



### **K32 The Scientific Working Group in Toxicology (SWGTOX): An Update on Standards Development**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will learn the current status of standards development within the Scientific Working Group in Toxicology (SWGTOX). Attendees will understand how they can actively participate in the standards development process.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by delineating the work of SWGTOX and how it potentially impacts the day-to-day activities within forensic toxicology laboratories within the United States.

The Scientific Working Group in Toxicology was established in October 2009. Its mission is to develop and disseminate consensus standards for the practice of forensic toxicology in the United States. The main areas of focus include:

- Standards, practice, protocols including QA and QC
- Education and training requirements
- Accreditation
- Certification
- Develop a Code of Professional Conduct for forensic toxicologists and laboratories
- Identify general areas of Research and Development (R&D) needs
- Promote public awareness of the field of forensic toxicology

The scope of SWGTOX activities concerns toxicological matters including postmortem toxicology, human performance toxicology, workplace drug testing, medicolegal and criminal investigations, and court-mandated testing.

To this end, members of SWGTOX have worked diligently within committees, subcommittees, and task groups to complete a number of standards. Other standards are on-going and in various stages of completion. It is important for the entire forensic toxicological community to be aware of SWGTOX activities and understand how each can play a role in the promulgation of standards. This presentation is an update of SWGTOX activities for the community. Executive Committee members of SWGTOX will present updates on specific accomplishments and current standards being developed.

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#### **SWGTOX, Standards, Participation**