

S.A.T. Newsletter



Houston Spring Meeting To Be Held March 16-18, 2006

You are cordially invited to attend and participate in the 2006 Spring Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Toxicologists. The meeting will be held in Houston, Texas, from March 16-18, 2006 at the Marriott Medical Center Hotel, located in the heart of the Texas Medical Center.

A guided tour of the Harris County Medical Examiner's Office (HCME) is scheduled for Thursday.

The Friday workshop will focus on a multidisciplinary approach to motor vehicle accidents. Our speakers will share a wealth of information on the many aspects of the MVA investigation including pathology, DNA, and the toxicology of drugs often involved in these cases.

Case studies and new methodologies will be presented in the scientific sessions scheduled for Saturday.

Houston's MetroRail, which is just steps from the hotel, conveniently connects the Texas Medical Center to Reliant Stadium, the Museum District, Hermann Park, Midtown, Downtown and the Theatre District.

Many of Houston's attractions will be just a train ride away!

Tickets to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo are available for purchase for Friday, March 17, 2006. Ranked as the world's largest, RodeoHouston invites only the top cowboys and cowgirls in the sport. This event will include an authentic Texas Bar-B-Que dinner and tickets to the evening show.

Come and get to know your colleagues while experiencing all that Houston has to offer!



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Special points of interest:

- New hotel deadline: March 2
- Early registration deadline: February 10
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo tickets available

President's Message

First, I would like to thank Rod McCutcheon and all of the staff at the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Toxicology Laboratory for all of their hard work in hosting the Fall 2005 meeting in San Antonio. I would also like to thank Dr. Fernandez from the South Texas Poison Center and all of the speakers for their partici-

pation in forming such an enjoyable meeting. Finally last but not least, I would like to thank all of the Vendors support to our organization and forensic toxicology in general.

We are rapidly approaching our Spring 2006 meeting in Houston March 16 - 18 hosted by Dr. Mozayani and

the Harris County Medical Examiner's Toxicology Department. Because of the busy hotel season we all need to finalize our hotel arrangements by March 2 and try to register early by February 10. The meeting will be rewarding in terms of both the scientific program and entertainment. I

Continued on page 2...

Hotel Information

Hotel Reservation Deadline: Thursday, March 2, 2006

Marriott Medical Center

6580 Fannin Street
Houston, TX 77030

Reservations: 713-796-0080 or 800-228-9290

Room Rates: \$89/night for Single, Double, Triple, or Quadruple Occupancy

Group Name: Southwestern Association of Toxicologists

Parking Rates:

- \$9/day for self-service, "In and Out" not available
- \$12/ day for valet service, unlimited "In and Out" included
- \$16.95/day for valet over-night service, unlimited "In and Out" included

Hotel Shuttle Services:

Airport Express Shuttle

To/From Bush/Intercontinental Airport:

- Available daily from 5:15am to 7:15pm
- Departs once an hour at 15minutes after the hour
- 45 minutes to 1 hour travel time
- \$19 per person

To/From Hobby Airport:

- Available daily from 5:30am to 7:30pm
- Departs once an hour at 30minutes after the hour
- 30 minutes travel time
- \$24 per person

Shuttle service anywhere within a 2 mile radius is included.

Any additional questions can be answered by calling 713-523-8888.

...President's Message (from 1)

encourage everyone to attend and make this the highest attended SAT meeting in the history of the organization.

I would like to welcome all of our new members. Thank you for your dedication to the field and being a part of our organization. I look forward to seeing you at future meetings.

Finally, start making plans to

attend the 2006 Annual Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) meeting in Austin. Remember we will not have a specific SAT meeting in the Fall of 2006 to encourage all to attend the SOFT meeting. For those of you that have not been to a SOFT meeting, you will not be disappointed. We anticipate upwards of 700 or more attendees. Rod McCutcheon is the official

meeting host, so let's support him by having a strong SAT presence at the SOFT meeting.

Thanks for reading. Look forward to seeing everyone in Houston.

Brad Hall
Travis County Office of the
Medical Examiner

Please Note: This time of year is extremely busy for the hotels in Houston. Please make every effort to reserve your hotel room as soon as possible. Thanks!



