Concerning the Sixth Edition of Garriott’s Medicolegal Aspects of Alcohol

To Randall Baselt’s excellent review of Garriott’s Medicolegal Aspects of Alcohol, 6th edition, we wish to provide an addendum. We would like to acknowledge an essential misunderstanding between the Editors and Professor A.W. Jones, the author of chapters 3 and 4 in the 5th edition of Garriott’s Medicolegal Aspects of Alcohol. Acting on our understanding that it was Professor Jones’ wish not to revise his chapters for the 6th edition, and while exercising traditional publishers’ copyright and editorial prerogatives, we believed that we were respecting his wishes by assigning his two chapters from the 5th edition to new authors.

Chapter 3 in the 6th edition, entitled ‘Disposition and Fate of Ethanol in the Body’ with R.B. Forney, Jr. as the author, was virtually identical to Professor Jones’ chapter 3 from the 5th edition of the book. This comprehensive treatise included the chapter outline, the entire text, 44 original figures, 17 tables of data and more than 600 literature references. Dr. Forney, after review and validation of Professor Jones’ work, only added 9 historical citations to the list of references, papers by R.B. Forney, Sr.

Chapter 4 in the 6th edition, entitled ‘Biomarkers of Acute and Chronic Alcohol Ingestion’, which was specifically lauded by Dr. Baselt in his review, was a revised and updated version prepared by Drs. Roger Bertholf and Lindsay Bazydlo. The outline, much of the text, figures, tables and references in the original chapter by Professor Jones, remained unchanged in the 6th edition. Updates included the discussion of glucuronide and sulfate metabolites of ethanol measured in urine to detect ethanol use within the previous several days, and a broader discussion of statistical parameters applied to laboratory methods used to detect drug use. But in large part, the extensively referenced chapter 4 represented the exceptional work of Professor Jones.

Although Professor Jones’s authorship of Chapters 3 and 4 in the 5th edition is acknowledged as a footnote on the title page of the 6th edition chapters, this attribution did not provide sufficient credit to his original work. We deeply regret any discourtesy to Professor Jones that may have occurred as a result of our oversight.

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