

## **Scientific Working Group - Forensic Toxicology (SWGTOX)**

This document was updated on October 7, 2010

### **Mission:**

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

### **Scope:**

The scope of SWGTOX activities includes post-mortem and human performance toxicology. While the standards developed by SWGTOX are considered good standard 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 (*e.g.*, Federal Drug-Free Workplace Program and World Anti-Doping Agency).

### **Terminology:**

Co-Chairs (hereafter referred to as Chair(s)) – Appointed by Forensic Toxicology Council (FTC) to facilitate the mission of SWGTOX.

Committees – The SWGTOX is comprised of three Committees.

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

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 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.

**SGW-Tox Objectives:**

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

**SWGTOX Process:**

Establishment of SWGTOX

1. SWGTOX was established by the FTC in October 2009 at the annual meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists. SWGTOX duties as defined by the FTC are attached as Appendix 1.
2. The Committee Chair(s) were Bruce Goldberger (University of Florida), Daniel Isenschmid (Wayne County Medical Examiners Office) and Robert Middleberg (NMS Labs).
3. Three SWGTOX Committees were formed and assigned to the Chair(s). The three Committees are:
  - Standards, Practice, Protocols and Accreditation
  - Education, Ethics, Outreach and Certifications
  - Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation
4. Each Chair(s) determined the need for Subcommittees within their Committee.
5. The Chair(s) were responsible for designating members, advisors and/or consultants, and when appropriate, appointing Subcommittee Chairs.
6. A Chair(s) or Subcommittee Chair was responsible for appointing Task Groups and Task Group Chairs
7. The proposed structure of SWGTOX is illustrated in Appendix 2.
8. SWGTOX Chair(s), Members, Consultants and Advisors are listed in Appendix 3.

## Meetings of SWGTOX

1. The SWGTOX will meet periodically in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Additional interim meetings may take place on an as needed basis.
2. SWGTOX Committees and Subcommittees will meet periodically in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Additional interim meetings may take place on an as needed basis.
3. 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 Society of Forensic Toxicologists and the American Board of Forensic Toxicology. Additional funding was provided by the National Institute of Justice for the inaugural meeting of SWGTOX.
2. Additional sources of funding will be solicited by the Forensic Toxicology Council from other sources as needed (*e.g.*, NIJ).

## Expected Outcomes

1. 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
2. Establish a written uniform Code of Ethics for forensic toxicologists.
3. Identify areas of research and development in the field of forensic toxicology.
4. Dissemination of SWGTOX work product.
5. Promote public awareness of the field of forensic toxicology through outreach including written materials and other forms of communication.

## Timeline/Milestones

- |    |                |   |
|----|----------------|---|
| 1. | October 2009:  | Establishment of SWGTOX   |
| 2. | January 2010:  | Meeting of SWGTOX Chair(s) to plan for February 2010 meeting                            |
| 3. | February 2010: | First Meeting of SWGTOX   |
| 4. | June, 2010:    | SWGTOX Chair(s) meet to develop SWGTOX bylaws   |
| 5. | Summer 2010:   | Develop outline of SWGTOX Guidelines and Procedures<br>Establishment of SWGTOX web-site |
| 6. | October 2010:  | SWGTOX progress meeting and presentation to constituency                                |

