

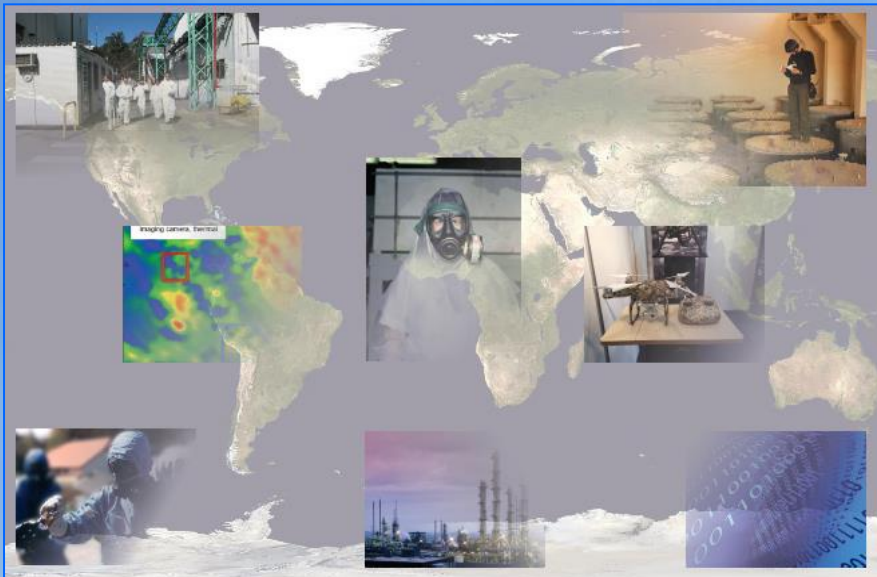


Significance of Verification : The Role of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)

**Presented as part of the VERIFIN side event:
"Verification Today and Tomorrow"
Fourth Review Conference.
22 November 2018**

Dr Christopher M. Timperley (SAB Chairperson)

Importance of Verification



VERIFICATION

REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY
BOARD'S TEMPORARY WORKING GROUP

June 2015



ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION
OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

CONVERGENCE OF CHEMISTRY AND
BIOLOGY

REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY
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JUNE 2014



ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION
OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Schedule 1

