

## Preface

The 41st Annual Meeting of The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) met in Melbourne during the week of the 16th November, 2003. This was a particularly successful meeting with almost 400 participants from almost 50 countries. These included many European countries, USA, Canada, Japan and Australia as well as many from the Pacific rim and South East Asia. Countries in this region included China, New Caledonia, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan. Representatives from Botswana, South Africa and a number of Middle Eastern countries were also present.

The scientific program included 120 papers from 10 oral sessions and two 2-day poster sessions. The themes included emerging techniques and LC-MS, alternative specimens including a focus on oral fluid drug detection technologies, post-mortem toxicology, clinical toxicology and therapeutic drug monitoring, venoms, toxins and herbals, general toxicology, alcohol, drugs and driving, drugs in sport and doping control and case presentations. Joint sessions were held with the International Association of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Clinical Toxicology (IATDMCT) and the Official Association of Racing Chemists. Three workshops were held at the conclusion of the meeting focusing on Urine Drug Testing, applications of LC-MS, and one on Advanced Pharmacology teachings by Dr. Lionel Raymon of the USA. The first workshop was sponsored by AusTox, an Australian Proficiency program for drugs in urine, and the others were sponsored by the Australian National Institute of Forensic Science (NIFS). These were well subscribed and gave further evidence of the scientific value of the meeting.

This special issue of the *Journal of Chromatography B* brings together 13 presentations. These include a review of the pros and cons of chromatographic screening techniques, a new marker for drugs interfering with the dopamine system in horses, six papers on new or refined applications D/LC-MS, and a number of other papers on analytical improvements for a range of chemical substances. This volume will hopefully provide a significant resource for analytical toxicologists throughout the world.

On behalf of the organizing committee we would like to thank the Board of TIAFT and in particular the President Dr. Marilyn Huestis and also the previous Executive Committee particularly Prof. Robert Wennig for their support and encouragement. We also acknowledge all the delegates who attended the meeting, the speakers for their invaluable contributions, to the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine for giving us the opportunity to host this meeting and to the editors of *Journal of Chromatography B* for agreeing to publish this special edition.

Jim Gerostamoulos  
Olaf H. Drummer\*

*Department of Forensic Medicine  
Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine  
Monash University, 57-83 Kavanagh Street, Southbank  
Melbourne 3006, Vic., Australia*

\*Corresponding author. Tel.: +61-3-9684-4334  
fax: +61-3-9682-7353

*E-mail address:* [olaf@vifm.org](mailto:olaf@vifm.org) (O.H. Drummer)  
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