

HOSTING INTERNATIONAL FORENSIC PATHOLOGY SCHOLARS

National Association of Medical Examiners 52nd Annual Meeting, October 2018 West Palm Beach, Florida

Richard Harruff, King County Medical Examiner's Office, Seattle, WA
 Emma Lew, Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department, Miami, FL
 Valerie Rao, District 4 Medical Examiner's Office, Jacksonville, FL
 Mario Rascon, El Paso County Office of the Medical Examiner, El Paso, TX
 Erin Hayashi, Center for Career Development, Seattle, WA
 Kim Collins, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

OBJECTIVES OF PRESENTATION

- Qualifications of international candidates
- Experiences of hosting agencies
- Experiences of visiting scholars / trainees
- Challenges for host and visitor in creating a successful exchange
- Navigating the visa process
- Reasons for hosting international trainees
- NAME and the International Trainee

THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

e.g. Sri Lanka

- The Medical Education Unit of University of Peradeniya was established in 1973 with two senior teachers from US
- Undergraduate medical education includes one year of forensic medicine
- Specialist certification requires international experience
- Training includes both forensic pathology and clinical forensic medicine
- International "external examiners" are used for the certification process

QUALIFICATIONS OF VISITING SCHOLARS**Example – Sri Lanka**

- Medical school – 5 years
- Includes one year of forensic medicine lectures and practical experience
- One year internship in general medicine
- Five years of training in forensic medicine and clinical forensic medicine
- One year of overseas training for full certification

EXPERIENCE OF INTERNATIONAL TRAINEES**King County - Research Projects**

- Firearms in domestic violence homicides
- Fatty infiltration of right ventricle myocardium
- Deaths due to improper use of safety equipment
- Growth plate abnormalities of the costochondral segment of infant ribs
- Cardiac disease associated with stimulant drug abuse
- Strangulation injuries in 143 female homicide victims

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN US FORENSIC PATHOLOGY EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Austria	Japan
Canada	Philippines
Central America	South Africa
Chile	South America
China / Taiwan	South Korea
Denmark	Sweden
Honduras	Turkey
Ireland	Sri Lanka
Italy	United Kingdom



REASONS FOR HOSTING INTERNATIONAL PATHOLOGISTS

- Exchange of ideas, skills, and technologies
- Cultural exchange, professional relationships, friendships
- Global perspective
- Emerging infectious diseases
- Mass fatality disasters
- International terrorism
- Unexpected deaths of foreign nationals

BENEFITS TO OUR FORENSIC COMMUNITY

- An enthusiastic pathologist willing to do cases under supervision
- Fully funded by sponsoring county / institution
- Exchange of information – types of cases, different approaches to common situations, teach things uncommon in the United States
- Return to originating country with ideas and information gained to educate international colleagues
- Promote the medical examiner approach to death investigation
- Motivate future visiting pathologists

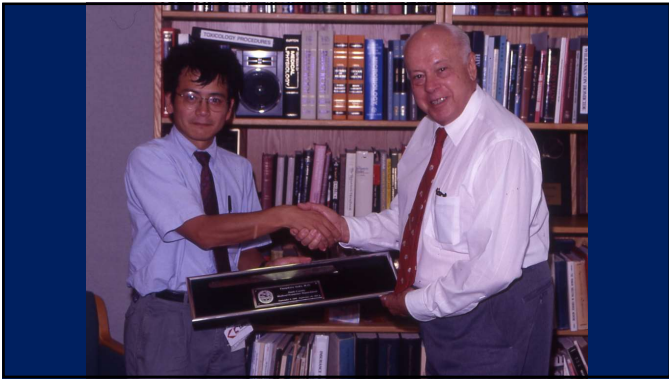








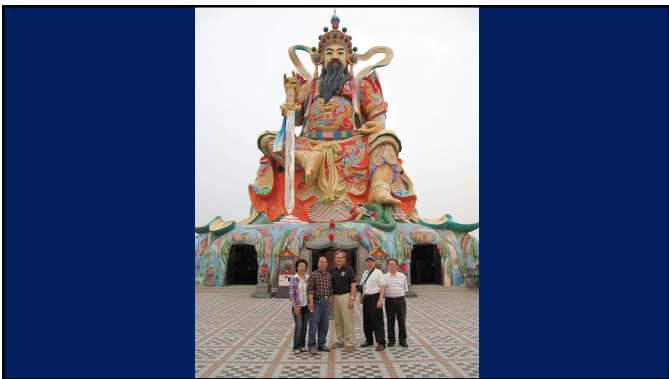




























Using a 3rd Party Visa Sponsor

Erin Hayashi, Program Manager
Center for International Career Development

What our ME Supervisors are saying...

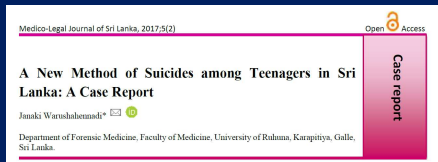
“He is extremely self-motivated, requires little to seek feedback and is in constant search for material to expand his fund of knowledge.”

“He is one of the best physicians I have ever met. It has been my honor to train him. I would not hesitate to give him my highest approval.”

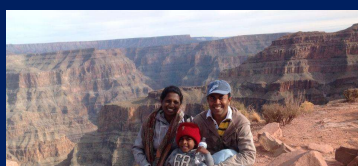
“The several trainees from Sri Lanka have enriched our global perspective.”

“I am very grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to learn firearm deaths.”

