



Toxicology Section - 2016

K75 Postmortem Pediatric Forensic Toxicology

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After attending this presentation, attendees will better appreciate the challenges unique to toxicological findings in postmortem pediatric cases. Attendees will learn interpretive guidelines for pediatric cases involving forensic toxicology in both a general and case-specific sense.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by further delineating the interpretive aspects of toxicological findings in the pediatric population.

In this 17th Annual Special Session within the Toxicology section, pediatric cases involving toxicological findings are discussed. As a relative dearth of interpretive information involving toxicological findings in the pediatric population exists, this session is a forum to help elucidate and clarify such issues. The format is a short case presentation, including pharmaco-toxicokinetic data and other relevant ancillary information followed by audience participation to provide interpretive clarity around the case-specific impact of the toxicological findings. This session, attended by various sections of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, allows for diverse perspectives of case issues that lead to integrative consensus, or differing opinions, as to cause of death in children.

Four cases will be presented that highlight the difficulty in assessing the role of toxicants in each case. Tracey Corey, MD, Alane Olson, MD, and Robert Kronstrand, PhD, will be reviewing cases from their years of experience as forensic pathologists and toxicologist, respectively, that highlight the issues and confounders in the pediatric population.

Ken Ferslew, PhD, and Karen Cline-Parhamovich, DO, will be discussing a case tentatively titled "Pediatric Soda Death, Complicated by Potential Furosemide Ingestion." This case will highlight the less concept established by Paracelsus in the 1500s that the dose makes the poison, especially when it comes to substances generally considered benign.

The case studies presented reflect current-day findings in medicolegal investigations of childhood deaths. In years past, discussions of these types of cases have been educational and demonstrative of the issues in this special population. Only through these continued case studies and audience participation can there be shared perspectives on the meaning of the toxicological findings.

Pediatric, Postmortem, Toxicology