



S.A.T. Newsletter

September 2005

Volume 27, Issue 2

News of the Southwestern Association of Toxicologists (established 1977)

Fall Meeting Highlights

- "Training in Forensic Sciences/ Toxicology"
- Hotel Valencia Riverwalk
- NBA: World Champion Spurs vs. LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers

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courtesy SACVB

Welcome to San Antonio! November 3-5, 2005

You are cordially invited to attend and participate in the 2005 Fall Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Toxicologists. The meeting will be held November 3-5, 2005 at the Hotel Valencia on the Riverwalk in downtown San Antonio.

The theme of our fall meeting will focus on how training and educational requirements are important to forensic science practitioners and toxicologists in particular. Increasing attention is being given to an individual's qualifications not only to testify in a legal issue, but to their overall competency in the laboratory. Our speakers will be sharing their experiences with training processes as well as discussing training opportunities that exist for new as well as "seasoned" toxicologists.

Friday evening, November 4th, we have obtained tickets for the defending NBA Champion San Antonio Spurs' second home game of the year. They will be playing the Cleveland Cavaliers and LeBron James in his only trip to San Antonio this season. Please be sure to include your ticket purchase with your registration, as we anticipate the seats to sell out. We bought 30 tickets as a group, and the ticket distribution will be first come, first served. Transportation to the SBC Center will be provided.

Of course, if basketball doesn't interest you, the Riverwalk will be right outside your door at the Valencia. Enjoy an evening stroll or water taxi ride to restaurants and shopping. Bring your family and enjoy San Antonio!



Hotel Valencia Riverwalk

Discerning travelers will find it hard to resist this 213 room contemporary luxury hotel. Stylish and chic, Hotel Valencia seamlessly combines elements of a sophisticated old world palazzo with eye-catching elements of modern conceptual design.
-hotelvalencia.com



Room view (courtesy SACVB)

Hotel Information

Our Fall Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Toxicologists will be held in downtown San Antonio at the Hotel Valencia Riverwalk.

The Hotel Valencia Riverwalk is a contemporary luxury hotel that opened in December 2002. Last year, Hotel Valencia Riverwalk made the “Hot List!” by *Condé Nast Traveller* as one of the 100 best new hotels in the world.

This hotel is an experience all by itself, but its location on the Riverwalk where Houston Street crosses the river makes it central to many of the customary destinations in downtown. If you’re familiar with downtown San Antonio and all the usual reasons to come back, this hotel will definitely rank up there. Our meeting rate is good for two days prior and two days after the November 3 and 4 room block, so consider an extended stay!

Rooms are available to meeting attendees at a special rate of \$109.00 per night. Estimated taxes are 16.75%. Reservations must be made no later than October 13, 2005.

President’s Reception

Arrive early on Thursday so you can attend the President’s Reception from 6:00 to 8:00 PM in the courtyard of the Valencia. Fajitas will be served and there will be a cash bar. Many of the guest rooms overlook the courtyard, which has a large fireplace and two cascading waterfalls.

Reservations

By phone:

866.842.0100

Ask for the Southwestern Association of Toxicologists group rate.

By Internet:

www.hotelvalencia.com

Enter the code: 0411SOUTHW to obtain the discounted rate.

Other info:

150 E. Houston St.

San Antonio, TX 78205

210-227-9700 (direct line)

210-227-9701 (fax)

[Map \(from Google\)](#)

Questions?

Carrie Presses or Mike Frontz

(210) 335-4030



Courtyard view

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, November 3, 2005

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Vendor Set Up
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Registration
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	President's Reception
After 8	Dinner & Entertainment on your own

Friday, November 4, 2005

8:00 a.m.	Breakfast Service
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Training in Forensic Sciences and Toxicology
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (provided)
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Open Discussion
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Scientific Sessions
After 5	Entertainment & Dinner on your own

Saturday, November 5, 2005

8:00 a.m.	Breakfast Service
8:30 a.m.	General Business Meeting
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Scientific Sessions
12:00 p.m.	Conclusion

President's Message – Brad Hall

I would like to first thank the SAT membership for choosing me to represent our organization as president this year. It is truly an honor to represent such a talented and dedicated group of forensic scientists. Thanks also to Phil Kemp for his service as president last year. If you don't know Phil, take the time to introduce yourself at the next meeting. He is a great guy and an asset to SAT.

When I attended my first forensic toxicology meeting as a graduate student hosted by the Society of Forensic Toxicologists in Albuquerque, NM in 1998, I knew I would find working in this field, and with this group of people, a great way to spend a career. It is hard to believe I have been involved in forensic toxicology for about 6 years now. I would like to take a quick moment to thank Rod McCutcheon, a pioneer in the SAT organization, for his mentorship in forensic toxicology.

We are rapidly approaching the Fall 2005 SAT meeting in San Antonio, Texas. The group down there really puts together a great meeting, and I hope everyone can make it. I hear a very nice hotel on the Riverwalk has been chosen as the meeting site. What a great excuse to come and enjoy the charm of San Antonio and the Riverwalk.



