



SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP FOR THE ANALYSIS OF SEIZED DRUGS

Annual Meeting | June 24-27, 2024

DEA Headquarters, Arlington, VA



MEETING MINUTES

Core Committee Members (Present)

Dr. Sandra Rodriguez-Cruz (Chair)	Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
Mr. Christian Matchett (Vice-Chair)	Clandestine Laboratory Investigating Chemists Association (CLIC)
Dr. Jaclyn Iera (Secretariat)	Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
Ms. Jennifer Bonetti	Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists (MAAFS)
Ms. Elizabeth Griffin	Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS)
Ms. Melissa Hehir	Southern Association of Forensic Scientists (SAFS)
Ms. Kerry Hogan	Northwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (NWAFS)
Mr. David Huang	Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (SWAFS)
Dr. Adriano Maldaner	Iberoamerican Academy of Criminalistics and Forensic Studies (AICEF)
Mr. Benjamin Painter	Australia New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS)
Dr. Benjamin Place	National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
Ms. Tiffany Ribadeneyra	Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists (NEAFS)
Dr. Sandra Sachs	California Association of Criminalistics (CAC)
Ms. Amanda Shanbaum	American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM)/The Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (ASTM/OSAC)
Dr. Anne Slaymaker	
Dr. Ruth Smith	Academia
Ms. Yen Ling Wong	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Dr. Tiong Whei Angeline Yap	Asian Forensic Sciences Network (AFSN)

Core Committee Members (Present Virtual)

Dr. Michael Bovens	European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI)
Dr. Eric Person	Academia

Guest Attendees (Present)

Mr. Jonathan Duffy (Recorder)	Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
Ms. Sandra Ferreira	Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)

Monday, June 24, 2024

8:30am-5:00pm EST

Welcome Remarks and Introduction

- SWGDRUG Chair Dr. Sandra Rodriguez-Cruz welcomed all participants to the annual meeting. She recognized and thanked SWGDRUG Vice-Chair Mr. Christian Matchett and Secretariat Dr. Jaclyn Iera for their efforts over the past year and preparations for the meeting. She also recognized Committee Members Dr. Adriano Maldaner and Dr. Angeline Yap for each facilitating a session of the first SWGDRUG Webinar Series in January 2024. Dr. Rodriguez-Cruz introduced guest participants Mr. Jonathan Duffy (DEA), who will also serve as the meeting notes recorder, and Ms. Sandra Ferreira (CBSA).
- DEA Office of Forensic Sciences Chief Operating Officer (COO) Ms. Esther Chege welcomed all participants to DEA Headquarters. She expressed her appreciation for members taking time from their schedule to attend the meeting. She thanked everyone on behalf of DEA for their commitment to quality, presence in the community, and leadership.
- All meeting participants introduced themselves and stated their organization.



Discussion Items and Goals for the Week

- Dr. Rodriguez-Cruz provided an overview of general SWGDRUG discussion topics and the meeting goals for the week.
- SWGDRUG updates included secured funding for future annual meetings, resumed drug monograph processing, an updated SWGDRUG IR Spectral Library (last updated August 2019) expected to release within the next month, an updated SWGDRUG MS Spectral Library (last updated June 2023) in progress, and opportunity to improve website hosting services.
- Dr. Rodriguez-Cruz emphasized the highest priority goal of the meeting session is to adjudicate public comments received on revisions to SWGDRUG Recommendations v. 8.2 (Part II, Part IIIA, Part IIIB, Part IVB, and Annex A) and Supplemental Document SD-7, Methods of Analysis.
- The meeting participants will then divide into subcommittees on Method Validation (Part IVB, Annex A, SD-2), “Stop Testing”, Training Questions, SD-7, SD-8 Structural Elucidation, Outreach/Webinars, and SD-6 Statistical Sampling Scenarios.
- Dr. Rodriguez-Cruz discussed the opportunity for a SWGDRUG presentation block for the Center for Forensic Science Research and Education (CFSRE) Current Trends in Seized Drug Analysis Symposium in January 2025.