[Map to Marriott
Medical Center](#)

*“The Friday workshop
will focus on a
multidisciplinary
approach to motor
vehicle accidents.”*

Tentative Houston Meeting Schedule

Thursday, March 16, 2006

12:00 pm-2:00 pm	Board Meeting
1:00 pm-3:30 pm	Harris County Medical Examiner’s Tour
3:00 pm-6:00 pm	Registration
4:00 pm-6:00 pm	Vendor Set Up
6:00 pm-8:00 pm	Welcome Reception
After 8:00pm	Dinner and Entertainment on your own

Friday, March 17, 2006

7:30 am	Breakfast Service
8:00 am-12:00 pm	Session I of Workshop
12:00 pm-1:30 pm	Lunch (provided)
1:30 pm-5:00 pm	Session II of Workshop
After 5:00 pm	Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (dinner included)

Saturday, March 18, 2006

7:30 am	Breakfast Service
8:00 am-9:00 am	SAT Business Meeting
9:00 am-???	Scientific Sessions

Call for Papers

We are now accepting abstracts of presentations intended for the Spring 2006 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 amozayani@hctx.net or call Dr. Mozayani at (713) 796-6830. Please use Microsoft Word if possible. Include your name and any co-authors, e-mail address, postal address, and phone number.

The scientific session will be 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!

Southwestern Association of Toxicologists
 2006 Spring Meeting
 March 16-18, 2006
 Marriott Medical Center Hotel
 Houston, TX



Registration Form

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

SAT Member [] Non-Member []

Meeting Registration:

Please register prior to **February 10, 2006** to avoid late fees. Registration for the entire conference includes admission to all scientific sessions, the full day workshop on Friday, exhibits, a welcome reception Thursday evening, and lunch on Friday. Registration for the workshop on Friday includes admission to the exhibits, the workshop, and lunch on Friday.

	Member	Non-Member	Student	Total
Prior to/on February 10	\$70	\$80	\$40	_____
After February 10	\$75	\$85	\$45	_____

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Tickets:

Price for Members: \$35 x _____
 Price for Non-members: \$45 x _____

Tickets to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo are available for purchase for Friday, March 17, 2006. Ranked as the world's largest, RodeoHouston invites only the top cowboys and cowgirls in the sport. This event will include an authentic Texas Bar-B-Que dinner and tickets to the evening show.

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

Dr. Ashraf Mozayani
 Harris County Medical Examiner's Office
 1885 Old Spanish Trail
 Houston, TX 77054
 Phone: 713-796-6830 Fax: 713-796-6837 e-mail: amozayani@hctx.net

Hotel Information:

Marriott Medical Center Hotel
 6580 Fannin St.
 Houston, TX 77030
 Reservations 713-796-0080

Hotel Reservation Deadline: Thursday, March 2, 2006

**SAT Business Meeting
Hotel Valencia
San Antonio, Texas
November 5, 2005**

Minutes taken by Monica Lopez, Secretary

Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order by President Brad Hall at 8:45 am on November 5, 2005. Brad and Mike had previously thanked everyone for attending as well as all those who helped make it a successful meeting.

Reports of Officers

Secretary's Report

Monica Lopez handed out the minutes from the last meeting as well as announced that the minutes had been posted on the S.A.T. website. Upon review, she entertained a motion to accept the minutes. The motion to accept the minutes was made by Joe Castorena, seconded by Rod McCutcheon, and approved.

Treasurer's Report

(financial information available to S.A.T. members upon request)

Phil Kemp made a motion to accept the report as written; it was seconded by Bob Schoenfeld, and approved.

Kathy also reported that during the Board meeting Brad appointed an Audit Committee consisting of Bob Schoenfeld, Ken Peck, and Justin Schwane. Bob reported that the treasurer's books were examined and everything appears to be up-to-date and in order. He also added that the Fidelity Funds interest rate was increased to 12.4%.

Kathy also reported that signature cards for the bank account were updated with signatures on file from Kathy Erwin, Brad Hall, Monica Lopez, and John Tarver. The Board also approved a resolution to apply for a credit card for the organization. In addition, the Board discussed Hotel contracts and that it's a good idea to have an archive of these to serve as guidelines for meeting hosts. It was decided that the Councilor would maintain an archived copy of these contracts. Several members agreed that having an archived copy would be helpful to meeting hosts and that all those who have hosted a meeting could share their experiences, make suggestion, etc. Rod suggested that we could borrow some of the criteria used by SOFT as guidelines.