SBC Center

The theme for the meeting is "Training in Forensic Sciences and Toxicology". We work in such an evolving field in terms of technology and knowledge. There is always an opportunity to learn more in our field, and that is one part that makes working in forensic science rewarding. Attending the SAT meetings is just one way of continuing our training in forensic toxicology.

However, I do know that lack of funding can be an obstacle to attending meetings and other training events. I encourage lab directors to continue to appeal to those in power for their support of continuing education. Finally, I encourage all forensic scientists to pursue personal certification. In forensic toxicology, certification is offered by the American Board of Forensic Toxicologists (ABFT) and the Forensic Toxicology Certification Board (FTCB). Certification is a great way to affirm your training in forensic science.

Thanks for reading, and I look forward to seeing everyone in San Antonio.

Brad Hall
Travis County Office of the Medical Examiner

Meeting Registration

SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF TOXICOLOGISTS
2005 Fall Meeting
November 3-5, 2005
Hotel Valencia
San Antonio, TX

REGISTRATION FORM

Name (as it will appear on badge) _____
 Phone: _____ FAX: _____ Email: _____
 Title: _____
 Agency: _____
 Address: _____

_____ SAT Member [] Non-Member []

MEETING REGISTRATION:

Please register by October 13, 2005 to avoid late fees. Registration includes admission to all scientific sessions, workshops, exhibits, the President's Reception, and Friday's lunch. Spurs tickets and extra lunches are separate.

	Member	Non-member	Student	Total
Prior to/on October 13:	\$60.00	\$70.00	\$35.00	_____
After October 13:	\$65.00	\$75.00	\$40.00	_____
Spurs Game Tickets	\$25.35 x _____			_____
Extra Lunch Tickets	\$35.00 x _____			_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED:				_____

Please make payment by check or money order, payable to SAT, and mail to:

Mike Frontz
Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office
7337 Louis Pasteur
San Antonio, TX 78229

HOTEL INFORMATION:

Hotel Valencia Riverwalk
150 East Houston Street
San Antonio, TX 78205
Reservations 866.842.0100

Your S.A.T. Board of Directors

- President:
2005-2006 Brad Hall, Ph.D.
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2005-2006 John Tarver, MS, MBA, D-ABFT
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- Councilor:
2004-2006 Elizabeth Zbranek-Taylor
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2005-2007 Connie Huber
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316-383-4500
chuber@sedgwick.gov

*"There is always an opportunity to learn more in our field, and that is one part that makes working in forensic science rewarding."
-Brad Hall*



Southwestern Association of Toxicologists

How do I...

...send a group E-mail?

Send your message,
comments, news, etc. to
Sat-tox@yahoogroups.com

...notify of an address
change?

Contact our secretary,
Monica Lopez at (214) 920-
5809 or
mlopez@dallascounty.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.sat-tox.org

Southwestern Association of Toxicologists 2005 Fall Meeting

Abstract Submission

We are now accepting abstracts of presentations intended for the Fall 2005 meeting of the Southwestern Association of Toxicologists. In previous years, a form was required to accompany any abstract submission. There is no longer any necessity for a form due to the overwhelming prevalence of electronic communications, as long as the same pertinent information is included.

Please e-mail your title and abstract (200 words or less) to mefron@co.bexar.tx.us, or call Mike Frontz at (210) 335-4031. Please use Microsoft Word if possible. Include your name and any co-authors, e-mail address, postal address, and phone number.

If you prefer a Friday or a Saturday time slot, please indicate so and we will try to accommodate you. The scientific sessions will be Friday PM and Saturday AM only.

We will have an LCD projector and a laptop for your presentation. Please be prepared with a flash drive if possible (also known as a "jump" or "key" drive) so that we may pre-load your presentation. A CD is also OK. A traditional 3.5" floppy disk will require some extra preparation; please indicate if you intend to use one. Also, if you must use your own laptop, please advise in advance. Thanks!

Important changes!

We are experimenting with a few ideas about disseminating information from past meetings. Notable for their absence from this newsletter is the abstracts section. After some previous meetings we have posted abstracts and even entire presentations on the Yahoo! Sat-Tox group. This is a feature that can be exploited even further, and is more timely than seeing abstracts in the newsletter four or five months after they are presented. Same can be said about S.A.T. Business Meeting minutes. If you have not yet become a member of the Yahoo! Group, and/or cannot see the "files" section of that webpage, please sign yourself up by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sat-tox> or by calling Mike Frontz at 210-335-4031

Welcome New Members!

S.A.T. would like to
extend a warm
welcome to the
following people:

Melissa C. Norton
Ramon O Flores
Karina M DeFina
Jinee D Rizzo
Dimika V Cavalier
Veronica M Hargrove
Carol S Stazo
Terry J Danielson
Greg Jellick

Future Meeting Sites

March 2006 – Houston

October 2007 – Austin (co-meeting with SOFT)

Spring 2007 – Open