

Scientific Working Group for Forensic Toxicology (SWGTOX)

This document was updated on September 16, 2013

Mission:

The mission of SWGTOX is to develop and disseminate consensus standards for the practice of forensic toxicology.

Scope:

The scope of SWGTOX activities concerns: human performance toxicology (e.g., drug facilitated crimes, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs), postmortem forensic toxicology, non-regulated employment drug testing, court ordered toxicology (e.g., probation and parole, drug courts, child services) and general forensic toxicology – other toxicology performed for legal purposes in a variety of biological specimens (e.g., non-lethal poisonings or intoxications).

While the work product developed by SWGTOX is the standard of practice in forensic toxicology, the scope of SWGTOX activities will not necessarily include those specialized areas where mandated, codified rules and regulations currently exist.

Terminology:

Chair – Appointed by Forensic Toxicology Council (FTC) to facilitate the mission of SWGTOX.

Committees – The SWGTOX is comprised of three Committees. Committee Chairs serve on the Executive Committee.

- Standards, Practice, Protocols and Accreditation
- Education, Ethics, Outreach and Certification
- Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation

Executive Committee (EC) – The EC is comprised of the Chair, the Committee Chair(s), the Executive Secretary and two Members-at-Large.

Subcommittee – As appropriate, Committees may be divided into smaller working groups facilitated by a Subcommittee Chair, appointed by a Chair(s).

Task Group – As appropriate, Subcommittees may be divided into smaller working groups called Task Groups.

Subcommittee Chair – Responsible for facilitating the mission of the Subcommittee.

Task Group Chair – Responsible for facilitating the mission of the Task Group.

Member – A diverse group of individuals with various backgrounds experienced in the scope of the Committee, Subcommittee or Task Group. Members have voting privileges.

Consultant – A diverse group of individuals with various backgrounds who supplement the expertise of the Committee, Subcommittee or Task Group. Advisors do not have voting privileges.

Invited Guest – An individual that may be invited to a SWGTOX meeting to provide expertise or education on a specific matter.

SWGTOX Objectives:

1. SWGTOX will establish standards for the practice of forensic toxicology, including the following areas:
 - Standards, practice, protocols including quality assurance and quality control
 - Education and training requirements
 - Accreditation
 - Certification
2. SWGTOX will provide guidance for the development of a Code of Professional Conduct for forensic toxicologists and laboratories.
3. SWGTOX will identify general areas of research and development needs in the field of forensic toxicology.
4. SWGTOX will promote public awareness of the field of forensic toxicology.

Meetings of SWGTOX

1. SWGTOX will meet periodically.
2. 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

1. Initial funding of SWGTOX was provided by the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) and the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT). Additional funding was provided by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) for the inaugural meeting of SWGTOX.
2. From 2010-2013, The Department of Justice funded SWGTOX via the FBI and NIJ.
3. In 2013, the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) agreed to fund SWGTOX with up to \$2500 per year.
4. As of September 2013, funding for future on-site meetings is undetermined.

Timeline/Milestones

1. October 2009: Establishment of SWGTOX by the FTC
2. January 2010: Meeting of first SWGTOX Chairs (Bruce Goldberger-University of Florida, Daniel Isenschmid-Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office, and Robert Middleberg-NMS Labs) to plan for February 2010 meeting
3. February 2010: First Meeting of SWGTOX in Seattle, WA
4. June 2010: SWGTOX Chair(s) meet to develop SWGTOX bylaws
5. Summer 2010: Develop outline of SWGTOX Guidelines and Procedures
Establishment of SWGTOX web-site
6. October 2010: SWGTOX presentation to Society of Forensic Toxicologists
7. December 2010: SWGTOX meeting in Leesburg, VA. Executive Committee formed (three chairs plus two members-at-large)
8. April 2011: SWGTOX meeting in St. Louis, MO. Executive Secretary position created
9. September 2011: SWGTOX meeting in Baltimore, MD
10. November 2011: SWGTOX meeting in Pasadena, CA
11. December 2011: *Standard for Developing a Guide and Code of Professional Conduct in Forensic Toxicology* approved by SWGTOX membership
12. March 2012: SWGTOX meeting in Charleston, SC
13. December 2012: SWGTOX meeting in St. Louis, MO
14. January 2013: *Recommendations of the Research, Development, Testing, and Evaluation (RDTE) Committee* approved by SWGTOX membership
15. May 2013: SWGTOX meeting in St. Louis, MO
16. May 2013: *Standard Practices for Method Validation in Forensic Toxicology* approved by SWGTOX membership

Appendix 1

Executive Committee as of September 2013

Chair: Robert Middleberg, Ph.D.

Standards, Practice, Protocols and Accreditation

Committee Chair: Marc LeBeau, Ph.D.

Education, Ethics, Outreach and Certification

Committee Chair: Jeri Roper-Miller, Ph.D.

Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation

Committee Chair: Jeri Roper-Miller, Ph.D.

Executive Secretary: Madeline Montgomery, B.S.

Members-at-Large: Laurel Farrell, B.A.
Jeri Roper-Miller, Ph.D.

Members as of September 2013

Daniel Anderson	Marc LeBeau
Michael Baylor	Laura Liddicoat
Pat Callery	Jennifer Limoges
Fiona Couper	David Masters-Moore
Dennis Crouch	Robert Middleberg
Kurt Dubowksi	Madeline Montgomery
Laurel Farrell	David Moody
Mark Fondren	Michelle Peace
Bruce Goldberger	Julia Pearson
Susan Hackworthy	Jeri Roper-Miller
Chris Heartsill	Thomas Rosano
Marilyn Huestis	Robert Sears
Daniel Isenschmid	Matthew Slawson
Amanda Jenkins	Elizabeth Spratt
Graham Jones	Peter Stout
Melissa Kennedy	Jarrad Wagner
Sarah Kerrigan	Robert Zetl
Loralie Langman	

Appendix 2

Previous SWGTOX Members

Yale Caplan
Randall Clark
Tony Costantino
Deborah Denson
Ken Ferslew
Barry Levine
Courtney Lias
Christine Moore
Bob Osiewicz
Jason Sklerov
John Soper
Diana Wilkins