Updates from Organization Representatives

- Dr. Bovens provided the ENSFI updates to include the vision of the European Forensic Science Area (EFSA) 2030, closing public comment period of DIS 21043 - Forensic Science on July 16, 2024, and the ENFSI DWG-EU Direct Grant 2022 work towards likelihood ratio using chemometrics and developing guidelines for forensic chemists.
- Dr. Place provided the NIST updates to include new and expiring reference materials, NIST23 Mass Spectral Libraries, the Rapid Drug Analysis and Research (RaDAR) Program, general-purpose GCMS method development, the February 2024 Drug Detection and Analysis Challenges Workshop, and interlaboratory studies in progress.
- Dr. Rodriguez-Cruz provided the DEA updates to include integration of laboratory space within field offices, portable set-up in Phoenix, AZ, machine learning and artificial intelligence tools for administrative case review, analytical and defense challenges, laboratory system implementation of LCMS and DARTMS, and a general-purpose standardized GCMS method to incorporate state/local laboratories and use for National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS).
- Mr. Painter provided the ANZFSS updates to include the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) overview and 2022-2023 highlights, regional drug trends based on the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP), the National Institute of Forensic Sciences (NIFS) activities for training, clandestine laboratory matters, and analytical methodology considerations; and the commission of inquiry into forensic DNA testing in Queensland.
- Mr. Huang provided the SWAFS updates to include the SWAFS member survey responses on location data, following SWGDRUG recommendations and OSAC guidelines, current challenges in the field, and feedback on SWGDRUG resources. He also recommended the training Electron Ionization Mass Spectral Interpretation provided by Dr. J. Tyler Davidson of Sam Houston University at the 2023 SWAFS Annual Conference. The 2024 SWAFS Annual Conference is scheduled for October 6-10, 2024 in Little Rock, AR. He also provided the US Postal Services updates to include GC-IRD validation and multi-unit/multi-container sampling processes.
- Dr. Person provided the CSU Fresno updates to include a discussion on the use of artificial intelligence in academia for literature search and report writing, and for forensic service



SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP FOR THE ANALYSIS OF SEIZED DRUGS

Annual Meeting | June 24-27, 2024

DEA Headquarters, Arlington, VA



- providers to consider how or when is it acceptable to use, particularly for use of chemometrics.
- Dr. Yap provided the AFSN updates to include the AFSN Training Workshop in July 2023 and LIMS webinar in March 2024, publication of “The Journey of AFSN through Fifteen Years” in Forensic Science International, and drug trends in Asia. The next AFSN Annual Meeting and Symposium is scheduled for August 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Yap also provided updates on SWGDRUG outreach efforts to include feedback on the SWGDRUG Webinar Series, creating the slide deck for updates to the regional network meetings, future webinar topics, and participation in the upcoming CFSRE Symposium in January 2025.
 - Ms. Ferreira provided the CBSA updates to include 2022-2023 statistics, Designated Safe Sampling Areas (DSSAs) purpose and design, drug analysis capacity and commodities, and drug detection challenges at the Canadian Border.
 - Ms. Griffin provided the MAFS updates to include drug workshop opportunities in MS/matrix artifacts, testimony, clandestine laboratory analysis, organic chemistry refresher, and evolving approaches and technologies at the next meeting scheduled for September 8-13, 2024 in Kansas City, MO. Ms. Griffin also provided Indiana State Police updates to include drug trends, new laboratory space, personnel updates, salary increases, and development of a structurally controlled database.
 - Ms. Wong provided the UNODC updates to include revised recommendations for the identification and analysis of cannabis and cannabis products, recommendations for the profiling of heroin and cocaine, and Current NPS Threats Vol. VII to be released soon. Other publications in progress include guidelines for the dismantling of clandestine laboratories and recommendations for synthetic opioids. Ms. Wong also provided the UNODC International Collaboration Exercises (ICE) updates to include top analytical techniques, results of qualitative and quantitative results, new structural elucidation proficiency tests, and the upcoming ask-the-expert series virtual meeting on extraction methods and techniques scheduled for November 2024.
 - Ms. Ribadeneyra provided the NEAFS updates to include providing SWGDRUG updates at the November 2023 meeting, positive feedback on SWGDRUG webinar opportunities, and drug trends in the Northeastern region. The next annual NEAFS meeting is scheduled for October 21-25, 2024 in Atlantic City, NJ. The 2025 meeting will be held in PA, and the 2026 meeting will be held jointly with MAAFS.
 - Mr. Matchett provided the CLIC updates to include providing SWGDRUG implications on field testing in the context of risk management during the workshop at the 2023 CLIC Conference, fielding questions on NPS and designer drugs, and discussion on field testing limitations for inclusion into category A.
 - Ms. Bonetti provided the MAAFS updates to include changing the criminalistics section to chemistry and adding a physical section, 2024 conference breakout session topics, hosting an ANAB Forensic Technical Assessor training, and opportunity for more trainings between meetings. The 2023 drug trend statistics were not released yet, but are similar to other presented trends in fentanyl and methamphetamine.
 - Ms. Hogan provided the NWAFS updates to include new legislative actions in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. She also shared news of the dismantlement of a large fentanyl tablet pressing organization in Spokane, Washington. Ms. Hogan led a discussion of tablet descriptions when not counting all units.
 - Dr. Sachs provided the CAC update that public comment opportunity was extended to CAC membership and expressed thanks to Dr. Yap for putting together slide decks for SWGDRUG informational updates for regional organizations. She requested that, to the extent time permitted, that the week include discussion on the DEA stance on the changes of marijuana scheduling and its effects on the country, the Smith v. Arizona Supreme Court decision



SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP FOR THE ANALYSIS OF SEIZED DRUGS

Annual Meeting | June 24-27, 2024

DEA Headquarters, Arlington, VA



- regarding an individual being able to substitute testimony for a colleague, and the recent publication in Forensic Chemistry evaluating ASTM E2329-17 guidance for analytical schemes.
- Ms. Hehir provided the SAFS updates to include the April 2024 meeting round table discussion for seized drugs, SWGDRUG updates, review of analytical schemes. Ms. Hehir shared an anecdote of the significance of SWGDRUG recommendations for a single analyst small laboratory in her region. The next meeting is scheduled for May 2025 in Jacksonville, FL.
 - Dr. Smith provided academia updates to include a discussion on the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) accreditation and criteria for the five-year reaccreditation cycle, which has led to two institutions recently voluntarily ceasing reaccreditation. Dr. Smith fielded feedback from members involved in hiring on how applicants from FEPAC accredited institutions fared versus non accredited institutions.
 - Ms. Shanbaum provided ASCLD updates to include seized drugs topics in the Forensic Research Committee (FRC) Lightning Talk Series and the ASCLD vested interest in the Supreme Court decision in Smith v. Arizona, due to both the use of the alternate analyst approach and the teamwork approach used in some disciplines such as DNA.
 - Dr. Slaymaker provided the ASTM updates to include work on the revisions to E2329 Standard Practice for Identification of Seized Drugs, E2549 Standard Practice for Validation of Seized-Drug Analytical Methods, E2548 Standard Guide for Sampling Seized Drugs for Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis, and 5-year revision for existing standard E2882 Standard Guide for Analysis of Clandestine Drug Laboratory Evidence. She also discussed work on a new interdisciplinary standard for testimony. Dr. Slaymaker provided the OSAC updates to include the standard in seized drug reporting going to public comment period, the marijuana analysis scheme in review following the public comment period and scientific and technical review panel, and proposing a future FY25 quantitation standard.
 - Dr. Maldaner provided AICEF updates to include new collaboration with the metrology institute in Brazil for preparation of reference materials, analytical issues with the identification of nitazenes, and validation of portable Raman spectrometers.

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

8:30am-5:00pm EST

Public Comment Adjudication

- Ms. Ribadeneyra presented feedback and comments received on changes to SWGDRUG Recommendations Part IIIA - Sampling Seized Drugs for Qualitative Analysis (including Figure 2). Participants agreed to wording on responses and edits to the section.
- Ms. Smith presented feedback and comments received on changes to SWGDRUG Recommendations Part II - Education and Training. Participants agreed to wording on responses and edits to the section.
- No comments received on changes to SWGDRUG Recommendations Part IIIB - Methods of Analysis/Analytical Scheme for Identification of Drugs or Chemicals.
- Mr. Painter presented feedback and comments to SWGDRUG Supplemental Document SD-7 for Part IIIB Methods of Analysis/Analytical Scheme for Identification of Drugs or Chemicals. Participants discussed wording on responses and edits to the section.
- Dr. Sandra Sachs presented feedback and comments to Part IVB – Validation of Analytical Methods. Participants discussed to wording on responses and edits to the section.

Sub-Committees Assignments and Break-Out

- Participants divided into the following initial sub-committees with opportunity to work in others as time permits. Subcommittee work continued for the remainder of the day.



SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP FOR THE ANALYSIS OF SEIZED DRUGS

Annual Meeting | June 24-27, 2024

DEA Headquarters, Arlington, VA



- Method Validation (IVB, Annex A)
 - Dr. Sachs, Dr. Slaymaker, and Dr. Person.
- “Stop Testing” (Working title)
 - Mr. Matchett, Mr. Huang, Ms. Griffin, and Ms. Hogan.
- Training Questions
 - Dr. Smith, Ms. Hehir, and Mr. Duffy.
- SD-7
 - Mr. Painter and Ms. Shanbaum.
- SD-8 (Structural Characterization)
 - Dr. Maldaner, Mr. Painter, Dr. Place, and Dr. Yap, Ms. Ferreira, and Ms. Wong.
- Outreach/Webinars
 - Dr. Yap, Dr. Maldaner, and Ms. Wong.
- SD-6 (Statistical Sampling Scenarios)
 - Ms. Bonetti, Ms. Ribadeneyra, Dr. Rodriguez-Cruz, Ms. Shanbaum, and Dr. Bovens.

