



## Preface

The 2004 Joint Meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) and The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) was held in Washington, DC the week of August 30 to 3 September 2004. The motto for the event was "Global Partners for Justice and Health" to emphasize the importance of worldwide partnerships, collaborations, and friendships. Over 1200 participants and exhibitors attended representing 52 countries from North America, Europe, Australia, Asia, Africa, and South America. As a result of the wonderful attendance, this became the largest annual conference ever held by either organization.

The scientific program for the 2004 Joint Meeting of SOFT and TIAFT provided 98 platform presentations and 168 poster presentations in six key topics: Alternative Matrices, Analytical Methods, Behavioral Toxicology, Clinical and Environmental Toxicology, Forensic Urine Drug Testing and Adulteration, and Postmortem Toxicology.

As an additional educational opportunity, a two-day FBI Laboratory Symposium on Forensic Toxicology preceded the joint meeting. Participants at the symposium attended half-day workshops covering subjects such as Basic Principles of Forensic Toxicology, Statistics and Method Validation, Toxicological Hazards of Clandestine Methamphetamine Synthesis, New and Unique Technologies for Forensic Toxicology Laboratories, Poisons and Poisoners, Advanced Mass Spectrometry Theory and Interpretation, Overview of the Forensic Sciences, Chemical Terrorism, Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault, and Forensic Toxicology Laboratory Accreditation.

We were particularly proud to have welcomed 190 first-time attendees at the 2004 Joint Meeting. We hope these new

attendees will return to meet with their new friends at future meetings.

This special issue of the *Journal of Chromatography B* contains manuscripts that represent a sample of some of the important scientific presentations from the 2004 Joint Meeting of SOFT and TIAFT. We trust that this volume will be a valuable reference for those practicing in the field of forensic toxicology and related fields of study.

On behalf of the organizing committee, we would like to extend our thanks to the Boards of both SOFT and TIAFT for their support and encouragement over the years. Their assistance was essential to the success of the 2004 Joint Meeting of SOFT and TIAFT. We also would like to thank the outstanding presenters that provided an excellent scientific program. Additional thanks go to the attendees for their kind words during and after the 2004 Joint Meeting of SOFT and TIAFT. Thanks also go to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation for allowing us to host this joint meeting, as well as the editors of the *Journal of Chromatography B* for publication of this special issue dedicated to the 2004 Joint Meeting of SOFT and TIAFT.

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