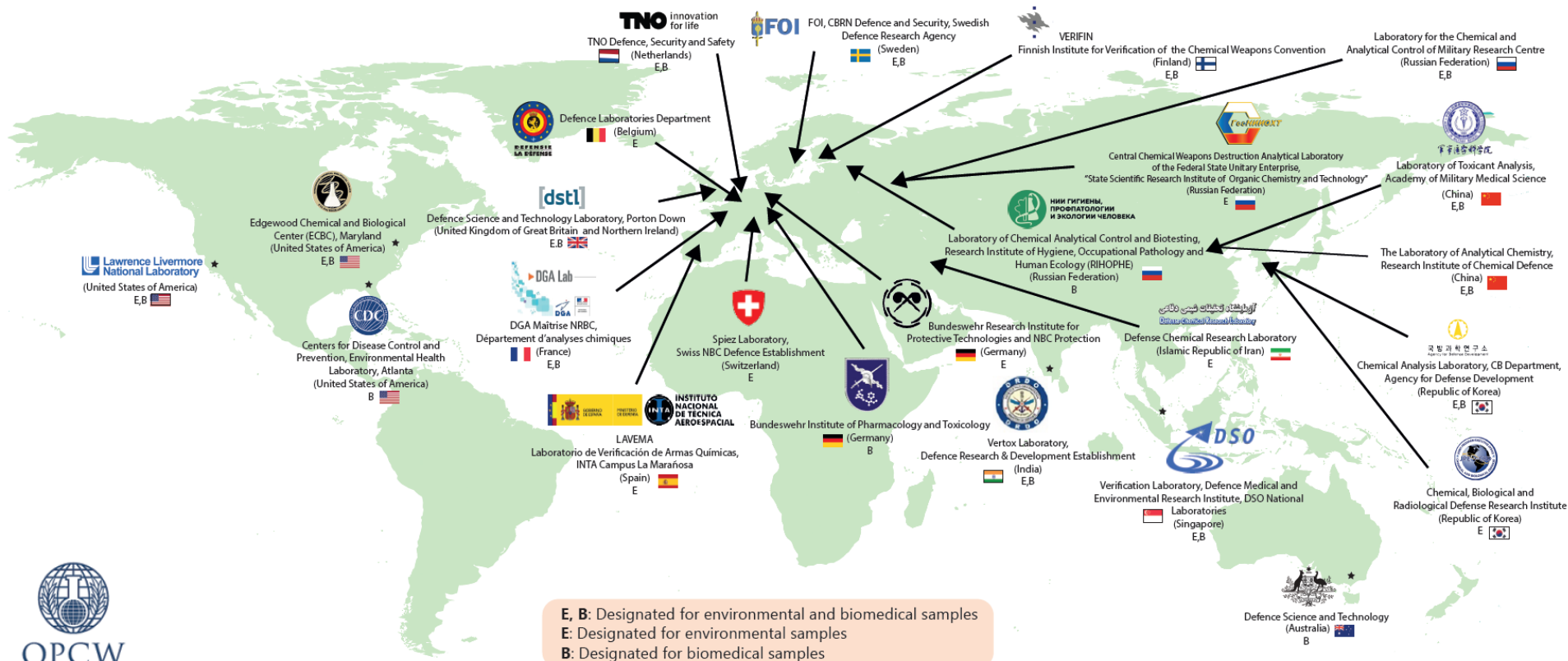
Schedule 2

Relationship between Schedules, illustrated with sulfur mustard

Schedule 3

Scheduled chemicals, including those in schedules 1 and 2, can have scientifically and economically important uses. This chart captures the number of yearly scientific publications that refer to them.

Designated Laboratory network



- Analytical chemistry is a key tool for verification under the Convention
- Significance of international cooperation (Blue Book) for verification analysis and its development has never been more important because of the repetitive contravention of the Convention during the last 5 years

Chemical Forensics Workshop



OPCW

Scientific Advisory Board

Twenty-Fourth Session
25 – 28 October 2016

SAB-24/WP.1
14 July 2016
ENGLISH only

REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD'S WORKSHOP ON CHEMICAL FORENSICS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The OPCW Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) in cooperation with VERIFIN held a workshop,¹ "Chemical Forensics: Capabilities across the Field and the Potential Applications in Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation", from 20 to 22 June 2016 in Helsinki, Finland. The workshop is one of a series intended to inform the report of the SAB on developments in science and technology to the Fourth Review Conference² of the Chemical Weapons Convention to be held in 2018. Interest in chemical forensics, and its relevance to the work of the OPCW, has been described through Recommendation 17 of the OPCW SAB's Temporary Working group on Verification.³
- 1.2 Forensic science is defined as the study of traces (remnants of presence and/or activity)^{4,5} These are silent witnesses that need to be detected, seen, and understood to make reasonable inferences about criminal phenomena, investigation or demonstration for intelligence, investigation and court purposes.
- 1.3 Chemical forensics aims to obtain information from chemical remnants that is relevant to investigative, legal and intelligence questions. Just as fingerprints and DNA can provide unique signatures that can be used to identify individuals, chemical samples can provide distinctive signatures (for example through their impurities

¹ Funding for the workshop was provided in part through project III (Science and Technology: Assessment of Developments in Science and Technology) of EU Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/259 dated 17 February 2015. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.043.01.0014.01.ENG

² Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

³ Verification, Report of the Scientific Advisory Board's Temporary Working Group (SAB/REP/1/15, dated June 2015). Available at www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/SAB/en/Final_Report_of_SAB_TWG_on_Verification_-_as_presented_to_SAB.pdf

