

出國報告類別:國際會議

## 參加 2022 年第 74 屆美國鑑識科學學會(AAFS) 年會線上會議報告書

服務機關：法務部法醫研究所

姓名/職稱：曹芸甄/助理研究員

出國地點：美國(線上會議)

期間：111 年 2 月 21 日至 111 年 2 月 25 日

報告日期：111 年 4 月 22 日

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報告日期：111 年 4 月 22 日

關鍵詞：法醫毒物、論文發表

內容摘要：

二〇二二年二月二十一日至二月二十五日期間參加美國第 74 屆美國鑑識科學學會(AAFS)年會線上會議，會議採各學門分組及分項形式同時進行，包括專題演講、研討課程、口頭發表論文及壁報張貼論文等，以及與鑑識科學研究與實務操作相關的商業展覽，並提供各級相關學位學程進修的資訊。會員來自世界各地毒藥物鑑識產官學警界，會議包括專題演講、研討課程、口頭發表論文、壁報張貼論文及儀器、書籍展示等，來自世界各地與會代表數百人參與，本所並於年會中公開發表有關法醫毒物分析之論文 2 篇。

鑒於近年來新興毒品相關死亡案件數不斷增加，嚴謹的毒物化學分析鑑定結果往往成為破案之關鍵。法醫毒物分析具有極高的困難度與複雜度，利用參加此國際會議研討會與來自世界各地之權威學者、毒藥物檢驗專家共同分享，了解研究內容及研究方向並發表心得，促進國際學術及鑑識技術之交流，藉此了解先進國家在毒藥物鑑識科學領域的具體作法，比較各國與本國流行毒藥物之異同，及未來可能面臨之挑戰，機會非常難得，可增廣見聞瞭解世界鑑識科學發展的趨勢，同時收集相關可能之研究主題及新技術，作為本所未來開發新鑑驗項目及改進現有鑑驗技術之重要規劃參考，除此之外本所派員參加亦可增加本所國際能見度，展現我國先進的法醫鑑驗技術。

# 參加美國鑑識科學學會線上會議會議報告

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## 摘 要

二〇二二年二月二十一日至二月二十五日期間參加美國第 74 屆美國鑑識科學學會(AAFS)年會線上會議，會議採各學門分組及分項形式同時進行，包括專題演講、研討課程、口頭發表論文及壁報張貼論文等，以及與鑑識科學研究與實務操作相關的商業展覽，並提供各級相關學位學程進修的資訊。會員來自世界各地毒藥物鑑識產官學警界，會議包括專題演講、研討課程、口頭發表論文、壁報張貼論文及儀器、書籍展示等，來自世界各地與會代表數百人參與，本所並於年會中公開發表有關法醫毒物分析之論文 2 篇。

鑒於近年來新興毒品相關死亡案件數不斷增加，嚴謹的毒物化學分析鑑定結果往往成為破案之關鍵。法醫毒物分析具有極高的困難度與複雜度，利用參加此國際會議研討會與來自世界各地之權威學者、毒藥物檢驗專家共同分享，了解研究內容及研究方向並發表心得，促進國際學術及鑑識技術之交流，藉此了解先進國家在毒藥物鑑識科學領域的具體作法，比較各國與本國流行毒藥物之異同，及未來可能面臨之挑戰，機會非常難得，可增廣見聞瞭解世界鑑識科學發展的趨勢，同時收集相關可能之研究主題及新技術，作為本所未來開發新鑑驗項目及改進現有鑑驗技術之重要規劃參考，除此之外本所派員參加亦可增加本所國際能見度，展現我國先進的法醫鑑驗技術。

## 壹、目的：

為促進國際學術交流、觀摩學習各國在法醫毒物鑑識科學領域之實務運作、藥物濫用趨勢及研究發展之情況，並藉由論文公開發表提升本所國際學術地位及能見度。本所於 111 年度內編列預算計劃派員至美國參加第 74 屆美國鑑識科學學會(AAFS)，但礙於國際新冠肺炎疫情仍嚴峻，故本次以線上會議形式參加，並於會議中發表與法醫毒物相關論文兩篇。

第 74 屆美國鑑識科學學會(AAFS)是以混合(Hybrid)方式舉辦會議，可實際於美國西雅圖出席或是選擇線上會議的形式。經向本屆會議投稿，獲評審委員團審核通過准予本屆年會中公開發表有關法醫毒物分析之論文兩篇：「Simultaneous determination and quantitation of 5 synthetic cathinones in postmortem blood and urine by LC-MS/MS(以液相層析串聯質譜分析法同時定量死後血液及尿液中 5 種合成卡西酮)」(曹芸甄、劉秀娟、劉瑞厚、林棟樑)、「Trazodone-Related Deaths in Taiwan During the 2011–2020 Period: A Report on 591 Fatalities (台灣 2011-2020 年 Trazodone 591 件相關死亡案例探討)」(曹芸甄、劉秀娟、劉瑞厚、林棟樑)。

鑒於近年來新興毒品相關死亡案件數不斷增加，嚴謹的毒物化學分析鑑定結果往往成為「破案」之關鍵。法醫毒物分析具有極高的困難度與複雜度，利用參加此國際會議研討會可收集相關可能之研究主題及新技術，作為本所未來開發新鑑驗項目及改進現有鑑驗技術之重要規劃參考。

貳、過程：

2月21日	美國西雅圖時間上午9時會議開始
2月21日	Work Shop #6 Impairment: A Look at Causes, Data, and Policies
2月22日	Special Session #2 : Young Forensic Scientists Forum: Meeting & Overcoming Challenges Work Shop #20 : Novel Synthetic Opioids in a Post-Fentanyl Analog Environment
2月23日	AAFS Keynote Session& AAFS Plenary Session ; Toxicology Section Business Meeting AAFS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING ; Toxicology Section Poster Session ,
2月24日	Toxicology Oral Session
2月25日	Toxicology Oral Session

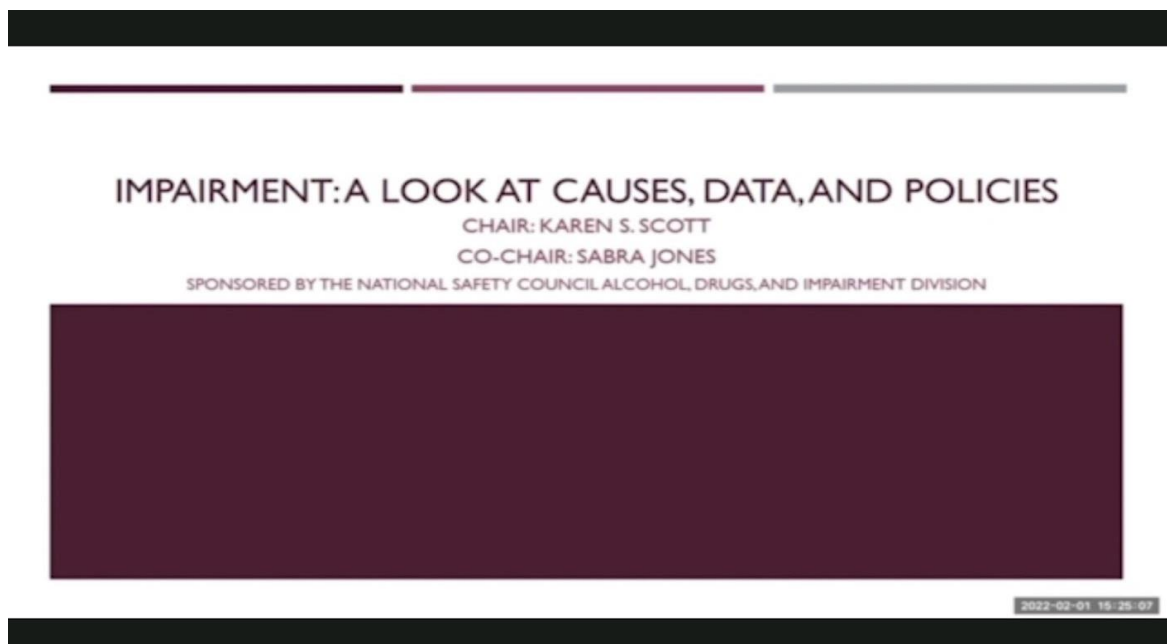
### 參、會議內容：

- 一、 二〇二二年二月二十一日至二月二十五日期間參加美國西雅圖 2022 年第 74 屆美國鑑識科學學會年會(AAFS)，因新冠肺炎疫情之故，本次年會是以混合(Hybrid)方式舉辦會議，可實際於美國西雅圖出席或是選擇線上會議。年會內容包含大會研討課程 (Seminars & Workshops)、相關領域專家會議，這些為需額外付費報名參加的議程，每次時間約 1.5-7 小時不等；口頭報告及壁報論文發表主題領域橫跨鑑識科學總論(General)、人類學 (Anthropology)、犯罪學(Criminalistics)、數位及多媒體學(Digital & Multimedia Sciences)、工程學(Engineering Sciences)、法學 (Jurisprudence)、齒科學 (Odontology)、病理學 / 生物學 (Pathology/Biology)、精神醫學及行為科學 (Psychiatry & Behavioral Science)、文書鑑定(Questioned Documents)、毒物學 (Toxicology)、史學(Last Word Society)等學門，為美國鑑識科學領域之年度盛事。
  
