



A88 The Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG)

Scott R. Oulton, BS, Southwest Laboratory, 2815 Scott Street, Vista, CA 92081*

After attending this presentation, attendees will discuss the current status of SWGDRUG's work products. Representatives from the SWGDRUG Core Committee will answer questions and address the concerns of the attendees.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing the current work products by SWGDRUG as it relates to the analysis of seized drugs.

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:

- Examples for the estimation of uncertainty of measurement in weight determinations;
- Revising/updating current SWGDRUG Recommendations;
- Developing standard training competencies.

These topics have been widely discussed 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.

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), forensic science educators, the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), ASTM, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Published recommendations are available on the SWGDRUG website located at: www.swgdrug.org.

Analysis of Drugs, SWGDRUG, Seized Drugs