

# Drug Recognition and Impairment Research Meeting

## Criminal Justice Practice Experts Roundtable Guide

April 24, 2015

Instructions: The purpose of the expert roundtable is to identify and discuss the concerns of primary importance to practitioners in your jurisdiction and professional field, as well as the kinds of information, tools and protocols that would best support your service objectives. Please review the following discussion items and prepare to present informally to the group opinions based on your training, work experience and other information exchanges. Some may not apply to you, and other items or variations of these are open to discussion.

1. Drugs of Interest
  - Opioids – heroin, prescription drugs
  - Marijuana – cannabis, concentrates, edibles
  - Amphetamines – methamphetamine, other
  - Novel psychoactive substances - synthetic cannabinoids, cathinones, opioids
  - Pharmaceuticals - methadone, buprenorphine, benzodiazepines
  - Hypnotics - zolpidem, other
  - Alcohol and other drug combinations
2. Lab
  - Signature programs – authentics/standards, variations
  - Analogs – definition, scope of compound
  - Certified standards - shifting landscape of substances used
  - General unknown screening applications - LC-HRMS, other
  - Interpretation of findings
3. Field
  - Screening– presumptive (reasonable suspicion)- potential new methods
  - Investing in field confirmation testing
  - Onsite data collection, measures and documentation
  - Drug testing and alternative matrices
  - Impairment – cognitive, physiological and biochemical
  - Impairment – fatigue, distraction and other combinations
  - Seizures and other evidence – small clandestine labs
4. Prosecution and Defense
  - Laboratory turn-around time
  - Laboratory testimony (*U.S. v. Melendez-Diaz*)
  - Legislation – structural and pharmacological similarity, variation in application across jurisdictions
  - Levels of testing – regulatory and lab cutoffs for detection
  - Per se laws
5. Pretrial and Post-Disposition Monitoring
  - Harm reduction vs abstinence – differentiating new from residual use, environmental contamination
  - Medication-assisted treatment
  - Home visits
6. Resources
  - Identifying and measuring advances toward goals

- Determining and prioritizing needs – equipment, staffing and re/training
- Leveraging Federal and other agency resources