



B142 The Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG)

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The goal of this presentation is to update forensic drug analysts on recent work products from SWGDRUG.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by presenting a synopsis of the history of SWGDRUG and goals of the core committee.

The objective of this presentation is to update forensic drug analysts on recent work products from the Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG). Currently SWGDRUG is working on the following topics:

- Uncertainty in measurements
- Reporting protocols (what should the report say?)

These topics have been discussed widely in the forensic science community. During this presentation, the current status of SWGDRUG's work products will be discussed. 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 the history of SWGDRUG and goals of the core committee have been presented. This year's presentation will focus on the specifics described above. However, the following 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:

- Specifying requirements for forensic drug practitioners' knowledge, skill and abilities,
- Promoting professional development,
- Providing a means of information exchange within the forensic science community,
- Promoting ethical standards of practitioners,
- Providing minimum standards for drug examinations and reporting,
- Establishing quality assurance requirements,
- Considering relevant international standards and
- Seeking international acceptance of SWGDRUG recommendations

Drug abuse and trafficking in controlled substances are global problems, and in recent years law enforcement has looked to international solutions for these problems. In 1997 the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) co-sponsored the formation of the Technical Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (TWGDRUG), now known as SWGDRUG.

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, forensic science educators, 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 ten years to build a consensus on the development of recommendations which have impacted forensic drug analysis standards internationally.

SWGDRUG Core Committee members have received hundreds of responses to international surveys and requests for comments from forensic drug analysts. Methods of communication have included: an internet website site (www.swgdrug.org), MICROGRAM, presentations at numerous local, national and international meetings, and personal contacts.

Published recommendations (www.swgdrug.org) 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. All recommendations were developed with input from the international forensic drug analysts community.

SWGDRUG, Drugs, Seized