

Webinar Series
Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Capital Litigation Initiative:
Crime Scene to Courtroom Forensics Training

Webinar #4: “Toxicology Essentials: Emphasis Opioids”

- I. Introduction
 - A. Welcome – Professor Carol Henderson
 - B. Speaker introductions
 - C. How to participate in the Chat Feature

- II. Toxicology Refresher: Opioids
 - A. Pharmacology of opioids
 - B. Heroin and opioids
 - i. Addiction vs. dependence
 - ii. Opioid overdose antidote - Naloxone
 - iii. Crossover from use to abuse
 - C. Scientific-Legal Issues in drug cases
 - i. Common drug charges
 - ii. Drug testing considerations
 - iii. Drug sample considerations
 - iv. Laboratory procedures and handling
 - v. Analytical drug tests
 - vi. Planted contraband

- III. Impact of the Opioid Epidemic on Death Investigations
 - A. Trends in opioid-related deaths
 - B. Multi-causal factors
 - i. Regulation in pain management clinics
 - ii. Increase in heroin use
 - iii. Emergence of illicit synthetic drugs – fentanyl / fentanyl analogues

- IV. Combatting Illicit Opioids: A Toxicology Laboratory Perspective
 - A. Issues with Synthetic Opioids
 - i. Lack of information on synthetic opioids
 - ii. Poly-drug toxicity cases
 - iii. Laboratory challenges
 - B. Testing Techniques

- i. Screening tests
- ii. Confirmatory tests
- iii. Quantitative tests
- iv. Testing limitations

V. Legal Impact

- A. Challenges faced by capital case litigators
 - i. Interpreting a toxicology report
 - ii. Culpability in multiple drug administration cases
- B. Tips for Toxicology Testimony for Opioid-related Cases

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