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

8:30am-5:00pm EST

Sub-Committees Updates

- Each subcommittee provided a brief progress update on their respective assignments and additional work to be completed.
- The SD-6 (Statistical Sampling Scenarios) subcommittee drafted the document outline and developed different types of scenarios.
- The Outreach/Webinars subcommittee drafted a three-hour block for the CFSRE 2025 Current Trends in Seized Drug Analysis Symposium to be held during the week of January 13-17, 2025 with four topics centering on the SWGDRUG Recommendations. The group also drafted topic options for one or two potential SWGDRUG webinars.
- The SD-8 (Structural Characterization) subcommittee did not meet on Tuesday, however will now begin work.
- The Training Questions subcommittee began a review and update of the SWGDRUG website training resource question list.
- The “Stop Testing” subcommittee began drafting the document preamble, indicatives, limitations of less than conclusive results, and the reporting section.
- The SD-7 subcommittee has completed work and adjudicated comments. Participants will move to other subcommittees.
- The Method Validation subcommittee drafted a form to document the process of method validation and will recruit members to test the form for feedback. The group intends to use the form for examples in SD-2. The group also discussed the method validation process as fit-for-purpose and to address legal considerations.

Sub-Committees Break-Out

- Subcommittee work continued for the remainder of the day.
- Participants were provided a tour of the DEA Museum and took a group photo.

Thursday June 27, 2024

8:30am-5:00pm EST

DEA Deputy Assistant Administrator Address

- DEA Deputy Assistant Administration (DAA), and former SWGDRUG Chair, Mr. Scott Oulton welcomed all participants to DEA Headquarters. He expressed his appreciation for the group’s



SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP FOR THE ANALYSIS OF SEIZED DRUGS

Annual Meeting | June 24-27, 2024

DEA Headquarters, Arlington, VA



attendance and noted the 2025 meeting is funded. Mr. Oulton shared insight from his time in SWGDRUG and recognized Dr. Rodriguez-Cruz's leadership.

SWGDRUG Recommendations Version 8.2 Review

- Dr. Sachs and Dr. Slaymaker presented the IVB Validation of Analytical Methods and Annex A changes and SWGDRUG response.
- Dr. Smith presented no changes to Part II and adjudicated comments.
- IIIA no changes, adjudicated comments.
- IIIB no changes, no comments received.

SWGDRUG Recommendations Version 8.2 Vote

- Mr. Painter makes a motion to approve changes to Part II, Part IIIA, Part IIIB, Part IVB, and Annex A as SWGDRUG Recommendations Version 8.2, along with the related responses to public comments, pending editorial review.
- Ms. Hehir seconds the motion.
- Discussion opened, no discussion occurred, discussion closed.
- All in-person members voted in agreement, no dissents.

SD-7 Vote

- Edits to SD-7 and responses to public comment were presented to the committee.
- Dr. Sachs makes a motion to approve changes to SD-7, to include the change from spot test to color test in Part IIIC 4.4.4 of SWGDRUG Recommendations Version 8.2, along with the related responses to public comments, pending editorial review.
- Dr. Slaymaker seconds the motion.
- Discussion opened, no discussion occurred, discussion closed.
- All in-person members voted in agreement, no dissents.

Part IIIE Methods of Analysis/Negative Results and Stop Testing Procedures

- Mr. Matchett and Ms. Griffin presented the draft document progress for participant discussion and edits. The document will undergo further edits in subcommittee and then will be sent out to members for review.

SD-6 (Statistical Sampling Scenarios)

- Ms. Ribadeneyra and Ms. Bonetti presented the draft document progress for participant discussion and edits. The document will also be shared with NIST and then will be sent out to members for review.

SD-8 Considerations for the Structural Characterization of Unknown Compounds

- Dr. Place provided an update on the proposed framework for SD-8 for participant discussion and edits. The document will be drafted by the subcommittee with the goal to be presented at the 2025 in-person meeting.

Training Questions

- Ms. Hehir provided a progress update to the training questions. The subcommittee will continue work and expect completion by September 2024. Updates to the training questions do not require public comment.

Closing Remarks



SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP FOR THE ANALYSIS OF SEIZED DRUGS

Annual Meeting | June 24-27, 2024

DEA Headquarters, Arlington, VA



-
- Dr. Rodriguez-Cruz discussed possible meeting locations in Idaho or Michigan for the second or fourth week of June 2025.
 - The next meeting will tentatively include a petition to add electrochemical techniques to the analytical technique category with presentations from electrochemistry practitioners and experts from academia.
 - Dr. Rodriguez-Cruz thanked everyone again for their participation, and also expressed her appreciation for the time spent together during the meeting and social events. She declared the meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Mr. Jonathan Duffy.