



Young Scientists Committee

Meeting Reports

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YSC Meeting Report 2013 - Madeira

Room 31, Act City Hamamatsu, Hamamatsu, Japan

14:00 to 16:30

Attendance: 122 young scientist, including 6 YSC members (Jochen Beyer, Federica Bortolotti, Simon Elliott, Sooyeun Lee, Madeleine Montgomery, Frank Peters, Helena Texeira).

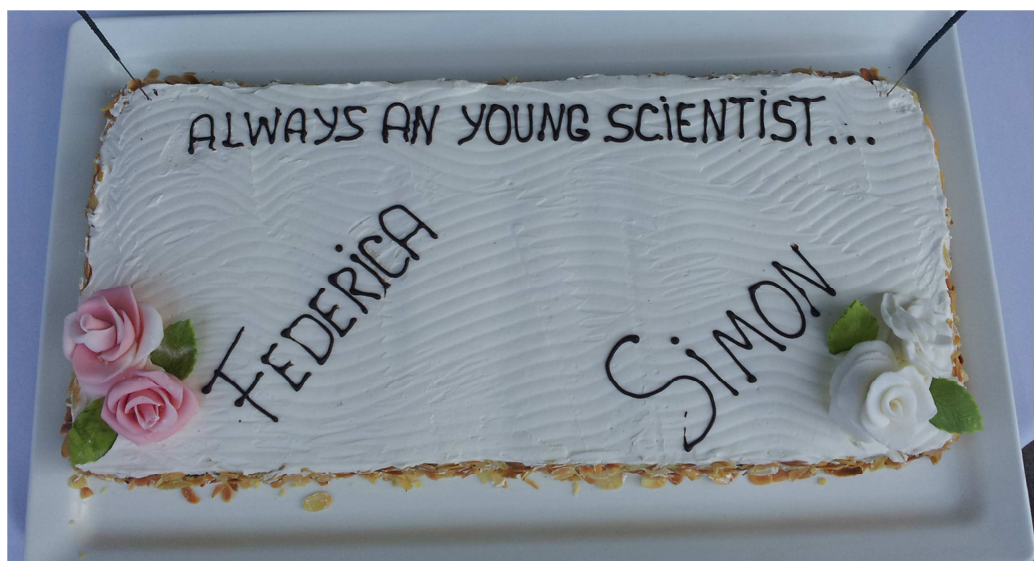
The current TIAFT YS secretary Jochen Beyer opened the YS Symposium in the name of Madeline Montgomery, the current TIAFT YS chair. Madeline was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting but she sent her best regards to all participants. After the opening of the symposium, TIAFT YS committee member and this year's conference organiser Helena Teixeira welcomed all 75 participants to Madeira and the conference hotel. Already in the first minutes of the conference, Helena presented her excellent organisation skills by reminding the YS committee and all the speakers to the importance of the exact coffee break time. Helena also explained the intentional lack of microphones as an encouragement to everyone to speak up.

Following TIAFT YS tradition, all participants briefly introduced themselves to the group in order to break the ice. A total of 6 talks were presented, covering topics such as novel approaches in metabolism studies, cannabis in driving, drug facilitated sexual assault, and not to forget forensic toxicology in popular culture.

Previous YS award winner Lars Ambach started with a presentation on his research of novel synthesis of drug metabolites, followed by previous YS award winner Markus Meyer. Markus gave an overview of ADME and pharmacogenomics and explained the relevance to clinical and forensic toxicology.

Rebecca Hartman from NIDA presented the important work on cannabis in driving and showed results from a study using a highly sophisticated driving simulator.

During the coffee break, which was exactly on time (at least almost exactly), Helena had organised a surprise cake for the two Young Scientist Committee Members Federica Bortolotti and Simon Elliott that have finally made it into the hall of fame of not so young scientists. Together with some former YSC members and the TIAFT board both Federica and Simon could "celebrate" their achievement.



After the coffee break the symposium continued with some strong science topics. Ariane Wohlfahrt presented another novel metabolism study approach, followed by YSC member Sarah Wille who focused on the practical lab considerations in DSFA cases. Finally Simon Elliott gave his last YSC member presentation, and most participants will agree that it was probably his best talk. Simon finished with a more entertaining topic where he presented the last 50 years of forensic toxicology in popular culture.