Committee Reports

Meeting Grants

John Tarver reported that there were no meeting grant submissions. He encouraged supervisors to encourage colleagues to apply for the \$300.00 meeting grants.

Awards

John Tarver reported that there were no nominations for awards. He encouraged applications.

John also talked about the Boards' discussion regarding whether scholarships should be made available for education, or grants for research projects. A committee was appointed consisting of John Tarver, Phil Kemp, and Brad Hall to determine what criteria should be required for these types of awards. The committees' goal is to put together criteria such as size of the grant and number of people that could be awarded annually. Several members also suggested sponsoring an individual(s) to a course like the Borkenstein Course.

The committee will be contacting directors of Forensic programs such as those at UTSA, Sam Houston, Baylor, etc to elicit feedback on what would be helpful to students.

As a means of encouraging presenters at S.A.T. meetings, Ken suggested that the committee consider awarding per diem for each of the speakers.

John presented Phil Kemp with a plaque of appreciation for continued service as well as service for past president.

On Awards...

"A committee was appointed consisting of John Tarver, Phil Kemp, and Brad Hall to determine what criteria should be required for these types of awards. The committees' goal is to put together criteria such as size of the grant and number of people that could be awarded annually."

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Membership - reported by Monica Lopez for Aria McCall

The membership committee received five applications for membership. The committee recommended that the five applicants (Sabra Botch – FAA in Oklahoma City, Dana Paris – TX DPS Austin, Negin Aghdaie – TX DPS Austin, Rebecca Vasquez – TX DPS Austin, and Connie Lewis – Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office) be accepted for general membership. Brad Hall entertained a motion to accept the above members for general membership; the motion was carried, seconded by John Tarver, and approved.

Communications

Glenn Harrison talked about the newsletter and some of the new changes introduced by Mike Frantz, such as posting meeting abstracts on the S.A.T. public website. He also reminded everyone of how the yahoo website works - that it is only accessible by members and that the types of information that one might have access to are things such as Powerpoint presentations from previous meetings for anyone who was not able to attend but is interested in the discussion. Also, the treasurer's report and membership listing including phone numbers and addresses of members are other items that would be accessible by members only. The yahoo site is also important for discussions, problems, or questions as well as meeting updates and information.

Nominations

Brad announced that there are three offices up for election this spring:

President-Elect 2006-2007

The Board nominated Jim Burris – TX DPS Austin, and Susan Howe – Tarrant County Medical Examiners Office

John Tarver made a motion that nominations cease, it was seconded and approved.

Treasurer 2006-2008

Kathy Erwin was unanimously nominated by the Board

Brad Hall moved that nominations for this office be closed, it was seconded by Joe Castorena, and approved.

Councilor 2006-2008

The Board nominated Don Riddle and Paola Merritt

Rod made a motion that nominations cease, it was seconded and approved.

The votes will be tallied by the Teller Committee which is appointed by the president. The Teller committee will consist of Terry Danielson and Jeff Wise.

Old Business

Appreciation gifts for Brenda Snodgrass and Nancy Gowen for their years of service consisted of gift certificates from Amazon.com in the amount of \$300.00. These were awarded by Phil Kemp during lunch with each of them.

Rod reported on proposed SOFT guideline changes that affect us all. One is the interpretation of postmortem results focusing on calculations. For more information on the issue visit the SOFT website.

New Business

Future Meetings

Spring 2006 Meeting – scheduled to be in Houston at the Marriott Medical Center Hotel on March 16-18 during rodeo week. Dr. Mozayani has planned a driving impairment workshop, "roadside to courtroom" which will include the D.A.'s office.

Fall 2006 Meeting – scheduled to be in Austin at the New Hilton downtown near 6th street on November 2-6. The SOFT Meeting will also be taking place at this time.

Spring 2007 Meeting – Arkansas (tentative)

Fall 2007 Meeting – Fort Worth, TX

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Joe Castorena; it was seconded by John Tarver, and approved.

"The yahoo site is ... important for discussions, problems, or questions as well as meeting updates and information."

Southwestern Association of Toxicologists

Meeting Grants Application

The SAT Meeting Grant (\$300.00 plus meeting registration) may be awarded to two individuals per meeting (at the approval of the board). It may be applied toward the current meeting or one of the next two meetings.