- 二、 本次參加大會亦可線上參觀與大會同時進行的廠商展示區以及蒐集最新檢驗儀器、耗材及各式實驗室相關資料，閱覽壁報論文區包括：1. Post-Mortem session (死後法醫毒物) 2. Human behavior (inc. Drug Driving) (藥物影響駕駛) 3. New innovations & novel research in toxicology (新穎分析技術) 4. Toxicology in sport (運動競賽禁藥檢測) 5. Clinical toxicology (臨床毒物) 6. Drug-facilitated crime (藥物與犯罪) 7. Employment/occupational toxicology (職場/工作毒物檢測)等主題。

三、本所於大會投稿並獲准發表壁報論文，今年度本所發表在法醫毒物類計有二篇：「Simultaneous determination and quantitation of 5 synthetic cathinones in postmortem blood and urine by LC-MS/MS (以液相層析串聯質譜分析法同時定量死後血液及尿液中 5 種合成卡西酮)」(曹芸甄、劉秀娟、劉瑞厚、林棟樑)、 「Trazodone-Related Deaths in Taiwan During the 2011–2020 Period: A Report on 591 Fatalities (台灣 2011-2020 年 Trazodone 591 件相關死亡案例探討)」(曹芸甄、劉秀娟、劉瑞厚、林棟樑)。

四、研討課程(Seminars & Workshops)內容(研討課程需事先報名，另外繳交費用)

**Work Shop #6: Impairment: A Look at Causes, Data, and Policies.**





本次工作坊主題為「不能安全駕駛」，探討其成因、數據及相關政策，本場共有 8 位講者講述。

## 1. The Role Drug Recognition Experts and Roadside Evaluations Play in Impairment Investigations



本場演講講述如何判斷駕駛為「不能安全駕駛」？目前在藥物影響精神狀態上，許多國家採用藥物對比酒精濃度影響精神程度作為判讀，但講者闡明，使用酒精 model 是一個相當不佳的方式，因藥物的特性與酒精很不同，例如酒精的水溶性相當高、酒精與藥物的代謝途徑也非常不同；當駕駛之血液做毒物檢測後，毒物濃度之判讀是否可以推斷其駕駛時之精神狀態？當毒物學家拿到報告、看到毒藥物濃度數字時，其實無法回答駕駛是否不能安全駕駛，或是服藥後駕駛會有什麼症狀與狀態，因為太多因素影響毒藥物濃度，且不同濃度對於不同人的影響也可能大不相同，例如藥物的耐受性及個人代謝的差異，所以就算藥物血液濃度低於治療濃度，對某些人而言依然可能影響精神與行為，故光憑毒藥物血中濃度並不能直接判斷駕駛是否不能安全駕駛。



## ***What is a DRE ?***

在 1970 年代，美國即注意到許多道路事故駕駛並沒有受到酒精影響，但是其精神狀態仍然不適合駕車，故開始發展 drug recognition expert or drug recognition evaluator (DRE)系統，訓練警察執法人員在路邊盤查時可以藉由一些程序來判斷駕駛是否受到藥物或酒精影響精神，進而判斷其是否不能安全駕駛。現在美國已有完善的 DRE 系統，警察需在機構內受訓且獲得認證後，方可在路邊執行檢測，利用 12-Step DRE Process 進行判斷駕駛精神狀態，故 DRE 可回答駕駛是否無法安全駕駛，而不能安全駕駛的原因是因受傷、疾病、醫療處置或是其他毒藥物影響，且看駕駛的生理表徵及行為推論可能是受哪一類的毒藥物影響。

綜合以上，目前在執法及司法審判上，能判定是否不能安全駕駛的證據相當倚重 DRE 系統，因毒物檢測的濃度數據並不能藉由毒物學家告訴司法官確切且令人信服的答案，而 DRE 於事故現場的報告可證明是否為不能安全駕駛，具有較強的證據力。

## 2. Fatigue-Related Impairment and Transportation Safety

*Fatigue-Related Impairment  
and Transportation Safety*

Jana Price, PhD  
National Transportation Safety Board

Impairment: A Look at Causes, Data, and Policies  
AAFS 2022, February 21, 2022, Seattle, WA

NTSB

本場演講介紹美國國家運輸安全委員會（National Transportation Safety Board，NTSB）機構，其負責民用運輸事故調查，包含航空事故、某些類型的高速公路事故、船舶和海洋事故、管道事故和鐵路事故等；NTSB 發現疲勞駕駛可能在事故中一直被低估，其比例可能高達 20%。會導致疲勞的原因有：睡眠問題、與平常不同或多變的行程、醒來後太快駕駛執行任務等，而疲勞作為事故的原因目前並沒有任何一個檢測或血液檢驗可以證明，故現場調查及調查員的還原是很重要的，這些調查包含對駕駛或周邊人員的訪談、駕駛行程表、手機記錄、語音或影片記錄及任何與時序相關的記錄。綜合以上，可重建駕駛的行車歷程與駕車可能狀態，是否因疲勞造成駕駛狀態不佳而導致事故，藉由這些調查，進而明白疲勞駕駛的嚴重性。

### 3. Recommendations for Toxicological Investigation of Drug-Impaired Driving and Motor Vehicle Fatalities—2021 Update



## Recommendations for Drug Testing in DUID and Motor Vehicle Fatality Cases – 2021 Update

Amanda L. D’Orazio\*, Barry K. Logan, Amanda L.A. Mohr, Aya Chan-Hosokawa, Curt Harper, Marilyn Huestis, Sarah Kerrigan, Jennifer F. Limoges, Laura J. Liddicoat, Amy Miles, Colleen E. Scarneo, Karen S. Scott

本場演講說明 2021 年召集美國全國及加拿大共 65 個毒物實驗室進行調查，在毒藥物影響駕駛的案件中，統整所檢測出頻率較高的毒藥物，製作成指引供更多實驗室了解趨勢，並進一步遵從指引針對這些毒藥物作必須篩驗，而此項調查是以 2017 年的結果作為基礎再行修正。結果顯示，Trazodone 與 difluoroethane (DFE) 因出現頻率增高而加入清單內；在調查會議結論中，一致同意尿液相較於血液及唾液檢體為較差的檢體選擇，因尿液可提供關於不能安全駕駛的資訊及證據力薄弱，僅能說明曾經使用藥物或暴露於毒藥物環境中，而會議中也決議 2021 年版本是最後一個會將尿液檢體列入指引中的版本，之後建議實驗室著重於血液及唾液的檢驗以了解駕駛最近的藥物使用，進而評估是否影響駕駛的狀態。唾液為之後推廣且建議的採檢檢體選擇，因唾液採檢容易方便，不需要經醫師採血，現今 LC-MS/MS

技術靈敏度提高可進行更全面的唾液篩檢，且所需的檢體量低，血液及唾液的再現性及線性關聯程度高，唾液篩檢主要檢測藥物即為藥物本體，優點相當多。而這次發現但尚未來的及加入 2021 版本的發現有：Gabapentin 發現與鴉片類及抗憂鬱劑一同出現的頻率增加，而 MDMA、MDA、oxazepam、temazepam、oxymorphone、hydromorphone 出現的頻率降低，可能之後會將這些藥物降級。而下一次的調查將於 2024/2025 年執行。