The following presentations/papers won the TIAFT YS awards in 2013:

Best oral presentation:

Incorporation mechanisms of zolpidem in fingernails – A systematic investigation after a single dose by **Milena Madry**

Best poster presentation:

XLR-11, a new major synthetic cannabinoid: Determination of metabolites after human hepatocyte incubation and analysis with high-resolution mass spectrometry by **Ariane Wohlfarth**

Best paper award:

Quantitative analysis of propofol-glucuronide in hair as a marker for propofol abuse by **Ji-hyun Kim**

As mentioned, 2 TIAFT YS Committee members has been passed on to the not so young scientist. To complete the YS committee again, two new members have been chosen; the new members are: **Markus R. Meyer from Germany** and **Luca Morini from Italy**

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YSC Meeting Report 2012 - Hamamatsu

Room 31, Act City Hamamatsu, Hamamatsu, Japan

14:00 to 16:30

Attendance: 122 young scientist, including 6 YSC members (Jochen Beyer, Federica Bortolotti, Simon Elliott, Sooyeun Lee, Madeleine Montgomery, Frank Peters, Helena Texeira).

Frank Peters opened the meeting in his functions as president of the YSC and welcomed all attendees to the 50th TIAFT meeting in Hamamatsu. Then everyone briefly introduced themselves to the others, as it is a tradition in TIAFT Young Scientist meetings.

The first presentation of the day was given by YSC member Sooyeun Lee, who spoke about an increasing abuse of anorectics in Korea. Sooyeun's presentation included information on the structures and pharmacology of the anorectic drugs involved and their similarity to established drugs of abuse such methamphetamine. It further addressed the role of hair testing in studying abuse patterns of anorectics.

In the next to talks, last year's YS Award winners for best oral presentation and best poster re-iterated on their award-winning work and also added some new results obtained since the last TIAFT meeting. Eva Saar, last year's best oral presentation awardee, shared her results on stability studies with the drug olanzapine and warned the YS about the problems associated with drug instability in forensic toxicology. She ended her talk with an appetizer for her presentation on postmortem redistribution at this year's TIAFT meeting. Bjoern Moosmann, last year's best poster awardee, presented his work on the isolation and purification of synthetic cannabinoids from herbal mixture sold as legal highs in many countries. Using extraction and purification by flash chromatography, Bjoern was able to isolate pure cannabinoid standards which were used for structure elucidation as well as setting up screening procedures of these drugs in biological fluids.

In the last presentation of the day, Andrew Leibie provided the YS of an update of drugs of abuse trends in Asia. One of the drugs Andrew focused on is the benzodiazepine nimetazepam which even has its own facebook account – and quite a number of "friends". Another drug abuse problem Andrew addressed is the increasing popularity of ketamine as a drug of abuse in many Asian countries.

All four presentations were followed by lively discussions, in which the attendees provided additional information and contributed shared their personal experience with other YS from all over the world. After the closing of the meeting, the YS got ready for the welcoming reception of the main TIAFT meeting, which for many was their first.

This year, the YSC received ten submissions for the best oral presentation award, four for the best published paper award, and only two for the best poster award. These numbers were somewhat disappointed, especially compared the number of submissions in the previous year. The YSC therefore encouraged all YS to submit their abstracts for one of the YS awards at next year's meeting.

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YSC Meeting Report 2011 - San Francisco

Salon 1-4, Marriott Marquis, San Francisco

14:00 to 15:45 and 16:15 to 18:00

Attendance: 122 young scientist, including 6 YSC members (Jochen Beyer, Federica Bortolotti, Simon Elliott, Madeleine Montgomery, Frank Peters, Sarah Wille) and SOFT Young Forensic Toxicologist (YFT) committee members

This year the YS meeting was for the first time held as a joint meeting with the newly formed group of YFT in SOFT. With an attendance of 122 young scientists the turnout was fantastic. Jayne Thatcher (SOFT) and Frank Peters (TIAFT) moderated the YS symposium, that covered two major topics, one being DUID legislation and the other being the rapidly changing new drugs sold as incense, bath salts or simply as legal highs.