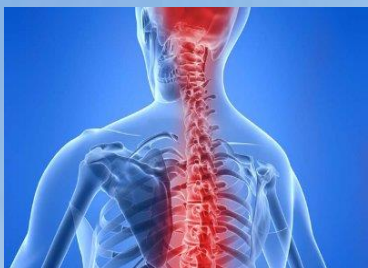


Recommendations to Fourth Review Conference



Toxins (ricin, saxitoxin and others)

OPCW should enhance its efforts to strengthen the capabilities of international laboratories to identify the hostile use of toxins and analyse samples for toxins, through enhanced scientific collaboration



Central nervous system acting chemicals

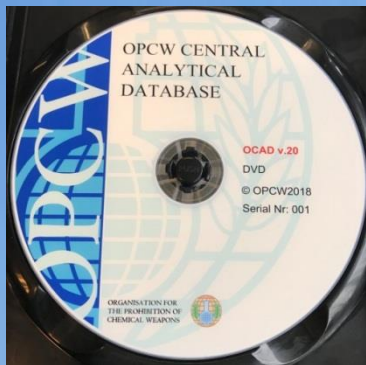
OPCW should be prepared to conduct missions involving their alleged use for hostile purposes, including sample collection and the addition of analytical data to the OPCW Central Analytical Database



Toxic industrial chemicals (e.g. chlorine)

OPCW should seek to identify markers that may be formed through reactions of such chemicals with living tissue or materials present in the environment and assess the utility of these markers in investigations

Recommendations to Fourth Review Conference



Additions to OPCW Central Analytical Database (OCAD)

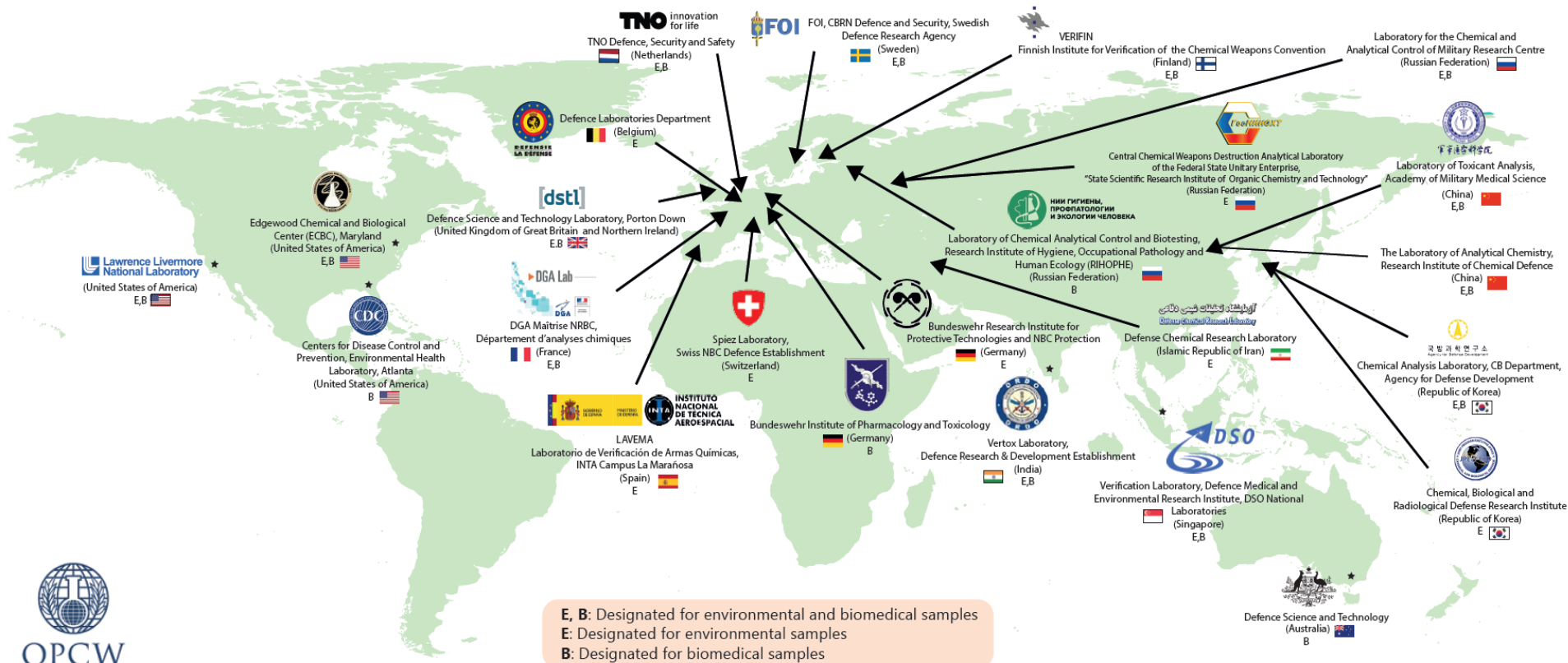
Analytical data for chemicals that may pose a risk to the Convention or that are needed to help differentiate permitted activities from prohibited activities should be added to the OCAD



