

## Online Resources for Opioid and Substance Abuse Programs

San Diego Reference Laboratory is committed to providing our clients the best testing services and customer support possible. Additionally, our goal is to supply opioid and substance abuse treatment programs with information and resources to enable them to better serve their patient populations.

The following is a list of web sites industry professionals may find useful (listed in alphabetical order):

[www.aatod.org](http://www.aatod.org) — American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD) – educational training events, publications, videos, news links and detailed information on the AATOD National Conference. AATOD’s mission is “to enhance the quality of patient care in treatment programs by promoting the growth and development of comprehensive opioid treatment services throughout the United States.”

[www.atforum.com](http://www.atforum.com) — Addiction Treatment Forum – ATF “reports on substance abuse news of interest to opioid treatment programs and patients in methadone

maintenance treatment.” The web site includes current news links and archives, a free newsletter, a comprehensive FAQ section, an events calendar and a library of free Addiction Resource downloads.

[www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov) — National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA) – detailed information on various drugs of abuse, research findings, news releases, downloadable publications, funding opportunities and more. NIDA’s mission is “to lead the nation in bringing the power of science to bear on drug abuse and addiction.”

[www.justice.gov/dea](http://www.justice.gov/dea) — U.S Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) – news articles, press releases, drugs of abuse fact sheets and reproducible images, legislative resources, a free biweekly newsletter and national drug policy information.

[www.ncadd.org](http://www.ncadd.org) — National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD), Inc. – “dedicated to fighting the nation’s #1 health problem – alcoholism, drug addiction and the devastating consequences of alcohol and other drugs

on individuals, families and communities”, the NCADD web site publishes detailed alcohol and drugs of abuse overviews, data, abuse trends and FAQs. Includes dedicated sections for parents, youths and people in recovery.

[www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov) — Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – data, surveys, reports, free and for sale publications, grant information and current news/press releases pertaining to substance abuse and mental illness.

[www.sdrl.com/news.html](http://www.sdrl.com/news.html) — San Diego Reference Laboratory’s “Newsroom” page – updated daily with headlines and links to news articles pertaining to substance abuse, drug testing and drug treatment throughout the United States and beyond. Specifically focuses on the latest drugs of abuse, regional and national drug abuse trends, emerging treatment methodologies and political and financial issues that impact treatment programs.

### Congratulations!

#### Congratulations to the winners of SDRL’s 2012 AATOD Trivia Challenge!

##### Grand Prize Winner (\$150 Subway Gift Card)

Laquitta Colbert, Robert W. Dail Memorial Treatment Center  
Commerce, GA

##### Second Prize Winner (\$100 Starbucks Gift Card)

Johnny Graves, K.U.M.C.  
Kansas City, KS

##### Third Prize Winner (Infrared Thermometer)

Bill Wagner, Behavioral Health Group  
Dallas, TX

### Question of the Month

**Question:** *Is it possible to screen positive for THC from inhaling second-hand smoke?*

**Answer:** The simple answer is that it is not possible to trigger a positive THC screening result from second-hand smoke, but ultimately the outcome depends upon the cutoff level utilized. For its Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs, SAMHSA has established a cut off level for detecting THC in an immunoassay urine screen at 50 ng/mL. While many private substance abuse programs also adhere to this guideline, some programs will increase or reduce the THC cut off level depending upon patient and program goals. Still, even at a reduced cut off level (for example, 25 ng/mL) second-hand smoke will not cause a positive result. Repeated exposure to second-hand smoke can result in extremely low – albeit measurable – amounts of THC in urine, but not at the concentrations indicative of drug abuse.