The first presentation given by Sarah Urfer (US) was dedicated to DUID legislation in the US and her take home message was that DUID legislation not only differs from state to state but sometimes even between counties. Sarah Wille (Belgium) then provided an overview on DUID legislation in Europe and other parts of the world such as East Asia. Her talk was complemented by Jochen Beyer (Australia) who talked about the situation in Australia. The talks were followed by a lively discussion, one of the major topic being whether legal limits or cut-off could be harmonized throughout the world. While everyone agreed this would be useful from a scientific point view, the chance for achieving this goal was considered small as long as there is no harmonization of legislation.

In the second part of the meeting Sherri Kacinko (US) spoke about emerging drug trends in the US mainly focusing on the increasing use of synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones. Simon Elliott (UK) followed up with the newest trends in his county which has been the origin of new drug trends in the past. To conclude the presentations on this topic, Frank Peters (Germany) reported some results on the prevalence of new drugs in DUID cases in his laboratory. Once again, a lively discussion ensued in which the participants shared their experiences and questions with each other.

The last two presentations were dedicated to two of last year's award winners. Dirk Wissenbach, winner of the TIAFT best oral presentation award, presented his work on the development of an LC-MSn screening procedure covering not only parent drugs but also metabolites. Nahoko Uchiyama, last year's Springer best poster awardee, concluded the presentations with her talk on the effects of synthetic cannabinoids on EEG power spectra and locomotor activity in rats.

The YSC was very happy to have again received many submissions for the YS best oral (22) and best poster (19) award this year and even more so about the 14(!) entries for the best published paper award.

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YSC Meeting Report 2010 - Bonn

Lecture Hall I, Bonn Castle

09:00 to 10:30 and 11:00 to 12:30

Attendance: 7 YSC members (Jochen Beyer, Federica Bortolotti, Simon Elliott, Madeleine Montgomery, Frank Peters, Helena Teixeira, Sarah Wille) and 72 young scientist attendees.

Frank Peters opened the meeting in his functions as president of the YSC and member of the 2010 TIAFT-GTFCh organizing committee welcomed all attendees to the city of Bonn. Then all everyone briefly introduced themselves to the others, as it is tradition in TIAFT YS meetings.

The first presentation of the day was given by Peter Akrill, who provided a very interesting overview on drugs of abuse testing in oral fluid. He covered the physiology of oral fluid production, oral fluid collection, detection windows of important drugs/drug classes in oral fluid, guidelines for oral fluid testing, and last but not least important pitfalls in oral fluid testing.

In the next presentation, YSC member Jochen Beyer spoke about the Australian experience with oral fluid vs urine in workplace drug testing. Jochen reported on a court case involving a "battle" of expert witnesses. One expert witness was a clinical pharmacologist who stated that urine drug testing is superior to oral fluid testing in assessing impairment by drugs at the workplace. The other expert witness was the well-known former YSC president Dimitri Gerostamoulos who stated that a positive oral testing result is more likely to reflect actual impairment at the time of testing than a positive urine testing results. Jochen discussed these and other aspects brought up in the court case and after his presentation the topic was also discussed by the meeting attendees.

After a coffee break, the second half of the YSC meeting was dedicated to postmortem toxicology. YSC member Sarah Wille gave a talk about "drugs in bugs". After providing an overview on the history and potential applications of entomotoxicology (drug analysis in maggots and puparial cases), Sarah presented results of a research project on methadone analysis in puparial cases recently performed in her department.

In the final presentation, YSC member Simon Elliott addressed the important issue of postmortem redistribution. Starting with the history and principles of this phenomenon, he continued with its impact on sample collection and toxicologic interpretation. At the end of his presentation, Simon discussed several examples from his own routine case work, in which postmortem redistribution may have been involved. Simon's talk was extensively discussed by the meeting attendees.

The YS meeting ended with an informal YS lunch at the cafeteria. A novelty this year was that the TIAFT and GTFCh board members joined the YS for lunch allowing the YS to get into contact with leading scientists in their fields.

The YSC was very happy to have received a record number of submissions for the YS best oral (31) and best poster (29) this year, but it was a bit disappointing that only two YS had submitted an original publication for the YS best paper award. It is hoped, that next year more YS will submit their work for the best published paper award.