Guidelines for Meeting Grant

- SAT Member in good standing
- Presenting paper at meeting
- Non-supervisory position
- Sponsoring letter from laboratory or section manager

Application for the SAT Meeting Grant should be forwarded to:

John Tarver
Accu-Chem Laboratories
990 North Bowser Road, Suite 800-880
Richardson, Texas 75081

By e-mail: tarverhome@gmail.com

Applicant's Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Sponsor: _____ Job Title: _____

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTE: Title and abstract must be received by program chair prior to application.

Date Application received: _____ SAT member verified: _____

Recommendation of committee: _____ Approve _____ Disapprove

Action of Board: _____ Fund _____ Do Not Fund Date: _____

Abstracts from the Fall 2005 S.A.T. Meeting—San Antonio

“Poisoning cases from the ER”

Miguel Fernández, MD

Medical Director of the South Texas Poison Center
Associate Professor of Surgery in
Emergency Medicine and Medical Toxicology
UTHSCSA Department of Surgery

The South Texas Poison Center (STPC) was created in 1995 as part of the Texas Poison Center Network (TPCN). The TPCN serves the population of Texas through six regionalized poison centers (www.poisoncontrol.org). The STPC is the center authorized and designated to serve the Texas Department of Health Public Health Region 8 and 11 that encompass 47 counties comprising an area of approximately 53,000 square miles.

“LC/MS/MS for Screening, Confirmation, and Quantitation of Drug Compounds in Biological Matrices”

Matthew Clabaugh

Applied Biosystems
Applied Markets Mass Spec Business Manager

Chromatography interfaced to mass spectrometry has long been a powerful analytical technique in the analysis of complex mixtures. Over the past 15 years, technological advances have made using LC/MS/MS more “user friendly”, which has led to a drastic increase in its popularity and use over this time period. As a result, LC/MS/MS is currently one of the most utilized analytical techniques. LCMSMS can offer the modern Toxicology lab the advantages of high throughput, high sensitivity and dramatic reduction in sample prep. Hybrid instruments increase the amount of analytical information that can be gained in a single experiment. A hybrid triple quadrupole/linear ion trap instrument (Q Trap) combines the high sensitivity and selectivity of a triple quadrupole instrument with the high quality full scan MS and MS/MS capabilities of an ion trap instrument. This combination of features can be very useful to detect, quantify and confirm the presence of analytes, even at trace levels therefore increasing the amount of information that can be obtained in a single run. The specific analysis issues faced today are usually due to lower detection limited and matrix interferences. The need to analyze drugs in blood and oral fluids will become standard practice for many Toxicology labs in the very near future. Here we will address the specific of sample prep and LCMSMS analysis of Opiates and THC in oral fluids and blood.

“Use of a Content Management System to Organize, Store and Retrieve Raw Instrument Data, Printed Output and Document Files in the Forensic Laboratory Environment”

David Judd

Agilent Technologies
Laboratory Informatics Specialist

Utilization of an off the shelf Enterprise Content Management System to store, organize and retrieve laboratory raw data from any instrumentation, printed output and other documentation in a forensic laboratory setting. The Enterprise Content Management System provides a toolset which can be configured for the forensic environment to organize raw data, printed output and documentation into a “Case” structure. The system can assist with chain of custody, case collaboration, scheduling, and rapid retrieval of all documents and data associated with a case when required.

Special Session:

Training in Forensic Science and Toxicology

What Constitutes a Well-Trained Employee: Opportunities for Professional Advancement and Continuing Education

“GC/GC vs. MS/MS: New Techniques for Detecting Drugs of Abuse in Complex Matrices”

Fred Feyerherm
Agilent Technologies

In the past, many people thought that a triple quadrupole mass spectrometer was required to detect trace concentrations of drugs of abuse in complex matrices such as blood, oral fluids, and hair. Now, a new technique has evolved and been proven to be superior to MS/MS in many ways. This technique is simplified multidimensional chromatography, also known as GC/GC. Basically, the matrix effects are eliminated by superior chromatography, resulting in a low cost, rugged solution. This talk will cover the theory of the Deans Switch GC/GC/MS system as well as several applications such as THC in blood and THC in oral fluids from labs currently using this new technique.