4. How should we best document cannabis driving impairment and improve future cannabis policy?

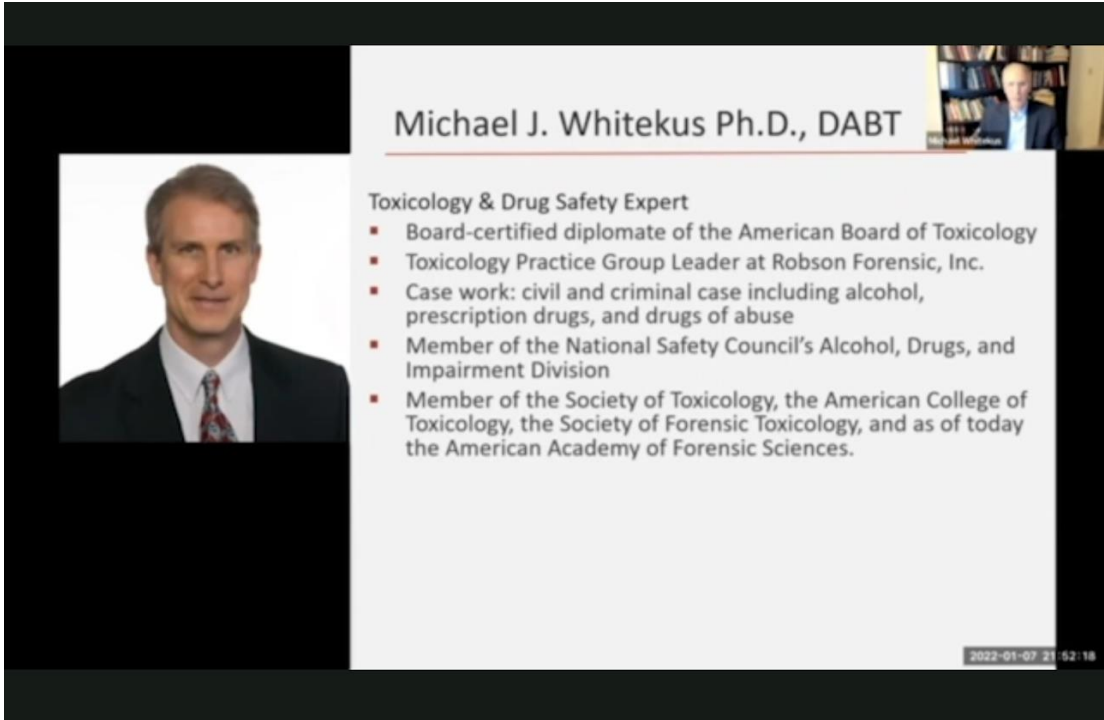


大麻 2019 年在全世界約有 2 億人口使用，非醫療用鴉片約 6200 萬人、安非他命類約 2700 萬人、古柯鹼約 2 千萬人，顯示大麻使用的頻率與人口數相當高，且相較於前 10 年提升了 18%，因此施用大麻後影響精神駕車的危害性相當值得探討。Endogenous Cannabinoid System (ECS，內源大麻素系統)與認知功能例如注意力、決斷力、短期記憶等相關，此外亦與心血管系統、心理動作能力、飢餓、體溫、

身體控制能力、腦部回饋系統等皆相關，而這些與駕車能力亦有極大關聯，因此大麻中的主要活性物質 THC，會與 ECS 的 CB1 受體結合，進而影響許多生理功能，並影響駕車能力。

THC 會在脂肪組織中停留較久，會慢慢釋放於血液中，故在血液中可能殘留長達 70 小時，此外，在長期吸食大麻者，若經過 30 天的禁用，在此期間於其血液中仍然可檢出 THC 及 THCCOOH，故若長期施用大麻者，一段時間未施用大麻，仍可能在其血液中驗到大麻活性成分，而這些殘存在體內的活性成分，研究顯示依舊會影響駕駛能力。另外，殘存的 THC 濃度可能低於閾值，但的確影響了駕駛的能力及判斷，此時 DRE 在路邊所做的測驗與評估，便成為是否為不能安全駕駛的依據，這極為重要，因 THC 於血液中檢測出與否不一定可直接回答是否影響其駕駛能力。另外，有些人擔憂藥物大麻二酚 CBD 亦會如 THC 般影響駕車，但研究顯示其不會影響駕車能力，故醫療上單純使用 CBD 是不會影響駕車的。而未來採唾液檢驗大麻也是時勢所趨，因其較為簡便容易的採檢方式，亦可提供證據力。

## 5. The Combined Effect of Alcohol and THC on Driving Impairment



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Toxicology & Drug Safety Expert

- Board-certified diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology
- Toxicology Practice Group Leader at Robson Forensic, Inc.
- Case work: civil and criminal case including alcohol, prescription drugs, and drugs of abuse
- Member of the National Safety Council's Alcohol, Drugs, and Impairment Division
- Member of the Society of Toxicology, the American College of Toxicology, the Society of Forensic Toxicology, and as of today the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

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於美國研究中發現，新冠肺炎疫情之後，道路駕駛事故中酒精及大麻的使用比例增加。於研究中顯示，當血液中酒精濃度大於 0.05% 顯示影響精神的危險性大幅增高且造成事故的比例增加，故世界各國多以血液酒精濃度 0.05% 作為閾值。而近期研究顯示，併用大麻及酒精後駕車的危險性大於單一使用酒精或大麻，不需兩者皆使用大量就會影響，且影響精神的程度明顯，是相當嚴重的問題，而血液中大麻濃度並不能直接推導駕駛的精神狀態，需仰賴 DRE 系統的判明。

## 6. Oral Fluid and Drugged Driving Investigations on Impairment



一般成人清醒時每分鐘約分泌 0.1 到 0.25 mL 的唾液，一天約 1000-1500 mL，而有許多因素會影響唾液分泌，例如藥物；唾液的組成為 99.5% 為水分，其餘固態物質及有機物質佔 0.5%，唾液的 pH 值為 6.4-7.1，故偏鹼性的藥物較易存留於唾液中，而酸性藥物較偏於存在血液中，故造成酸性藥物在唾液中檢測出的濃度較低。一般採檢所需的唾液量為 1 mL，但口乾及唾液分泌速率低者將會影響唾液的採

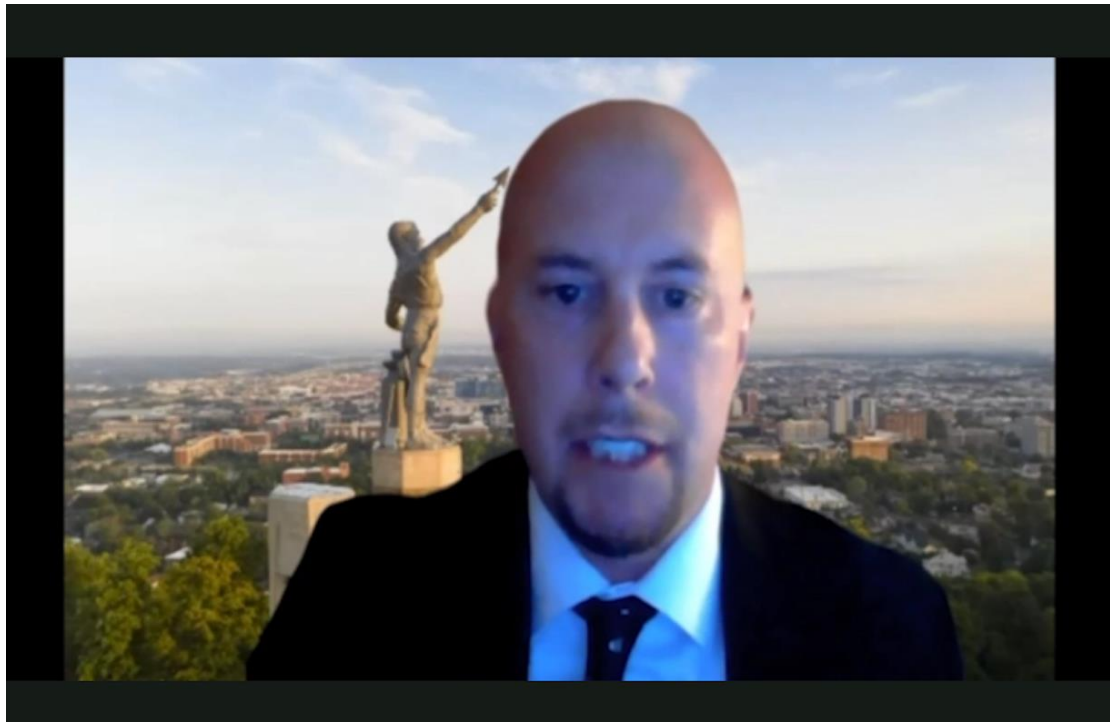
檢。於唾液中，大麻多檢測到是 THC，而 THCCOOH 檢出低；鴉片類可檢測出六乙醯嗎啡及海洛因；古柯鹼的成分 cocaine、BZE 及 cocaethylene 皆可於唾液中檢測出；安非他命為鹼性藥物，故於唾液中易於檢出；苯二氮平類藥物因藥動及藥理性質差異大，且多於血中蛋白質結合，再加上原態藥物相當不穩定，故較難於唾液中檢出；NPS 因其研究尚少，但唾液檢出為原態藥物，故適於用唾液做檢測。