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YSC Meeting Report 2009 - Geneva

Room 3, Geneva Conference Centre

08:90 to 12:30

This year there were almost 80 young scientists present at the annual Young Scientists meeting (now traditionally the first TIAFT even of the annual meeting). The presentations this year included Drug use in Professional Cycling (Dimitri Gerostamoulos), an Overview of the Expert Witness and the American Legal System by Madeline Montgomery, Pharmacology and Toxicology of New Designer Drugs (Frank Peters) and Jochen Beyer spoke about the Analysis of Toxic Alkaloids. This was followed by a splendid traditional Swiss lunch which was organised by our host (older young scientist) Olivier Plaut and his team. There were 39 submissions this year for the YS awards which is a record. It is also terrific to see younger scientists publishing in the literature with 13 papers considered for best published paper.

The committee will undergo some refreshment as Dimitri Gerostamoulos becomes an older scientist. Dr. Frank Peters is now Chairman of this committee with Madeline Montgomery appointed as Secretary. Additional new members include Dr. Jochen Beyer and Dr. Sarah Willie.

Judging by the turnout this year to the YS meeting the Young Scientists Committee has been able to serve its younger members well and will continue to do so. We thank the TIAFT Board for sponsoring this year's awards and look forward to seeing you in Bonn.

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YSC Meeting Report 2008 - Martinique

Room Tamarin, Hotel La Bateliere, Schoelcher, La Martinique

08:45 to 11:05 and 11:25 to 12:45

Attendance: 5 YSC members (Federica Bortolotti, Simon Elliott, Madeleine Montgomery, Frank Peters, and Helena Teixeira) and 46 young scientist attendees

Frank opened the meeting introducing himself and apologizing for the YSC Chairman Dimitri Gerostamoulos who unfortunately could not attend this year's meeting due to various court appointments and other important issues at home but sent his greetings to the young scientists.

Frank informed the young scientists about the recent changes in the YSC thanking the former members; Serap Annette Akgur, Robert Kronstrand, Marc Lebeau, and Nele Samyn for their hard and excellent work on the committee.

Then all attendees briefly introduced themselves to the others, as it has become a tradition in previous TIAFT Young Scientist meetings.

The first presentation of the day was given by Federica Bortolotti, who presented the highly interesting toxicological findings from the autopsy of the mummy of Cangrande I della Scala, Prince of Verona (1291-1329). Besides some findings attributable to relatively non-toxic herbal compounds, there was evidence of poisoning with digitalis, which would be consistent with contemporary reports of gastro-intestinal symptoms and rapid death despite the apparent good health of the 38 year old deceased. In the following discussion, important aspects like correcting for water loss when analyzing mummified tissue, potential cross-reactivity of immunoassay-based methods for determination of digitalis, and analyte degradation over hundreds of years were extensively discussed.

In the second presentation of the day, Simon Elliott gave an excellent talk on publishing and presenting scientific work. He started with general aspects of why scientists should publish their findings and continued with a detailed discussion of the most important types and different sections of scientific publication. Finally, he addressed the issue on where and how to present scientific work. Again, a lively discussion ensued as to how to choose an appropriate journal for a certain publication, and about the issue of consent from patients and/or authorities when publishing case data.

The third presentation was given by Helena Teixeira who spoke about the role of the toxicologist in autopsies to determine the cause and manner of death. Helena addressed important topics such as obtaining information from the scene of the crime/death, sampling of appropriate material for toxicological analysis, and typical signs of poisoning from the external investigation of the body during autopsy. Helena gave many examples from her own routine cases including many pictures of the respective autopsies. The discussion of Helena's talk was moderated by Lucia Politi from Italy, because the YSC members had to be present at the talk of an oral presentation award candidate at the parallel SoHT meeting. Discussion mainly related to experiences from young scientists from various countries as to whether the forensic toxicologist is usually present or not at autopsies of cases involving potential poisoning. It appeared that in most countries this is obviously not the case but the attendees agreed that it might enhance the quality of forensic toxicological analysis and also the co-operation with the pathologists.