Such additions could include :

- Isotopically-labelled scheduled chemicals
- Stereoisomers of scheduled chemicals
- Salts of scheduled chemicals
- Central nervous system acting chemicals
- Toxic industrial chemicals
- Riot control agents
- Bioregulators and toxins
- Unscheduled chemicals posing a risk to the Convention

Recommendations regarding the laboratory network



- To strengthen capability of the network to analyse operational samples, preparedness to do so should be a factor in maintaining designation
- The network should be expanded geographically and in its capabilities

Temporary Working Group on Investigative Science





ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Working Together For a World Free of Chemical Weapons

Temporary Working Group on Investigative Science and Technology

Reporting to the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), the Temporary Working Group (TWG) will in particular consider the following questions:

Question 1:

Which methods and capabilities used in the forensic sciences could usefully be developed and/or adopted for Chemical Weapons Convention-based investigations?



Question 2:

What are the best practices and analysis tools used in the forensic sciences for effectively cross-referencing, validating, and linking together information related to investigation sites, materials collected/analysed, and individuals interviewed?



Question 3:

What are the best practices for management of data collected in investigations, including compilation, curation, and analytics?



Question 4:

What are the best practices for the collection, handling, curation and storage, and annotation of evidence?



Question 5:

Which technologies and methodologies (whether established or new) allow point-of-care and non-destructive measurements at an investigation site to help guide evidence collection?



Question 6:

Which technologies and methodologies (whether established or new) can be used in the provenancing of chemical and/or material samples collected in an investigation?



Question 7:

Which methods are available (or are being developed) for the sampling and analysis of environmental and biomedical materials and can be used in the detection of toxic industrial chemicals relevant to the Chemical Weapons Convention?



Question 8:

Which technologies and methodologies (whether established or new) can be used in ensuring chain of custody and verifying authenticity (especially in regard to digital images and video recordings)?



Question 9:

Which technologies and methodologies (whether established or new) can be used to ensure the integrity of an investigation site?



Question 10:

Do collections of physical objects, samples, and other information for chemical weapons-related analysis exist and can they be made available to investigators for retrospective review? How might these collections be used to support investigations?



Question 11:

Are there stakeholders that the Technical Secretariat could usefully engage with to leverage their capabilities on investigative matters?



In addition, the TWG will provide advice on Technical Secretariat proposals for methodologies, procedures, technologies, and equipment for investigative purposes.