美國於 2007 年開始於國內路邊盤查藥物影響精神駕駛的唾液採檢研究，於 2013 年發布報告認為唾液是一良好的採檢檢體及手段，與血液有較高的相關及比對性。使用唾液作為藥物影響駕駛採檢檢體的優點有：現場即可簡易的採檢，故採檢時間最接近駕駛事故的時間；不需要侵入性的採血，故不需要有待命的抽血醫師；越來越精密的 LC-MS/MS 技術可全面篩檢檢體量低且濃度較低的唾液檢體；唾液的檢驗結果與血液的檢驗結果有高相關性，且檢測出的多為原態藥物。而採檢唾液的缺點有：有些藥物會減少唾液的分泌量而影響採檢的量，故需要相對較高解析度的儀器才能應付少量體積檢體進行分析；唾液中的藥物濃度通常低於尿液中的藥物濃度；有些食物或飲料殘留在口腔內會影響檢測；藥物若是用吸菸、吸入或口服的方式，與口腔黏膜的附著度較高，於唾液中較易測出較高的濃度，故與血液的相關性將可能降低。

目前唾液被視為可取代尿液的檢體，採檢的技術及檢驗的技術都繼續被開發及研究，相信未來有更多的數據可以證實其有效性，且更多國家陸續將唾液視為參考檢體，也有許多國家已將唾液納入證據力中，故以目前的方向看，唾液採檢作為證據是樂觀的，之後的研究將更有幫助於了解並解釋唾液的檢驗結果及性質。



## 7. Drugs and Driving: Polydrug use and prevalence of drugs at different ethanol concentrations and the impact of stop testing limits



本場次演講主要探討藥物影響駕駛案件中酒精濃度與檢測出毒藥物之關係。在車禍案件中，血液酒精濃度 0.08-0.149% 為最多，而檢測出酒精濃度低(<0.150%) 的案件，有將近 7 成有檢出其他毒藥物。在藥物影響駕駛案件中，檢測出前三名毒藥物為大麻、酒精、安非他命，而藥物影響駕駛死亡案件，檢出前三名毒藥物為酒精、大麻、安非他命，除此之外，鎮靜安眠藥例如 alprazolam 也是名列前茅。研究顯示，低濃度酒精加上低濃度毒藥物(治療濃度或以下)亦會造成相當大的危險性，會影響不能安全駕駛，這是一個很大的警訊。阿拉巴馬州在 2018 年開始，道路盤查時若血液酒精濃度<0.08%(利用呼氣酒精測試換算)，將會同時採血及採檢唾液，送入實驗室做進一步檢測，看是否有其他毒藥物影響，而唾液檢測也顯示有良好的法庭證據，且花費的金額較血液檢測便宜(血液檢測 49.36 美元、唾液檢測 35.46 美元)，未來將是一良好利器，望更多單位可以投入研究及開發。

## 8. ASB Standards and the Role They Play in Impairment Investigations – From Testing to Testimony



本場次講述 The Academy Standards Board(ASB)機構對於法醫毒物學的一些規範及法醫毒物學家出庭作證的建議事項。理想的法醫毒物實驗室擁有足夠的資金購買及使用新穎的儀器，且有足夠的員工滿足所有的檢驗需求，每個案子都能有系統性的全面檢測毒藥物，不放過每一個圖譜中的未知波峰；但現實中法醫毒物實驗室擁有許多限制，大部分的實驗室是由政府所建立，故常沒有足夠的資金，儀器可能老舊且受制於需快速的獲得結果故常漏失檢驗出某些藥物，且大多沒有足夠的人力，故現今法醫毒物實驗室常受制於經費及檢驗時效而無法做出完整的鑑驗。在這些困難下，ASB 列出一些可行的規範以協助實驗室，可遵循指引並有效地推動實驗室運行，並能有良好的鑑驗品質。

每個優良的毒物實驗室皆須有文件作為引導，所有有關實驗的設施、空間、設備、人力、耗材、標準品、實驗程序等皆需文件化，而實驗室的成員皆可遵循文件內容執行任務，如此一來實驗室運作才能有效率且符合規範。法醫毒物學家在很多時候需出庭作證，在法庭上

討論其檢驗的報告或是提出專家見解以協助案件，故出庭作證時法醫毒物學家需以良好的數據報告作為基準，因此實驗室的文件及實驗時是否依循文件做法便是相當重要的，這樣的報告才經得起法庭考驗。法醫毒物學家在出庭作證關於不能安全駕駛或藥物影響駕駛的案件時必須注意，須提出所有檢驗的限制，提出關於藥物動力學或藥理學的概念，可提出文獻上的藥物治療濃度、毒性濃度或致死濃度，但需強調是研究中一般人的平均值，在有文獻基礎上討論藥物是否會影響精神；相反的，出庭作證時不可以帶有強烈的確定結論，例如這個藥物一定會影響當事人駕車、檢出藥物的濃度一定會影響精神、一定會造成事故等，也要注意不可以尿液或頭髮鑑驗報告作為證據解釋，不可單以毒物檢測作為唯一證據證明當事人不能安全駕駛等。關於法醫毒物學家出庭作證的說明與建議，可參考 ASB 所發布的文件 ANSI/ASB BPR 037: Guidelines for Opinions and Testimony in Forensic Toxicology。