“The use of the JEOL AccuTOF-DART Mass Spectrometer in Forensic Analyses”

Adrian W. Pike, Zhanpin Wu, Chip Cody
JEOL USA

Conventional GCMS analysis of illicit drugs usually involves extraction, derivatization followed by analysis with a mass spectrometer. These steps are designed to isolate the compounds of interest in a maximum yield, and make them amenable to analysis by GCMS. Specific and high extraction efficiency also helps make the analytical results credible. These steps can often be time consuming and laborious, and require the time of laboratory staff. Experienced staff is also required to operate the mass spectrometers, and to interpret the data. Similarly, sample processing can often lead to the accumulation of large volumes of toxic solvents and reagents that will eventually require safe disposal, involving additional time and expense.

For the first time the JEOL AccuTOF-DART mass spectrometer allows the rapid analysis of trace organic compounds in situ. Samples, whether solids, liquids or vapors, can now be analyzed without pretreatment or processing. High Resolution data is rapidly generated, (within seconds), allowing the immediate identification of these classes of compounds. Moreover, valuable samples are not destroyed during analysis, maintaining their integrity should further characterization be required by other analytical techniques. Data will be presented from a number of classes of compounds demonstrating the advantages of this technology. Moreover, this presentation is designed to show ease of use of this instrument, and the generation of unambiguous data.

“Applications of Time of Flight Mass Spectrometry in Forensic and Analytical Toxicology”

Matthew H. Slawson, John M. Hughes*
Assistant Director, Center for Human Toxicology
Associate Director, Sports Medicine Research & Testing
Research Assistant Professor, Pharmacology & Toxicology
University of Utah
*Agilent Technologies

High-resolution atmospheric pressure ionization (API) LC/MS, specifically time of flight (TOF) mass spectrometry, is an emerging alternative to traditional LC/MS techniques for the identification and confirmation of abused and therapeutic drugs. This technique provides not only the usual spectral information such as isotope ratios, but highly specific detection of the intact molecule with confirmation of the empirical formula. The theoretical basis for TOF mass spectrometry will be outlined and several examples of time of flight data will be presented and compared with data collected from more traditional methods such as GC- and LC- quadrupole mass spectrometry.

Thank you to our special session speakers:

Linda Amaro, Bexar County Human Resources
Henry Hollyday, Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory
James Burris, Texas DPS
Michael Frontz, Bexar County MEO
Chris Heartsill, Dallas Co. Institute of Forensic Sciences

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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 and our treasurer, Kathy Erwin at (512) 424-2105 kjerwin@cox.net

...nominate someone for the Charles Tripp award?

Contact John Tarver at (972) 234-5577 or tarverhome@gmail.com

S.A.T. Board of Directors 2005-2006

- President: Brad Hall, Ph.D.
2005-2006
Travis County Medical Examiner's Office
(512) 854-9861
brad.hall@co.travis.tx.us
- President-Elect: John Tarver, MS, MBA, D-ABFT
2005-2006
Accu-Chem Laboratories, Inc.
(972) 234-5577
tarverhome@gmail.com
- Past President: Phil Kemp, Ph.D.
2005-2006
Office of Chief Medical Examiner, Oklahoma
(405) 239-7141
p_kemp@ocmeokc.state.ok.us
- Secretary: Monica Lopez
2005-2007
Dallas County Institute of Forensic Sciences
(214) 920-5809
mlopez@dallascounty.org
- Treasurer: Kathy Erwin
2004-2006
Texas Department of Public Safety
(512) 424-2105
kathy.erwin@txdps.state.tx.us
kjerwin@cox.net
- Councilor: Elizabeth Zbranek-Taylor
2004-2006
Travis County Medical Examiner's Office
(512) 854-9861
elizabeth.zbranek.taylor@co.travis.tx.us
- Councilor: Connie Huber
2005-2007
Sedgwick Co Forensic Science Center
(316) 383-4500
chuber@sedgwick.gov

FUTURE MEETING SITES

October 2006—Austin (co-meeting with SOFT)

Spring 2007— Arkansas (tentative)

Fall 2007—Fort Worth

Spring 2008—Open

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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

Sabra Botch – FAA in Oklahoma City

Dana Paris – TX DPS Austin

Negin Aghdaie – TX DPS Austin

Rebecca Vasquez – TX DPS Austin

Connie Lewis – Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office

ELECTION TIME

Watch your mail for ballots coming soon! Please update your mailing address if necessary. Ballots due by February 24.