



B184 2018 Update From the Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG)

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The goal of this presentation is to provide the seized-drug community with the most up-to-date information, resources, and documents being developed by the SWGDRUG.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by increasing awareness of the latest developments in the seized-drug discipline, as well as new documents and resources that can enhance practices.

The SWGDRUG was formed in 1997 in a joint effort between the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Office of Forensic Sciences and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). The SWGDRUG works to improve the quality of the forensic examination of seized drugs and to respond to the needs of the forensic community by supporting the development of internationally accepted minimum standards, identifying best practices within the international community, and providing resources to help laboratories meet these standards. This presentation will provide attendees with information on the SWGDRUG activities during the past year.

The year 2017 marked the 20th anniversary of the SWGDRUG. As a commemoration of this significant anniversary, the first edition of the SWGDRUG Bulletin was launched shortly after the group's annual meeting, which was held during the week of June 12-16 in St. Louis, MO. The bulletin is intended to provide members of the seized-drugs community with a short summary of the SWGDRUG's activities.

Core committee members are currently working on revisions to the SWGDRUG Recommendations. Part IIIB (Drug Identification) is being revised to clarify the rationale behind the categorization of techniques, with emphasis on the development of robust analytical schemes applicable to multiple jurisdictions. A supplemental document is being developed that will include numerous examples of analytical schemes. This presentation will include discussion of some of those examples and their applicability.

Core committee members are also working on revising Part IVB (Validation of Analytical Methods) of the Recommendations. Revisions will include additional background information and clarifications on the performance characteristics to be evaluated during the validation of both qualitative and quantitative methods. Examples of method validation schemes for routinely used techniques, such as color test, Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS), and Infrared (IR) spectroscopy will be included in this presentation and will also form part of another supplemental document to be published in the near future.

This presentation will also summarize recent updates on the SWGDRUG resources, such as the MS library, IR library, and Drug Monographs. Among the recent developments, the SWGDRUG has partnered with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to verify the quality and reliability of the SWGDRUG MS Library, as part of ongoing efforts to provide valuable resources to the community. Drug Monographs continue to be added and disseminated via the SWGDRUG website (www.swgdrug.org) and this often-used resource has recently been enhanced to allow searches and sorting by name, nominal mass, and base peak.

The SWGDRUG core committee includes representatives from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in the United States, Canada, Brazil, Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Australia, and Singapore. The following forensic organizations are represented: the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), the Academia Iberoamericana de Criminalística y Estudios Forenses (AICEF), the Asian Forensic Science Network (AFSN), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Core committee members also include forensic science educators and representatives from forensic science organizations across the United States, the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), and the NIST.

SWGDRUG, Drug Analysis, Criminalistics