## WORKSHOP 參加證明：



**Congratulations!**

**The American Academy of Forensic Sciences certifies**

**Yun-Chen Tsao**

**participated in the following program at the 74th Annual AAFS Conference:**

**W6 - Impairment: A Look at Causes, Data, and Policies**

**February 21, 2022  
Seattle, WA**

本次 AAFS 線上會議出席證明：



This is to certify

**Yun-Chen Tsao**

attended the

**74th Annual AAFS Scientific Conference**

February 21-25, 2022

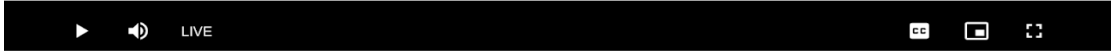
Seattle, WA

**American Academy of Forensic Sciences**



線上會議相關內容：





**Marc Milstein,  
PhD**

## Keynote Address LIVE

Thursday, February 24, 12:30 AM-1:30 AM GMT+8  
WSCC Ballroom 6BC

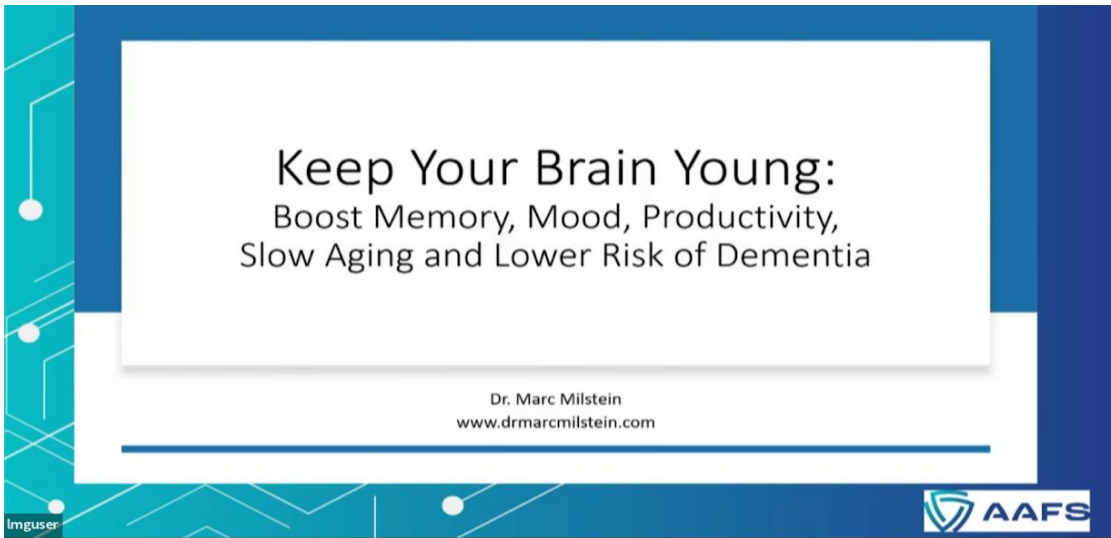
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Overview: Dr. Marc Milstein specializes in taking the leading scientific research on health and happiness and presents it in a way that entertains, educates, and empowers his audience to live better. His presentations provide science-based solutions to keep the brain healthy, lower the risk of dementia, boost productivity and maximize longevity. He earned both his PhD in Biological Chemistry and his Bachelor of Science in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology from UCLA. Dr. Milstein has conducted research on topics including cancer biology and neuroscience and his work has been published in multiple scientific journals. Dr. Milstein has been quoted breaking down and analyzing the latest research in popular press such as USA Today, Huffington Post, and Weight Watchers Magazine. Dr. Milstein's upcoming book "The Age-Proof Brain" will be published in 2022.

## Marc Milstein, PhD

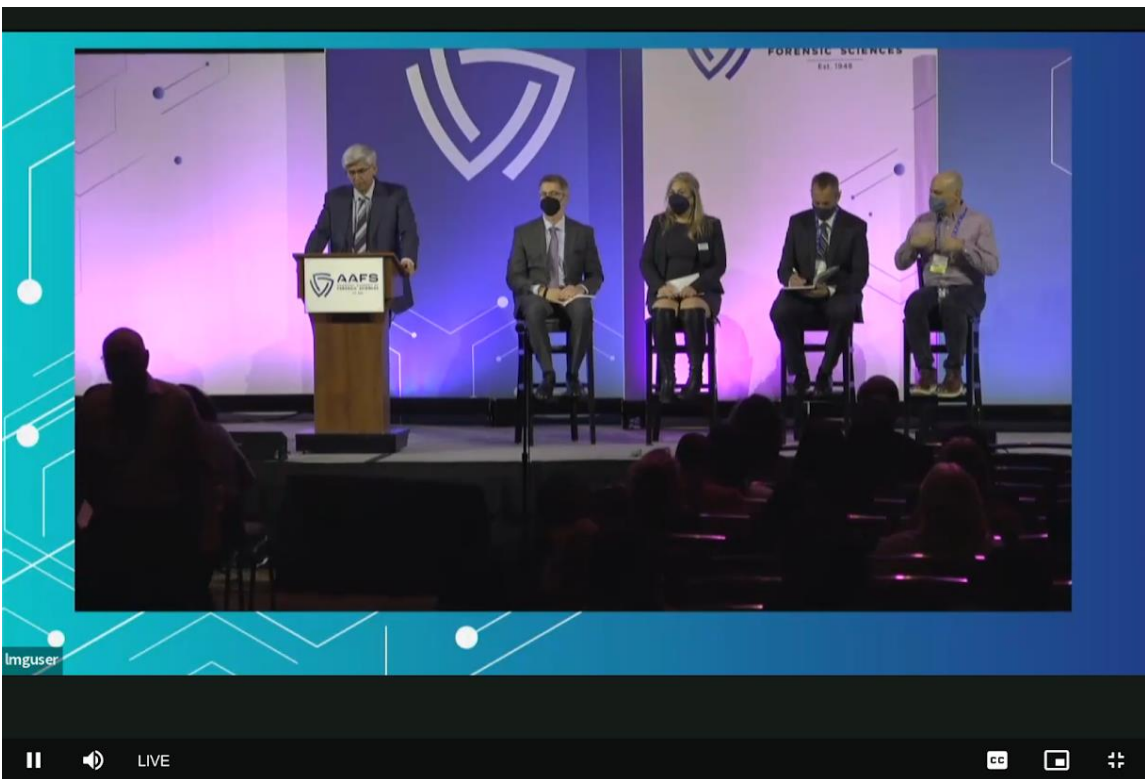


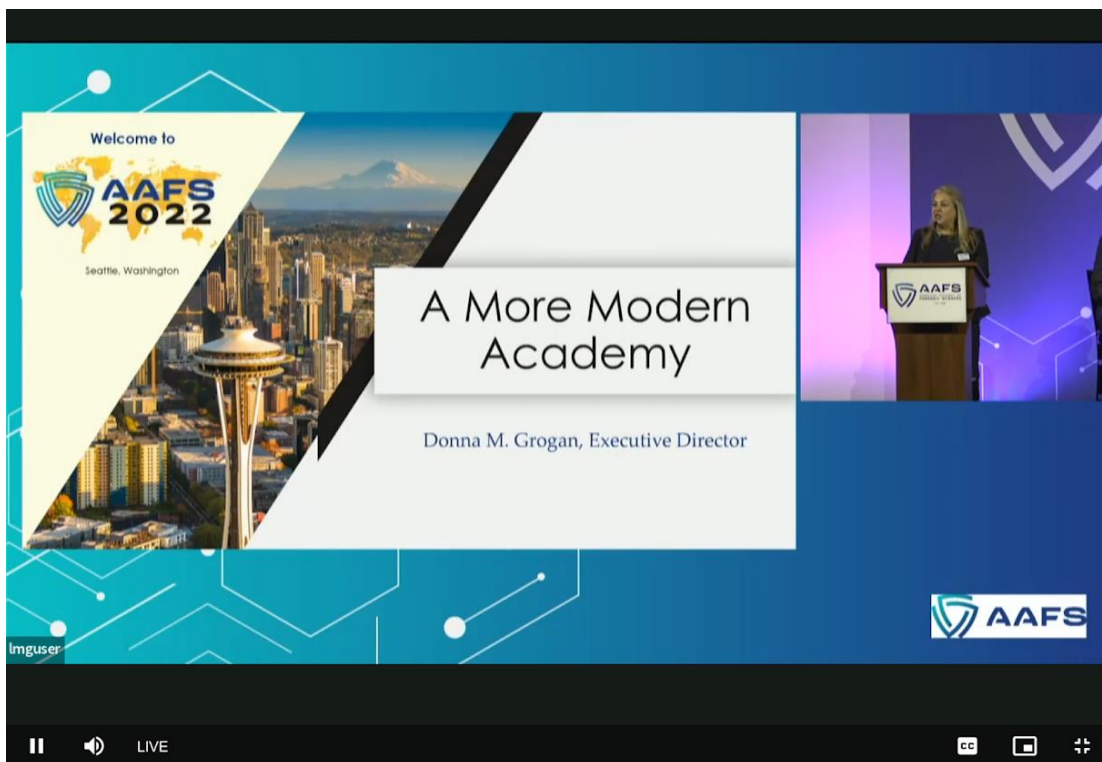
Plenary Session 



## Plenary Session

Thursday, February 24, 2:00 AM-3:30 AM GMT+8  
WSSC Ballroom 6BC





K53. Drug Taxonomy in Forensic Science Data for Integration Into Medicolegal Death Investigation ... LIVE



**Forensic Technology**  
 CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

A program of the National Institute of Justice



Chat

Q&A

## K53: Drug Taxonomy in Forensic Science Data for Integration Into Medicolegal Death Investigation Systems

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Alex J. Krotulski<sup>1,\*</sup>, Donna M. Iula<sup>2</sup>, Agnes D. Winokur<sup>3</sup>, Jeri D. Roper-Miller<sup>4</sup>, Bruce A. Goldberger<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Center for Forensic Science Research and Education, <sup>2</sup>Cayman Chemical, <sup>3</sup>DEA Southeast Laboratory, <sup>4</sup>RTI International, <sup>5</sup>University of Florida College of Medicine

AAFS 2022 Annual Meeting – Toxicology Section (Seattle, WA, & Virtual)