After the coffee break, Sooyeon talked about the determination of measurement uncertainty in toxicological analysis. She began with basic aspects like definitions, equations, fishbone diagrams, etc. and continued with the

practical aspects of measurement uncertainty, illustrating the whole process with an example from her recent work on determination of amphetamines in hair samples. Sooyeon's presentation was also extensively discussed. The main topics were the homogeneity of hair samples and the influence of sampling in general on measurement uncertainty and the availability of guidelines for its assessment in different countries.

Frank thanked the speakers for their excellent presentations and the audience for the lively discussion and the large attendance despite parallel sessions. The Young Scientist Meeting was then closed.

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YSC Meeting Report 2006 - Ljubljana

August 27, 2006

Meeting started at 13:45, closed at 16:15

Present: Nele Samyn, Sooyeun Lee, Serap Annette Akgur, Robert Kronstrand, Marc Le Beau, Frank Peters

Apologies: Dimitri Gerostamoulos

The young scientists' symposium was held at the Medical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana from 10.00-13.00 on Sunday morning. Approximately 45 young scientists attended the meeting and several were first and second year TIAFT attendants. All YSC members had prepared a short oral presentation but due to the interesting questions and in-depth discussions from the group, only four of them presented during the allocated time:

- **Robert Kronstrand** presented a brief report on the SOHT workshop in Vadstena (Sweden) in May of this year and reviewed the basics of hair analysis (sampling, decontamination, segmentation, interpretation) and offered some advice from his own experience.
- **Frank Peters** reminded everyone about the IATDMCT young scientists (www.iatdmct.org) and presented extensively the basics of method validation, with emphasis on interpretation and statistical analysis of results. He also showed a list of reference publications to use as a guideline for the proper validation of your new analytical method.
- **Marc Le Beau** presented a specific method for the screening of MIVACURIUM and metabolites in post-mortem and clinical samples.
- **Serap Annette Akgur** informed us about the importance and the requirements for the introduction of a per se legislation on DUID in Turkey.

The lunch was sponsored by **Dade Behring** and was kindly organized by Majda and her team.

In the afternoon, the YSC members met to discuss a few items. Marc had other obligations and could not be present during the meeting.

1. The minutes of last years meeting were accepted.
2. The TIAFT board has ratified all decisions proposed in the last years report except for the sponsorship of the awards. The YSC needs to continue finding the sponsor money for the three awards. The expenses of a light lunch will be covered by TIAFT; the YSC should submit a budget that has to be approved beforehand by the board. All committee members will help to look for sponsors and Frank and Robert offered to contact the representatives of the companies that were present in Ljubljana.
3. The YS symposium was a success! There was excellent feedback from the group on the proposed topics and many questions came up that can be used as a basis for next year e.g. written guidelines for qualitative analysis, measurement uncertainty and accreditation. There was also a suggestion to find presenters for next year's symposium from outside the committee and contact them long before the next TIAFT meeting.
4. Marc, Robert and Nele announced that they will leave the committee next year. To assure continuity and to introduce new potential members of the committee, it would be advisable to step down after the TIAFT meeting in Seattle.
5. This year there were 16 oral contenders for the best oral, 11 for the best poster and 9 for the best paper. This high number of entries is exceptional and the committee has to work quite hard to come to a decision. It was

agreed that the scoring sheets need to be changed and the criteria redefined. Frank has agreed to come up with a proposal.

6. The system of 'marking' the posters in the competition and informing the moderators about the contenders for the orals has worked splendidly. The committee will try to ask at least one question for the oral presenters if there are no other questions.
7. The eligibility of the submitted papers needs to be clearly defined i.e. the publication date needs to be specified. There is a proposal to take one month before the last TIAFT meeting until the deadline for the entries of the current TIAFT meeting, with the condition that the paper needs to be at least e-published and available to the scientific community.

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YSC Meeting Report 2005 - Seoul

August 29, 2005

Meeting started at 14:15, closed at 16:45

Present: Thomas Kraemer, Olivier Plaut, Marc Le Beau, Dimitri Gerostamoulos, Sooyeun Lee
Apologies: Robert Kronstrand, Nele Samyn, Rebecca Phipps

The young scientists' symposium this year was held at the Lotte Hotel in Seoul Korea, just prior to the main meeting of TIAFT. Approximately 60 young scientists attended the symposium and about 20 people were attending TIAFT for the first time.