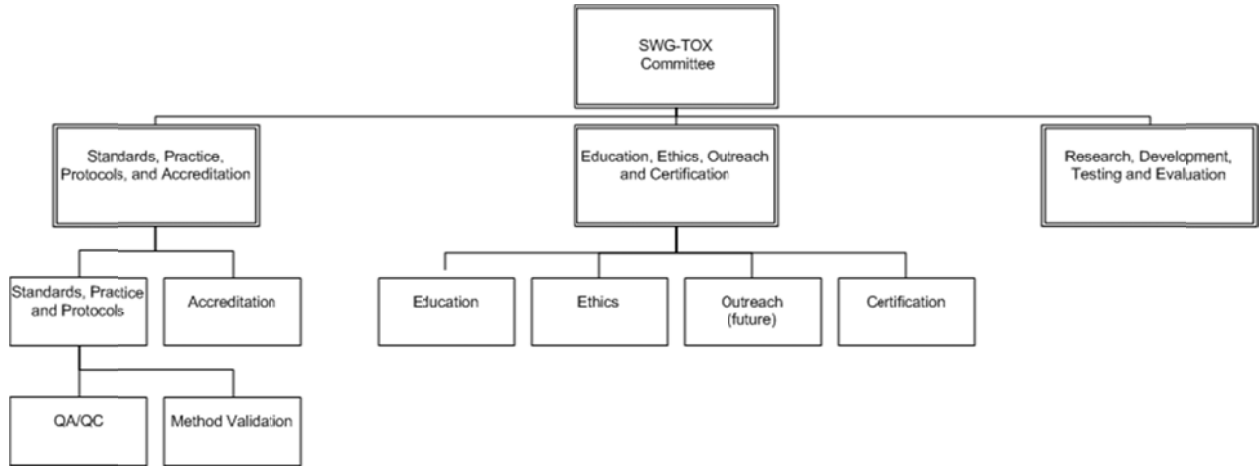
## Appendix 1

### SWGTOX duties as defined by the FTC

- 4.4.1 Create 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, using such documents as the SOFT/AAFS Laboratory Guidelines as guides.
- 4.4.2 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.
- 4.4.3. Develop recommendations for **research, development, testing and evaluation** to support the underlying science on which the practice of forensic toxicology is based.
- 4.4.4 Promote **certification** of individuals practicing forensic toxicology, and **accreditation** of laboratories performing forensic toxicology.
- 4.4.5 Provide **outreach** to promote public awareness of the contribution of forensic toxicology to the criminal justice system, and public health and welfare.

## Appendix 2

### Proposed Structure of SWGTOX



### **Appendix 3**

#### Chair(s), Members, Consultants and Advisors

##### Standards, Practice, Protocols and Accreditation

Chair: Robert Middleberg, Ph.D.

##### *- Standards, Practice and Procotols*

Member	Consultant	Advisor
Chris Heartsill, B.S.	Simon Elliott, Ph.D.	Chris Chronister, Ph.D.
Graham Jones, Ph.D.	Robert Krostrand, Ph.D.	Frank Esposito, Ph.D.
Loralie Langman, Ph.D.	Frank Peters, Ph.D.	Jim Kraner, Ph.D.
Marc Lebeau, Ph.D.	Matt Slawson, Ph.D.	Julia Pearson, Ph.D.
Bob Osiewicz, Ph.D.	Marc Deveaux, Ph.D.	Ruth Winecker, Ph.D.
Besty Spratt, M.S.		

##### *- Accreditation*

Subcommittee Chair: Graham Jones, Ph.D.  
 Mike Baylor, Ph.D.  
 Fiona Couper, Ph.D.  
 Laurel Farrell, B.A.  
 Laura Liddicoat, B.S.  
 Robert Osiewicz, Ph.D.

##### Education, Ethics, Outreach and Certification

Chair: Daniel Isenschmid, Ph.D.

##### *- Education*

Subcommittee Chair: Sarah Kerrigan, Ph.D.  
 Members: Yale Caplan, Ph.D.  
 Barry Levine, Ph.D.  
 Michelle Peace, Ph.D.  
 Peter Stout, Ph.D.  
 Diana Wilkins, Ph.D.  
 Jarrad Wagner, Ph.D.  
 Advisor: David Osselton, Ph.D.

*- Ethics*

Subcommittee Chair: Yale Caplan, Ph.D.  
 Members: Dennis Crouch, M.S.  
 Kurt Dubowski, Ph.D.  
 Laurel Farrell, B.A.  
 Robert Zettl, B.S., MPA

*- Certification*

Subcommittee Chair: Amanda Jenkins, Ph.D.  
 Members: Deborah Denson, MPM  
 Christine Moore, Ph.D.  
 Robert Sears, M.S.  
 John Soper, Ph.D.  
 Advisor: Mark Fondren

Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation

Chair: Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D.

Member: Patrick Callery, Ph.D.  
 Kenneth Ferslew, Ph.D.  
 Marilyn Huestis, Ph.D.  
 Dave Moody, Ph.D.  
 Jeri Roper-Miller, Ph.D.  
 Diana Wilkins, Ph.D.

Consultant: Diana Garside, Ph.D.  
 Michele Merves, Ph.D.  
 Paul Orsulak, Ph.D., M.B.A.  
 Jarrad Wagner, Ph.D.