**NIJ** National Institute of Justice  
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**Forensic Technology**  
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**RTI**  
 INTERNATIONAL

### Adverse Effects of Tramadol and Concomitant Use

- Signs associated with tramadol toxicity
  - tachycardia, hypertension, GI irritation, nausea, and agitation
- Taken with opioids, benzodiazepines, or other CNS depressants can result in deep sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death
- Serotonin syndrome from large doses of tramadol or in combination with other serotonergic drugs
- Serotonin syndrome may present as an altered mental status, tachycardia, hyperthermia, and neuromuscular hyperactivity.
- High therapeutic doses of tramadol may increase seizure risk



9 CONFIDENTIAL & PROPRIETARY



### K54. Postmortem Polysubstance Use Trends in Tramadol-Positive Cases From



### K57. Respiratory Depressant Effects and Pharmacokinetics of Oral Mitragynine



## 肆、檢討及心得感想：

本次有機會參加 2022 年第 74 屆美國鑑識科學學會，本屆年會於美國華盛頓州西雅圖舉行，時間為 2022 年 2 月 21 日至 25 日，為期 5 日，因新冠肺炎疫情，世界各國會員較難飛往美國當地參加，故本次採取混合(hybrid)方式，實體會議仍舉行，同時也建立線上會議讓無法到場的與會者可以共襄盛舉；出席實體會議者，也被要求需持有疫苗證明，且除報告外均需配戴口罩。疫情之下許多難題需要克服，本次以不同以往之方式如期舉行，實屬不易，希望疫情早日結束，未來的會議可以恢復常態與蓬勃。

美國鑑識科學學會成立於 1948 年，至今已 74 年，本次會議主題內容包括：人類學 (Anthropology)、犯罪學 (Criminalistics)、數位及多媒體科學 (Digital & Multimedia Sciences)、工程學 (Engineering Sciences)、一般刑事鑑識 (General)、法律裁判學 (Jurisprudence)、法醫齒科學 (Odontology)、病理/生物學 (Pathology/Biology)、精神及行為科學 (Psychiatry & Behavioral Science)、問題文書 (Questioned Documents) 及毒物學 (Toxicology) 等。參加者分別來自世界各地鑑識人員，並邀請各專家學者發表專題演講 (seminars)，開設不同領域之專題討論 (workshops) 及特別會議和主題演講，除了發表各自專業領域的最新發現，也傳遞各領域對鑑識結果一致性的看法，參加演講及專題討論的學員可獲得美國刑事犯罪協會核可之繼續教育學分，以供累積在職進修教育學分之用。此外，許多學術、產業及實務單位也透過年會進行最新科技技術交流，除了於年會中展示研究成果或進行口頭演說，也讓與會者更能了解目前最新科技的發展應用，使整個年會更加熱絡，是相互學習的好機會。

目前本所人力及經費相當困窘，於鑑驗案件業務壓力之下，每年均須爭取科技發展計劃經費，以提昇本所法醫鑑識技術。感謝法

務部每年均支持本所發展最新鑑驗技術及參與國際會議，與世界各國專家進行交流，參與國際會議除了可拓展視野及對多元鑑識深入認識之外，更可提升我國於國際之能見度，雖然從去(2020)年開始全世界疫情嚴峻，無法像往年出國參加研討會，但仍可藉此方式促進與國際專業人士交流，著實獲益良多，創造多贏局面。

## 伍、建議：

1. 由於對法醫毒物藥物分析鑑定的品質要求越來越高，分析儀器也從低解析度、低精密度進階至追求高解析度及高精確度，以求最精準之鑑驗結果，以符合司法機關毒藥物檢測之要求。參加此會議，不僅可以得知目前法醫毒物研究發展的現況及進展，也可參考其他相關研究來補足或改進本所實務上所遇到之困難或問題，也可與學者進行討論來啟發新的研究發展，因此建議持續派員參加此等國際會議。
2. 為了維護毒藥物檢測數據的可靠性與追溯性，實驗室採用統一的國際認證標準，提高實驗室產出數據的品質與可信度。為了提昇本組法醫毒物實驗室的專業公信力，本所毒物化學組法醫毒物實驗室檢驗項目陸續取得 ISO/IEC 17025 實驗室認證，惟此持續進行增項認證目標亟需投入許多人力及心力進行維持及改進，實有賴機關首長支持方得以延續，期盼培育法醫毒物鑑識專業人才，積極鼓勵相關鑑驗人員參加各項實驗室教育訓練課程，以期應用於各項鑑驗案件，提供更具品質之鑑驗結果。

3. 法醫毒物分析是一門專業的科技技術，尤其近年來新興毒品變化多端，這些非法物質通常都非實驗室例行鑑驗項目，鑑驗人員需具備高度研發能力，藉由研究過程中熟悉各種儀器操作與解決鑑驗難題之方向，並能將研究論文投稿國內外期刊或研討會，增加本所在國際刑事鑑識/法醫鑑識領域的能見度。
  
4. 「不能安全駕駛」為司法科學與法醫毒物重要研究的領域，如何採取證據證明車禍事故駕駛在當時是否有毒藥物影響精神或其他原因導致其不能安全駕駛，是相當重要的一環。美國 DRE (藥物識別專家)執法人員系統行之有年，警察經受訓且認證後可於道路盤查或事故發生時向駕駛做及時的檢驗，依循 12 步驟檢測並記錄駕駛的身心狀態，並採驗血液及唾液檢體送交毒物實驗室做毒藥物篩驗，綜合 DRE 檢測及毒物報告方可統整說明當事者是否為不能安全駕駛。目前台灣無 DRE 相關完整認證系統，警察在道路盤查時也缺乏判斷因毒藥物影響駕駛的經驗，且較少採血做進一步調查，若只採尿，依據國外研究說明尿液是無法作為不能安全駕駛的法庭證據，且依本所統計，車禍死亡相關案件除酒精之外，毒藥物駕駛造成事故的確比例甚高，故台灣未來關於不能安全駕駛的證明，尚需發展類似 DRE 系統的檢查，且可發展採驗唾液取代尿液的方式，採檢方式較方便即時快速，且為國際較為採納的法庭證據，但因國內尚未將唾液作為常規檢體，故鑑驗規範也尚未確立，希望未來台灣能有更多相關研究，以幫助不能安全駕駛案件的研判與司法審判，並提升道路駕駛的安全性。

陸、附件資料(論文壁報及摘要)：

投稿壁報論文一：

## **Simultaneous determination and quantitation of 5 synthetic cathinones in postmortem blood and urine by LC-MS/MS**

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**Objectives:** Concerned with frequent reports on abuse and deaths pertaining to overdose of synthetic cathinones, this laboratory has developed an effective LC-MS/MS method for the analysis of five common synthetic cathinones (*N*-Ethylpentylone, dibutylone, mephedrone, MDPV and methedrone) in postmortem specimens to help determine victims' causes of death.

**Methods:** For method evaluation, 1-mL drug-free blood (or urine samples) — fortified with 50–1000 ng/mL of the five analytes of interest along with respective deuterated internal standards — was used for the liquid-liquid extraction process, first with the addition of 2-mL 1.5 M Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>/NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (pH 9.5) buffer for alkalization. Extraction was performed with 3-mL dichloromethane:1,2-dichloroethane:*n*-heptane:ethyl acetate mixture (1:1:1:1, v/v). The extract was evaporated and reconstituted, then injected into the LC-MS/MS system. Chromatographic separation was performed at 50 °C using an Agilent Zorbax SB-Aq column (100 mm × 2.1 mm, 1.8 μm particle). The mobile phase was consisted of water (0.1% formic acid) and methanol (0.1% formic acid) at a flow rate of 0.28 mL/min. Mass spectrometric analysis was performed under electrospray ionization in positive-ion multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) mode. The same protocol was applied to the analysis of case specimens.