We had three presentations from young scientists which included

- **Dr Frank Peters** gave an all YS the opportunity to join IATDMCT as young scientists such that the profile of young scientists can be raised in IATDMCT.
- **Dr Thomas Grobosch** gave an overview of acute intoxication with two superwarfarin intoxications.
- **Dr Sooyeun Lee** gave an overview of the recent trends of marijuana use and the anti-estrogenic effects of smoking cannabis.
- **Andrew Liebe** discussed workplace drug testing and the role of the toxicologist in not only the analysis but the further role of scientists in educating the public about drug testing and laboratory confirmations.

The young scientist then had a traditional Korean lunch which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The TIAFT YSC committee then met to discuss other issues pertaining to the function of the YSC.

1. The YSC subject to ratification by the board proposes to enforce the age limit of 41 at all future meetings. This also means that through natural selection the committee would undergo some structural changes with the voluntary departure of Thomas and Olivier. The YSC subject to ratification by the board, proposes that Dimitri would be the next president of YSC following the completion of this meeting and that Nele or Robert would assume secretarial duties. The committee is highly appreciative of both Thomas and Olivier's contributions over the last few years.
2. The YSC subject to ratification by the board, proposes that Sooyeun Lee would join the committee, meaning that we have now an Asian representative.
3. The YSC subject to ratification by the board, proposes that Dr Frank Peters (GER) and Dr Serap Akgur (TKY) would join the committee in place of Thomas and Olivier.
4. The YSC subject to ratification by the board, also proposes that three year terms be recommended for the presidency and secretary which means that in 2008 there will be a change in these two official roles. Other members can continue to be part of the committee provide they satisfy the age criteria and maintain an active role in the YSC.
5. The format of the meeting for Slovenia 2006 would remain the same with a 3-3.5 hour session prior to the main TIAFT meeting and a lunch.
6. The funds which were passed on to the YSC from Washington 2004 could be used for some of these expenses. It is hoped that the Korean meeting organizers would also contribute to the funds of the YS.
7. It was also decided that we would improve the open discussion forum by having prepared questions for the young scientists who attended the meeting. Marc agreed to be the moderator of this discussion forum next year in Slovenia.

8. The YSC also decided that committee members would also be responsible for a small presentation for the 2006 meeting - either by organizing someone to give a presentation or alternately giving a presentation themselves at the next YS symposium.
9. The YSC subject to ratification by the board, proposes that the committee would no longer be responsible for the procurement of external sponsor funds for the YSC prizes. This conflict of interest particularly for the meeting hosts - who organize sponsorship for the main meeting - means that other sponsors can interfere with the official sponsorship process by sponsoring TIAFT YSC awards. TIAFT should provide the funds for the collective prizes of \$1500 USD. This is a small amount of money given the pivotal role this committee plays in securing new young members to TIAFT every year. The number of young scientists attending the YSC symposium in the last three years (Melbourne, Washington and Seoul) has averaged about 60 people. The YS represent the future of TIAFT.
10. This year there were 12 oral contenders for the best oral; 9 contenders for the best poster and 6 contenders for the best published paper. The number of applicants has grown each year and is a reflection of the increased profile of the YSC.

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YSC Meeting Report 2004 - Washington

This year the TIAFT Young Scientists met for a full evening (6-9 pm) during the 42nd TIAFT annual meeting in Washington D.C. As this meeting was during the combined SOFT/TIAFT/FBI Symposium, a record number of young scientists (about 60) attended the meeting which was held in the Capitol Ballroom of the JW Marriott Hotel. The programme consisted of two key presentations, buffet dinner and an open forum discussion.

