



## Criminalistics Section – 2005

### **B83 The Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG)**

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The objective of this presentation is to update forensic drug analysts on the Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG) and on the proposals recently adopted as SWGDRUG recommendations. These recommendations include:

- A Code of Professional Conduct for forensic drug analysts
- Validation of Analytical Methods (with an appendix)
- Minimum Recommended Standards for Sampling Seized Drugs for Qualitative Analysis

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by discussing the published recommendations which have been available since 2000 to forensic scientists around the world. These recommendations have addressed Methods of Analysis, Education and Training, and Quality Assurance issues and were developed with input from the international forensic drug analysts community.

The last two sets of recommendations (Validation of Analytical Methods (with an appendix) and Sampling Seized Drugs for Qualitative Analysis) have been discussed widely in the forensic science community. During this presentation, the more significant factors from these two sets of recommendations will be explained. Time will be allocated for questions from attendees. Representatives from the SWGDRUG Core Committee will answer questions and address the concerns of attendees.

In past presentations to the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, a synopsis of SWGDRUG and the goals of the core committee have been presented. This year's program will focus on the specifics described above. However, information is presented here for those unfamiliar with the SWGDRUG process. SWGDRUG has been in existence since 1997. The mission of SWGDRUG is to recommend minimum standards for the forensic examination of seized drugs and to seek their international acceptance.

The objectives of SWGDRUG are the following:

- To recommend minimum standards for forensic drug analysts' knowledge skills and abilities
- To promote professional development of forensic drug analysts
- To provide a means of information exchange within the forensic drug analyst community
- To promote the highest ethical standards of practitioners in all areas of forensic drug analysis
- To recommend minimum standards for drug examinations and reporting
- To establish quality assurance recommendations
- To seek the international acceptance of SWGDRUG minimum standards

The SWGDRUG core committee is comprised of representatives from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Japan, Australia, the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), the United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP), Africa, and South America, a forensic science educator, the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), ASTM, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). All members of the core committee have worked together over the past six years to build a consensus on the development of recommendations that have impacted forensic drug analysis standards internationally.

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#### **Criminalistics, SWGDRUG, Drug Analysis**