- › Organizational
- › By-laws
- › Code of Professional Conduct of SWGTOX
- › Ethics Standard Complete - Pending voting process
- › Method Validation Standard - for comment
- › Other standards in various stages of completion

Future Endeavors

- › Diversifying members, advisors, consultants and invited guests
- › Definitions
- › Continued production of standards
- › Production of final document encompassing the standards of practice for forensic toxicology in the U.S.
- › Continuity of SWGTOX