



Ilkka Ojanperä, PhD

Professor of forensic toxicology

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Dr. Ilkka Ojanperä is Professor of Forensic Toxicology and Head in the Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Helsinki, and Chief Specialist, Forensic Toxicology Unit, National Institute for Health and Welfare (Finland).

He studied chemistry, biochemistry and pharmacology in the University of Helsinki and received a doctoral degree in organic chemistry in 1992.

ACADEMIC DISSERTATIONS

He has directly supervised the research of ten postgraduate students, and currently has three students pursuing their dissertation research. His research program is focused on analytical toxicology, including comprehensive drug screening methodologies, analysis without reference standards, interpretation of post-mortem toxicology results, and epidemiology of drug abuse and poisoning.

Professor Ojanperä's group was the first to introduce time-of-flight mass spectrometry to drug screening already in 2001, and since then, the technique has developed into an essential part of the analytical armory of analytical toxicologists worldwide. Using this approach, Professor Ojanperä and colleagues have investigated the prevalence of new psychoactive substances (NPS) among drug users with regular and irregular attendance for treatment. An area of special interest for Professor Ojanperä is the interpretation and epidemiology of alcohol and drug poisonings. These studies assist in medico-legal cause-of-death investigation through providing toxicological profiles with quantitative

reference concentrations for the interpretation of alcohol and drug related deaths. In clinical context, this information is vital in promoting drug safety and welfare for drug abusers.

Professor Ojanperä has published more than 150 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and presented frequently at national and international meetings. He was a Partner in two EU funded research projects on synthetic cannabinoids and other NPS during 2011 - 2015. He has acted as a Short-term Expert in EU development projects in Turkey and Kosovo.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Professor Ojanperä received the Achievement Award of The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) in 2006 and the Decoration of the Knight of the Order of the White Rose of Finland in 2008.

NOMINATIONS FOR EXPERT COMMITTEES OR TEAMS

He currently serves as a Permanent expert (toxicology) to the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health in Finland. He has acted as an expert witness in several criminal cases in the court of justice.

Professor Ojanperä is the Chairman of the Finnish Association of Forensic Medicine. He is past Secretary and Treasurer of TIAFT and constantly the Regional Representative of TIAFT in Finland.