Chemical Forensics International Technical Working Group

Established to address gaps in chemical forensics science and capabilities through international partnership

1st CFITWG Meeting 2017

49 participants, 27 organizations

7 countries :

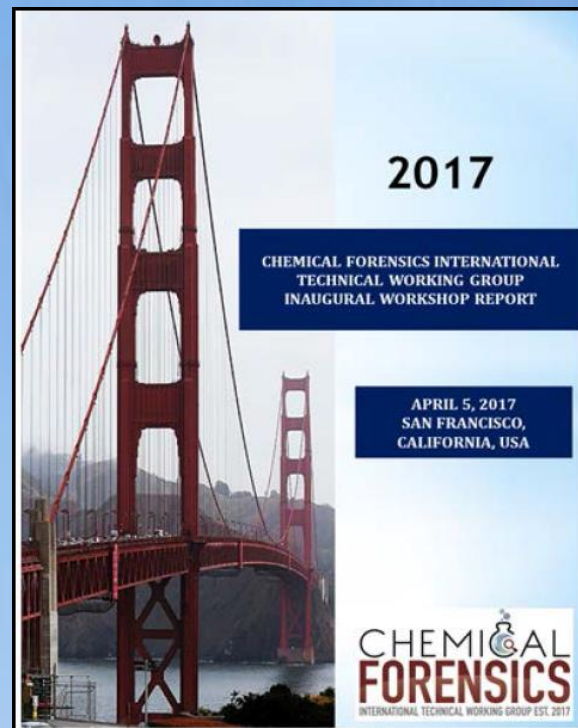
Australia, Finland, Netherlands, Serbia, Sweden, UK, USA

