



American College of Medical Toxicology

Physicians Specializing in the Care of Poisoned Patients

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MICHAEL JACKSON CASE UNDERSCORES WHAT JOURNALISTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MEDICAL TOXICOLOGY

PHOENIX, Ariz. – August 12, 2009 – The [American College of Medical Toxicology](#) (ACMT) announces its cutting-edge symposium, “Toxicology and the Media.” The program will be held in San Antonio at the Grand Hyatt on September 22, 2009 prior to the annual meeting of the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology.

ACMT is the leading group of physician toxicologists in the United States. Glenda Wolin, Assistant City Editor of the San Antonio Express News is the keynote speaker and will address the media’s coverage of the Michael Jackson death and the possible contribution of drug abuse. Experts from around the country will discuss recent media sensations from melamine to Polonium.

Media Understanding of Medical Toxicology

The goal of this conference is to explore how recent events and media coverage have shaped this medical specialty, influenced the layperson’s opinion of medicine, and altered public perceptions.

At the end of the pre-symposium, participants should be able to:

1. Critically evaluate media coverage of recent toxicology-related subjects for content, accuracy and truth.
2. Review recent literature and the current body of knowledge associated with toxicology subjects recently covered by the media.

3. Recognize toxic mechanisms and symptoms related to toxins recently covered by the news media.
4. Integrate newly learned concepts and ideas into the daily practice of medical toxicology.

“Recent coverage of the death of Michael Jackson has highlighted the media’s approach to toxicology, particularly drug abuse,” according to Dr. Leslie R. Dye, a member of the board of directors of ACMT and chair of its education committee. “Often journalists go to the most available physician, rather than seeking a true toxicology expert. We need to find ways to connect reporters with medical toxicologists who can provide the most accurate perspective.”

Schedule

Keynote Speaker: Through the looking glass: The media’s perception of medicine and toxicology

Speaker: Glenda Wolin

Associate City Editor for the San Antonio Express News

Media Down Under

Speaker: Naren Gunja, MD, MBBS, FACEM

Deputy Medical Director & Toxicologist, New South Wales Poisons Information Centre and The Children's Hospital at Westmead

Military Toxicology in the Media

Speaker: Dave Barry, MD, FACMT

Program Director, Emergency Medicine Residency, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth

The Toxicology of Imports: Worldwide Toxicology in the Media

Speaker: Chuck McKay, MD, FACMT

Director of Medical Toxicology and Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, Hartford Hospital; University of Connecticut School of Medicine and the Connecticut Poison Control Center

Alternative Medical Therapies in the Media

Speaker: Asim Tarabar, MD, FACMT

Assistant Professor, Yale University

Don't Cry Over Toxic Spills: a critical look at accepted evidence and media coverage

Speaker: Patrick Daubert, MD

Assistant Professor and Assistant Medical Director,
Sacramento Division, California Poison Control System
Program Director, Medical Toxicology
Director of Clinical and Medical Toxicology Education
Department of Emergency Medicine
University of California, Davis

The Newest Craze: The Media's Fascination with Weight Loss

Speaker: Trevonne Thompson, MD

Associate Director, Division of Medical Toxicology
Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine
Department of Emergency Medicine
University of Illinois at Chicago

From Mercury to Polonium: Occupational/Environmental Toxicology in the Media

Speaker: Michael Holland, MD, FACMT

Clinical Asst. Professor, Dept of Emergency Medicine
SUNY Upstate Medical University
Medical Toxicologist, Upstate NY Poison Center

Media representatives are invited to attend the event. For more information on this topic or to schedule an interview, please contact Tricia Steffy at 623-533-6340.

About the American College of Medical Toxicology

The American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) is a professional, nonprofit association of physicians with recognized expertise in medical toxicology. Medical Toxicology is a medical subspecialty focusing on the diagnosis, management and prevention of poisoning and other adverse health effects due to medications, occupational and environmental toxins, and biological agents. Medical Toxicology is officially recognized as a medical subspecialty by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

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