The two key presentations were:

- **Adam Cawley** (AGAL, Sydney - Australia) - "Toxicology of doping control in sports".
Adam gave a presentation on the toxicology of doping control in sports to the young scientists. He gave a general guide to the analysis of drugs in sport, some pharmacology, latest technologies/methods/research and the medico-legal consequences of sports testing work including the requirements for measurement uncertainty and traceability. While the sports doping control is an applied field of forensic toxicology, these topics are of importance to the broader forensic toxicology community.
The flow on discussion concerning measurement uncertainty and how to approach an uncertainty budget for method validation and evaluation was one of the highlights of the evening. It was of interest that many young scientists are attempting to deal with this concept as part of the ISO 17025 standards for accreditation.
- **Carolina Troncoso** (Colombia)
Carolina gave us an interesting presentation on the status of drugs - consumption and exportation from the beautiful country of Colombia. This was a fascinating account as it gave us an insight into some of the more common drugs in South America and how some of these drugs, particularly cocaine, are distributed to western markets for consumption.

This year's forum also enabled young scientists to meet other young scientists for the first time as well as make those attending their first meeting somewhat less daunting than would otherwise be the case. That is why we also believe as a committee it is important to hold the YSC Meeting at the beginning of each conference.

We look forward to Korea in 2005 and seeing new and not so old faces again in Seoul. All suggestions for topics and presentations should be forwarded to the committee via the secretary (jimg@vifm.org) for consideration. The committee will continue to award the best poster, best oral presentation and best paper published. Information on these matters will be distributed before the meeting in Korea and can be found on the website and please also look for our increased presence in the bulletin from now on. And if anyone has any queries please email any of the committee members.

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YSC Meeting Report 2003 - Melbourne

This year the TIAFT Young Scientists met for a half day symposium during the 41st TIAFT annual meeting in Melbourne. About 30 young scientists attended the meeting which was held at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine. The programme consisted of two key presentations, case reports and an open forum discussion. This was followed by a traditional "Aussie BBQ" enjoyed by all.

The two key presentations were:

- **Thomas Kraemer** (Homburg, Germany) - "Pharmacogenetics"

After a short introduction on the definition and aims of pharmacogenetics the importance of this new topic for forensic toxicology was discussed. Genetic polymorphisms were shown as possible reasons for individual differences in drug effects and side effects. Examples for genetic polymorphisms in transport proteins (P-glycoprotein) or metabolizing enzymes (CYP2D6, CYP2C19) were given. At the end of the presentation, the audience had the opportunity to apply their new knowledge on the interpretation of an authentic case of Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault.

- **Marc Le Beau** (FBI, USA) - "Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault"

A brief overview was given of the challenges facing toxicologists that analyze specimens from victims of DFSA. For the most part, the challenges link back to the effects of the more than 40 drugs used to commit this crime. Some suggestions were given as to how to overcome these challenges, and a fruitful discussion was had afterwards.

Forensic case reports were presented by Jim Gerostamoulos regarding two morphine-related deaths and a drug facilitated sexual assault case involving oxycodone, methamphetamine and barbiturates. Nicole Anastos presented some postmortem data on valproic acid concentrations in serum and vitreous humor. The discussion which followed was open and covered a wide range of topics ranging from cut-offs for delta9-THC quantifications to per se driving laws and the relationship to impairment at the roadside.

An exciting programme is also scheduled for Washington next year at the combined FBI/SOFT/TIAFT meeting in August 2004.

All suggestions for topics and presentations should be forwarded to the committee via the secretary (jjmg@vifm.org) for consideration. Naturally, the committee will continue to award the best poster, best oral presentation and best paper published. Information on these matters will be distributed before the meeting in Washington and can be found on the website.

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YSC Meeting Report 2002 - Paris

This year the TIAFT Young Scientists met for over 2 hours during the 40th TIAFT annual meeting in Paris. About 50 young scientists attended the meeting. The programme consisted of three presentations and some lively discussion.

The presentations were:

- **Frank T. Peters** (Homburg, Germany) - *Bio-analytical method validation*
Frank discussed some of the pitfalls young scientists are experiencing with regard to the validation of analytical methods. Frank presented some theoretical models, explored statistical applications and gave some examples from his own research in this presentation.
- **Thomas Stimpfl** (Vienna, Austria) - *Screening for the general unknown in tissue samples*
Thomas described a systematic approach to identifying compounds of interest as an initial screening tool for unknowns. Thomas described a systematic approach for the identification of compounds of interest in complex matrices like post-mortem tissues. Through automation of the sample preparation and interpretation of the GC-MS screening data, the throughput of samples could be increased. He gave a brief overview of current literature followed by a demonstration of his own work.
- **Frank Sporkert** (Berlin, Germany) - free topic
Frank discussed an anomaly in a recent toxicology proficiency test relating to the analysis of cannabinoids in blood for drug-affected drivers. Frank elaborated on the problem of realistic detection limits in relation to reporting of results - some robust discussion took place, which was encouraging.