**Results:** The protocol described above was evaluated and found to achieve the following analytical parameters for blood samples: (a) average extraction recovery range: 73.3–108.5%; (b) average matrix effect ranges: 90.3–149.0%; (c) intraday and interday precision ranges (percent CV): 0.95–12.6% and 1.46–10.9%; (d) intraday and interday accuracy ranges: 96.7–105.9% and 98.2–103.2%; and (e) calibration linearity ( $r^2$ ), detection limit, and quantitation limit: >0.999, 0.2–0.5 ng/mL, and 0.5 ng/mL, respectively. The corresponding parameters achieved for urine samples were as follows: (a) 74.5–91.8%; (b) 82.5–113.6%; (c) 0.56–9.81% and 1.35–11.3%; (d) 88.6–105.3% and 95.2–102.6%; and (e) >0.999, 0.5 ng/mL, and 0.5 ng/mL, respectively. This protocol was found effective for the analysis of these synthetic cathinones in postmortem samples. In 2020, blood specimens (from approximately ??? cases) were found to contain at least one of these five synthetic cathinones with the following mean concentrations (μg/mL) and number of cases: *N*-Ethylpentylone (0.46;

n = 6); dibutylone (0.36; n = 8); mephedrone (0.73; n = 57).

**Conclusions:** Synthetic cathinones play significant roles in fatalities and were often abused simultaneously with ketamine, PMMA and sedative drugs in Taiwan. With no or limited understanding on these substances' toxicity, addiction potential, and withdrawal symptoms, growing use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) is certainly a critical public health issue. Effective detection and identification of NPS in the laboratory facilitates data collection, helpful to the formation of supply reduction and health intervention strategies.

**Key Words:** New psychoactive substances, Synthetic cathinones, Postmortem toxicology

**Simultaneous determination and quantitation of 5 synthetic cathinones in postmortem blood and urine by LC-MS/MS**

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**Introduction**

Concerned with frequent reports on abuse and deaths pertaining to overdose of synthetic cathinones, this laboratory has developed an effective LC-MS/MS method for the analysis of five common synthetic cathinones N-Ethylpentylone (NEP), dibutylone (DB), mephedrone (MP), methylenedioxypyrrolone (MDPV) and methedrone (MT) in postmortem specimens to help determine victims' causes of death.

**Methods**

Chromatographic separation was performed at 50 °C using an Agilent Zorbax SB-Aq column (100 mm x 2.1 mm, 1.8 μm particle). The mobile phase was consisted of water (0.1% formic acid) and methanol (0.1% formic acid) at a flow rate of 0.28 mL/min. Mass spectrometric analysis was performed under electrospray ionization in positive-ion multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) mode.

**Results**

The protocol was evaluated and found to achieve the following analytical parameters for blood samples: (a) average extraction recovery range: 73.3–108.5%; (b) average matrix effect ranges: 90.3–149.0%; (c) intraday and interday precision ranges (percent CV): 0.95–12.6% and 1.46–10.9%; (d) intraday and interday accuracy ranges: 96.7–105.9% and 98.2–103.2%; and (e) calibration linearity (r<sup>2</sup>), detection limit, and quantitation limit: >0.999, 0.2–0.5 ng/mL, and 0.5 ng/mL, respectively. The corresponding parameters achieved for urine samples were as follows: (a) 74.5–91.8%; (b) 82.5–113.6%; (c) 0.56–9.81% and 1.35–11.3%; (d) 88.6–105.3% and 95.2–102.6%; and (e) >0.999, 0.5 ng/mL, and 0.5 ng/mL, respectively. In 2020, blood specimens were found to contain at least one of these five synthetic cathinones with the following mean concentrations (μg/mL) and number of cases: N-Ethylpentylone (0.46; n = 6); dibutylone (0.36; n = 8); mephedrone (0.73; n = 57).

**Conclusions**

Synthetic cathinones play significant roles in fatalities and were often abused simultaneously with ketamine, PMMA and sedative drugs in Taiwan. With no or limited understanding on these substances' toxicity, addiction potential, and withdrawal symptoms, growing use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) is certainly a critical public health issue. Effective detection and identification of NPS in the laboratory facilitates data collection, helpful to the formation of supply reduction and health intervention strategies.

**Table 1. Retention time, transitions and MS-MS parameters for each analyte and internal standard**

Analyte	RT (min)	Precursor Ion (m/z)	Target Ion (m/z)	CE (%)	Qualifier	CE (%)
NEP	5.38	250	232	22	202	20
NEP-d <sub>5</sub>	5.37	255	237	8	207	16
DB	4.33	236	161	16	133	24
DB-d <sub>5</sub>	4.31	239	164	16	89	20
MT	3.88	194	176	8	161	20
MT-d <sub>5</sub>	3.86	197	179	8	164	20
MP	4.12	178	160	8	144	36
MP-d <sub>5</sub>	4.10	181	163	8	147	36
MDPV	5.94	276	135	24	126	24
MDPV-d <sub>5</sub>	5.92	284	149	32	134	28

**Table 2. Extraction recovery and matrix effect of NEP, DB, MT, MP and MDPV in blood and urine, Mean ± S.D. (n = 3)**

Analyte	Concentration (ng/mL)	Blood		Urine	
		Recovery (%)	Matrix effect (%)	Recovery (%)	Matrix effect (%)
NEP	125	92.3±5.1	89.2±1.0	87.0±5.3	75.1±4.4
	250	99.0±5.5	108.8±7.4	100.0±1.9	77.7±6.8
	500	96.7±10.8	108.5±8.7	88.2±10.2	86.6±6.9
DB	125	99.9±9.8	88.8±7.3	95.5±5.0	78.5±6.1
	250	90.7±8.1	103.5±2.9	113.5±3.2	77.0±6.5
	500	100.0±2.3	97.3±9.4	111.9±2.3	78.6±6.8
MT	125	110.1±1.8	84.3±1.5	94.5±1.3	84.8±2.5
	250	117.1±8.4	84.2±4.8	102.6±4.7	87.5±6.1
	500	145.6±3.2	75.4±2.9	113.6±3.6	86.6±1.1
MP	125	108.6±2.0	83.2±0.2	82.3±6.8	85.6±4.6
	250	114.2±9.2	88.7±7.2	92.2±4.7	80.1±7.6
	500	143.7±5.8	73.8±1.9	105.0±9.9	89.6±5.8
MDPV	125	117.0±1.5	87.2±4.1	100.0±1.9	80.1±7.8
	250	121.1±7.0	91.9±12.6	106.6±7.5	81.7±7.1
	500	149.0±2.7	83.4±2.9	108.1±2.9	91.8±0.6

**Table 3. Calibration results, LOD and LOQ of NEP, DB, MT, MP and MDPV in blood and urine**

Sample	Analyte	Regression equation	Correlation Coefficient (r <sup>2</sup> )	LOD (ng/mL)	LOQ (ng/mL)
Blood	NEP	y=1.047x+0.0344	0.99975	0.3	0.5
	DB	y=1.4701x+0.0117	0.99965	0.2	0.5
	MT	y=1.200x+0.0577	0.99959	0.5	0.5
Urine	NEP	y=1.2807x+0.0663	0.99954	0.5	0.5
	MDPV	y=1.3498x+0.0069	0.99959	0.5	0.5
	MP	y=1.018x+0.0170	0.99965	0.5	0.5
DB	MT	y=1.5988x+0.0218	0.99968	0.5	0.5
	MP	y=1.202x+0.0005	0.99981	0.5	0.5
MDPV	MP	y=1.825x+0.0048	0.99999	0.5	0.5
	MDPV	y=1.6017x+0.0007	0.99956	0.5	0.5

**Table 4. Summary of intraday and interday precision and accuracy (n = 5)**

Sample	Analyte	Intraday precision (CV%)	Interday precision (CV%)	Intraday accuracy (%)	Interday accuracy (%)
Blood	NEP	1.00-8.42	99.56-100.22	1.53-10.85	99.22-101.33
	DB	0.95-7.92	99.10-105.86	1.46-7.35	99.11-100.95
	MT	1.44-9.23	99.21-104.14	1.55-5.70	98.59-100.92
Urine	NEP	1.11-11.82	98.72-103.45	1.80-6.37	98.17-101.61
	MDPV	1.39-12.22	99.36-101.54	1.01-5.75	98.87-101.83
	MP	0.99-7.00	88.40-105.53	1.99-11.00	97.42-102.37
DB	MT	0.56-5.70	97.09-102.64	1.35-9.53	98.58-101.40
	DB	1.22-8.60	98.70-102.43	1.05-11.82	98.35-101.02
	MP	1.23-8.66	98.35-102.77	1.95-10.99	98.88-103.95
MDPV	1.68-9.33	97.78-102.97	1.56-11.34	95.19-102.00	