2nd CFITWG Meeting 2018

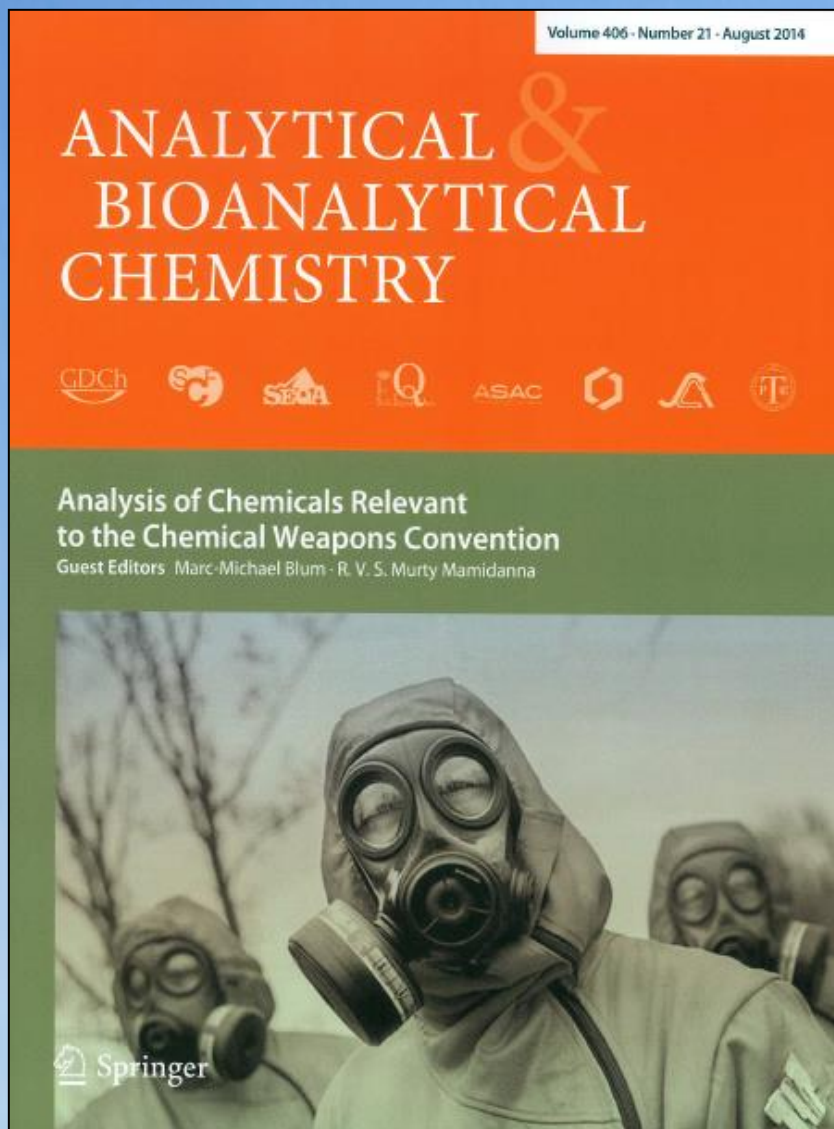
40 participants

12 countries :

Australia, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA



Data sharing and scientific publications



Recent publications relevant to sampling and analysis

DE GRUYTER

Pure Appl. Chem. 2018; aop

Conference paper

Christopher M. Timperley*, Jonathan E. Forman*, Mohammad Abdollahi, Abdullah Saeed Al-Amri, Isel Pascual Alonso, Augustin Baulig, Veronica Borrett, Flerida A. Cariño, Christophe Curty, David Gonzalez, Zrinka Kovarik, Roberto Martínez-Álvarez, Robert Mikulak, Nicia Maria Fusaro Mourão, Ponnadurai Ramasami, Slawomir Nefte, Syed K. Raza, Valentin Rubaylo, Koji Takeuchi, Cheng Tang, Ferruccio Trifirò, Francois Mauritz van Straten, Paula S. Vanninen, Volodymyr Zaitsev, Farhat Waqar, Mongia Saïd Zina, Stian Holen and Hope A. Weinstein

Advice from the Scientific Advisory Board of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on isotopically labelled chemicals and stereoisomers in relation to the Chemical Weapons Convention

<https://doi.org/10.1515/pac-2018-0803>

Article note: A special Issue containing invited papers on Innovative Technologies for Chemical Security, based on work done within the framework of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

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Hope A. Weinstein: Intern in the OPCW Office of Strategy and Policy, Summer 2016, The Hague, The Netherlands

DE GRUYTER

Pure Appl. Chem. 2018; 90(10): 1527–1557

Conference paper

Jonathan E. Forman*, Christopher M. Timperley*, Pål Aas, Mohammad Abdollahi, Isel Pascual Alonso, Augustin Baulig, Renate Becker-Arnold, Veronica Borrett, Flerida A. Cariño, Christophe Curty, David Gonzalez, Zrinka Kovarik, Roberto Martínez-Álvarez, Robert Mikulak, Evandro de Souza Nogueira, Ponnadurai Ramasami, Syed K. Raza, Ahmed E. M. Saeed, Koji Takeuchi, Cheng Tang, Ferruccio Trifirò, Francois Mauritz van Straten, Farhat Waqar, Volodymyr Zaitsev, Mongia Saïd Zina, Katarína Grolmusová, Guy Valente, Marlene Payva, Siqing Sun, Amy Yang and Darcy van Eerten

Innovative technologies for chemical security

<https://doi.org/10.1515/pac-2018-0908>

Article note: A special Issue containing invited papers on Innovative Technologies for Chemical Security, based on work done within the framework of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Article note: The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of OPCW, DSTL or the British Ministry of Defence, or any institutions affiliated with the other co-authors.

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Verification today and tomorrow

Today the Blue Book comprises a sustainable contribution to chemical disarmament by collating and disseminating analytical techniques and methods and compiling validated Recommended Operating Procedures



20th ANNIVERSARY EVENT

WORKSHOP:
*International workshop on
analysis of chemical warfare
agents*

11 -13 December 2017



OPCW



HELSINKI, FINLAND

1997-2017

Tomorrow, through the support of the OPCW and international laboratories worldwide, and as sampling and analysis and investigative science evolve, it will continue to play a leading role in verification



What next?