This year was marked by the departure of the founding members of the TIAFT YSC. Pascal Kintz, Alain Verstraete, Carmen Jurado, Pierre Marquet and Aldo Poletini have all retired from the YSC. We particularly like to thank Pascal and Alain for all their hard work and their belief in the younger scientists of TIAFT. Carmen, Pierre and Aldo should also be commended for their commitment and input. We shall of course continue to see them at future TIAFT meetings!

The future of the YSC lies not with the president or the secretary but the young scientists themselves. We as a committee will endeavour to meet the demands of young scientists and will promote young scientist activities as best we can. As a result an exciting programme has been planned (10am-5pm, 15th November 2003) for young scientists next year at the TIAFT meeting in Melbourne. This will give us ample time to discuss many themes and have some genuine case presentations and worked examples relating to interpretation of analytical results in forensic toxicology. All suggestions should be forwarded to the committee via the secretary for consideration. Naturally, the committee will continue to award the best poster, best oral presentation and best paper published in 2002. Information on these matters will be distributed before the meeting in Melbourne.

We also have the task of establishing a new committee over the next few weeks. Check the TIAFT website for regular updates.

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YSC Meeting Report 2001 - Prague

As for established tradition, the TIAFT Young Scientists met for 90 min during the TIAFT annual meeting in Prague. About 40 young scientists attended the meeting.

Nele Samyn presented a quick overview of the Young Scientist Workshop which took place in Gent (Belgium) on last April 6-7, 2001 and which was devoted to oral fluids in toxicology. After Nele's presentation the assembly decided to continue with the organization of such events (perhaps every 2 years) with the aim to promote contacts between the new scientists' generation and to feed their need of education.

The future of the committee has been also discussed. At the time of the TIAFT meeting in Paris most of the Committee's members will be too old to be able to continue in their current office and we are looking for new inputs. The positions of both chairman and secretary will be vacant and therefore I'd like to warmly invite you to contact me (pascal.kintz@wanadoo.fr) if you feel you will be able to go on with the work done by the Committee over the last years.

The next meeting of the Young Scientists is planned to be held in Paris, on Tuesday morning, August 27, 2002 from 10 am to noon. Discussion topics (for example validation procedures, STA, LC/MS ...) are under discussion and must be proposed in advance to Alain Verstraete (alain.verstraete@ugent.be).

The following topics have been also discussed in Prague:

- Practical aspects of oral fluid (Nele Samyn, Belgium)
- Data base of mass spectra (Aldo Poletti, Italy)
- Capillary electrophoresis in toxicology (Laurence Labat, France)

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YSC Meeting Report 2000 - Helsinki

The Young Scientists of TIAFT meet on Monday 14 August in Helsinki, during the annual meeting. All young scientist registered for the meeting was encouraged to attend this specific event.

The meeting started with a buffet proposing drinks and food. This was considered as essential. The scientific part of the YS meeting started by a presentation of Nele Samyn (Belgium) on the pharmacological and analytical aspects of GHB. This was followed by a general discussion on the occurrence of GHB in various countries. The new drugs (such as methoxyamphetamine) were also discussed.

Finally, Gianpaolo Brusini presented the idea of a specific part of the TIAFT web devoted to YS. This was largely accepted.

Ideas, topics and proposals for the Young Scientists forum and meetings must be send to me before Sept 30, at pascal.kintz@wanadoo.fr.

After approval by the Executive Committee of TIAFT, it was decided to organize a workshop for the young scientists, next spring (2001), in Belgium, on a Friday and a Saturday on "Oral fluid in toxicology". Major topics will be:

- Physiology of saliva
- Analytical aspects
- Driving under the influence
- Workplace drug testing
- Rehabilitation centers

Informations will be available through the Bulletin and Internet. Fees will be very low.