**Table 5. Results of the analysis in postmortem samples**

Analyte	Sample	n	Concentration (ng/mL)	Mean (μg/mL)	Median (μg/mL)
NEP	Blood	6	0.940-1.751	0.4610±0.641	0.241
	Urine	3	0.012-1.292	0.0781±0.538	0.020
DB	Blood	8	0.019-1.949	0.3560±0.648	0.112
	Urine	4	0.688-32.474	1.6881±5.268	6.210
Gastric content	Blood	5	0.011-0.874	0.1110±0.380	0.134
	Vitreous humor	2	0.235-0.586	0.4050±0.255	0.405
MP	Blood	37	0.011-7.495	0.7301±1.142	0.176
	Urine	25	0.018-1081.310	55.5162±215.811	5.501
Gastric content	Blood	9	0.011-2.855	0.6450±0.921	0.333
	Vitreous humor	1	0.351	-	0.351
Bile	Bile	2	3.981-25.405	11.8501±1.789	6.615

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## Trazodone-Related Deaths in Taiwan During the 2011–2020 Period: A Report on 591 Fatalities

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**Objective:** Trazodone is an antidepressant medication used for the treatment of major depressive disorder, anxiety disorder, and alcohol dependence. Since trazodone is often present in postmortem specimens from accidental, suicidal, and homicidal poisoning cases, an effective LC-MS/MS method was developed and applied to the analysis of this compound in postmortem samples, helpful to determining the causes of death.

**Methods:** Postmortem blood specimens were routinely screened for trazodone using liquid-liquid extraction (by a Toxi-tubes<sup>®</sup> A protocol), followed by GC/MS, LC-ion-trap/MS, and LC-QTOF/MS methodologies (including an automated library search step) developed earlier in this laboratory. Positive specimens were confirmed for trazodone and quantified by LC-MS/MS using trazodone-d<sub>6</sub> as the internal standard. This method has been validated and found to achieve 0.005 µg/mL as the limit of quantitation. Complete autopsy records for these 591 cases were reviewed and analyzed against analytical findings to reveal key epidemiological data.

**Results:** Among the 32,140 forensic autopsy cases took place during the period (2011–2020) included in this retrospective study, specimens collected from 591 cases were found to contain trazodone. Yearly distributions of these trazodone-positive cases were: 2020, 33; 2019, 38; 2018, 34; 2017, 60; 2016, 92; 2015, 69; 2014, 81; 2013, 54; 2012, 67; and 2011, 63. Among these 591 fatalities, the mean age was 49.0 (ranging from 21 to 91) and 61.4% male (n = 363). The manners of death for these cases were 46.5% accident (n = 275), 24.2% suicide (n = 143), 18.1% natural death (n = 107), 7.3% uncertainty (n = 43), and 3.9% homicide (n = 23); while the causes of death were 38.2% intoxication — including single and multiple drugs (n = 226), 26.6% hypovolemic and neurogenic shock (n = 157), 21.7% drowning or other asphyxia (n = 128), 11.0% cardiogenic shock (n = 65), and 2.5% charcoal-burning suicides or fire disaster (n = 15). Blood trazodone concentrations ranged from 0.01 to 97.0 µg/mL; mean concentrations (with respect to manner of death) were 0.94, 3.21, 0.28, 1.38, and 1.24 µg/mL for accident, suicide, natural death, uncertainty, and homicide cases, respectively; mean concentrations (with respect to cause of death) were 2.56, 0.30, 1.07, 0.45, and 2.44 µg/mL for intoxication, hypovolemic and neurogenic shock, drowning or other asphyxia, cardiogenic shock, and charcoal-burning suicides or fire disaster, respectively. Alcohol, sedative drugs and antidepressant drugs were the most commonly companion compounds presented in trazodone-related cases. Alcohol was detected in 208 cases (35.2%) and the numbers of cases found to contain other drugs were: 149 for flunitrazepam (25.2%); 147 for

clonazepam (24.9%); 132 for morphine (22.3%); 122 for codeine (20.6%); 99 for estazolam (16.8%); 96 for zolpidem (16.2%); 87 for quetiapine (14.7%); 71 for acetaminophen (12.0%); and 65 for methamphetamine (11.0%).

**Conclusion:** Trazodone was commonly found in blood specimens collected from Taiwanese forensic autopsy cases. 61.4% of these 591 fatalities occurred during the 2011–2020 period were male, while the mean age was 49.0. Among these trazodone-positive cases, the most common manner of death and cause of death were accident (46.5%) and intoxication (38.2%), respectively. These epidemiological data reveal important information related to the circumstances and usage of trazodone in Taiwan.

**Key Words:** Trazodone, Postmortem toxicology, Epidemiology

**Trazodone-Related Deaths in Taiwan During the 2011–2020 Period: A Report on 591 Fatalities**  
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**Introduction**

Trazodone is an antidepressant medication used for the treatment of major depressive disorder, anxiety disorder, and alcohol dependence. Since trazodone is often present in postmortem specimens from accidental, suicidal, and homicidal poisoning cases, an effective LC-MS/MS method was developed and applied to the analysis of this compound in postmortem samples, helpful to determining the causes of death.

**Methods**

Postmortem blood specimens were routinely screened for trazodone using liquid-liquid extraction (by a Toxi-sub® A protocol), followed by GC/MS, LC-ion-trap/MS, and LC-QTOF/MS methodologies (including an automated library search step) developed earlier in this laboratory. Positive specimens were confirmed for trazodone and quantified by LC-MS/MS using trazodone-d6 as the internal standard. This method has been validated and found to achieve 0.005 µg/mL as the limit of quantitation. Complete autopsy records for these 591 cases were reviewed and analyzed against analytical findings to reveal key epidemiological data.

**Table 1. Retention time, transitions and MS-MS parameters for trazodone and internal standard**

Compound	RT (min)	RT Precursor (min)	Fragment (m/z)	Target (m/z)	CE	Qualifier	CE
Trazodone	8.68	372	165	176	30	148	30
Trazodone-d6	8.67	378	157	182	24	150	40

**Results**

Among the 32,140 forensic autopsy cases took place during the period (2011–2020), specimens collected from 591 cases were found to contain trazodone. Among these 591 fatalities, the mean age was 49.0 (ranging from 21 to 91) and 61.4% male (n = 363). The manners of death for these cases were 46.5% accident (n = 275), 24.2% suicide (n = 143), 18.1% natural death (n = 107), 7.8% uncertainty (n = 43), and 3.9% homicide (n = 23), while the causes of death were 38.2% intoxication — including single and multiple drugs (n = 226), 26.6% hypovolemic and neurogenic shock (n = 157), 21.7% drowning or other asphyxia (n = 128), 11.0% cardiogenic shock (n = 65), and 2.5% charcoal-burning suicides or fire disaster (n = 15). Alcohol, sedative drugs and antidepressant drugs were the most commonly companion compounds presented in trazodone-related cases.

**Table 2. The concentration of trazodone with respect to cause of death**

Manners of death	Case numbers	Concentration (µg/mL)	Mean±S.D.	Median (µg/mL)
Suicide	143	0.05–84.55	0.2110±0.37	0.35
Accident	275	0.01–97.60	0.8455±0.20	0.33
Homicide	23	0.01–13.23	1.2483±0.41	0.12
Heartbeat death	107	0.01–2.44	0.2880±0.39	0.12
Uncertainty	43	0.01–30.79	1.3845±1.17	0.12

**Conclusions**

Trazodone was commonly found in blood specimens collected from Taiwanese forensic autopsy cases. 61.4% of these 591 fatalities occurred during the 2011–2020 period were male, while the mean age was 49.0. Among these trazodone-positive cases, the most common manner of death and cause of death were accident (46.5%) and intoxication (38.2%), respectively. These epidemiological data reveal important information related to the circumstances and usage of trazodone in Taiwan.

**Table 3. Drugs most commonly companion compounds presented in trazodone-related cases**

Drugs	Case numbers
Alcohol	208
Flunitrazepam	149
Clonazepam	147
Morphine	132
Codeine	122
Estazolam	99
Zolpidem	96
Quetiapine	87
Acetaminophen	71
Methamphetamine	65

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**Figure 1. Age and sex distributions of the 591 fatalities tested positive for trazodone in Taiwan (2011–2020).**

**Figure 2. The manners of death for the trazodone-related cases.**

**Figure 3. The causes of death for the trazodone-related cases.**