- Feedback from international trainee



EXPERIENCE OF INTERNATIONAL TRAINEES Cultural Experience



“I think people in USA are very sensitive to others. I Love USA because of that. During my stay my son went to a school in Florida. Now he can speak English better than me. I am proud of him.”

USING A SPONSOR TO HOST YOUR J-1 TRAINEE

Benefits to Hosting with a 3rd Party Sponsor

- There is little / no cost to the host ME
- The host ME Office does not need to become a sponsor
- Trainees can perform autopsies under supervision
- Most trainees are experienced physicians with years of insight to share
- Trainees can stay for up to 18 months
- Sponsors take on full responsibility for the international participant
- Participants can bring their families and fully immerse into American culture

Required Documentation from ME Office

- DS-7002 (training plan)
- Host Organization Agreement
- Proof of Worker's Compensation or Exemption

Sponsorship and Embassy Processes

Apply for Sponsorship

- Submit all paperwork
- Pay fees (sponsorship/insurance)
- Orientation Video
- Interview
- Review
- Sign Documents

Apply for Visa

- Schedule embassy appointment
- Receive documents from sponsor in mail
- Attend interview
- Receive visa
- Come to the USA

Steps to Get Started

- Make sure your ME office is listed on the NAME International Relations page!
- Choose a potential candidate
- Select a sponsor
- Prepare documentation

CHALLENGES FACED BY JACKSONVILLE MEO IN HOSTING THE FIRST VISITING SCHOLAR

- Adequate Home Country Funding
 - Cost of Living
- Family Unit Accommodations
 - Housing
 - Schools
 - Spouse employment
- Local Personal Transportation
 - Driver's License (International)
 - Automobile Insurance
 - Purchase, lease, or car rental
 - Public Transportation Availability
- Adequate Research of Location



International Forensic Pathology Scholar District IV Medical Examiner's Office

Jacksonville, Florida

Dr. Dilhani Amarasinghe
Forensic Pathologist, Sri Lanka



NAME and the International Trainee

Kim A. Collins, MD
NAME President

Name and International Pathologists

- International Relations Committee
- International Newsletter
- International Reception
- International Corresponding Member category
- List of languages other than English spoken by NAME members
- NAME Toolkit for international attendees at the meeting
- NAME Buddy Host Program - attendees at the annual meeting
- List of ME offices will to accept international visitors/trainees

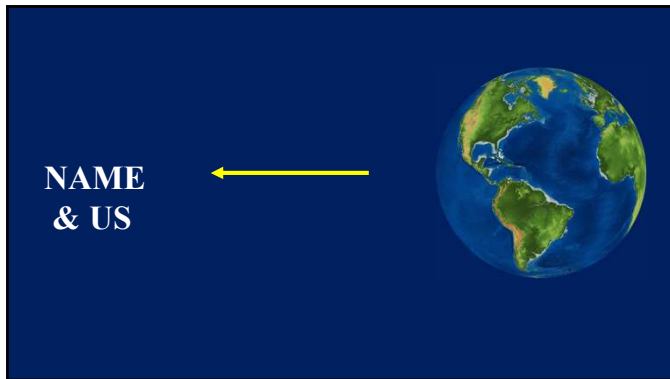
BENEFITS TO THE INTERNATIONAL FORENSIC COMMUNITY

- Exposure to the medical examiner system – neutral and independent
- A cooperative non-political approach to death investigation
- Learning to write an autopsy report based on objective observations
- Help promote universal standards in forensic pathology
- Exposure to the pathology of gunshot wounds
- Exposure to Latin American food and café con leche









Meeting logistics ≠ Yearlong Training

- The list of ME offices accepting visitors/trainees
- NAME Toolkit
- We had to get a handle on the visa situation



- B-1 VISA
- J-1-VISA
- H-1B VISA
- Visa Waiver
- Links



NAME and the International Trainee

- International relations is a HIGH priority
- Many resources have been developed
- Host experience smooths the way
- This does not have to be a difficult
- Benefits:
 - International information and ideas shared
 - US Forensic Pathologist supply
 - Trainee education
 - NAME Inspection and Accreditation – The Gold Standard
 - Continued communication between countries



The National Association of Medical Examiners ®

362 Bristol Road, Walnut Shade, MO 65771
660-734-1891 Fax: 888-370-4839

APPLICATION FOR INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDING MEMBER

"International Corresponding Members" shall be physicians or other practicing medicolegal death investigators who reside outside of the United States of America or Canada. International Corresponding Members shall be forensic pathologists, physician medical examiners, physician coroners, and those engaged in the teaching or practice of legal medicine, provided, however, that the foregoing examples are provided for clarity, and mere possession of any of the foregoing job titles does not automatically qualify any individual for membership as an International Corresponding Member, nor does lack of such title automatically disqualify any individual who is a practicing medicolegal death investigator.

Customer number (from NAME web site - REQUIRED) _____

Applicant: _____
(Last Name) (First) (Middle Initial)

Governmental Agency (Federal, State, Local) with which Affiliated:

Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) ____-____ x ____ Fax #: (____) ____-____ Email: _____

Office Type: ☐ Medical Examiner ☐ Coroner ☐ ME/Coroner ☐ Other _____

Director: _____

References: (Two Members of National Association of Medical Examiners)

Name: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

Telephone: (____) ____-____ x ____ Telephone: (____) ____-____ x ____

Applicant Information:

Official Title: _____ Length of Time at Agency: _____

Medical School: _____ Date Graduated: ____/____/____

Degree Attained: _____ Year of Licensure: ____ State(s) _____

Residency Training: _____

Board Certifications:

☐ Forensic Pathology (Year: ____)

☐ Anatomic Pathology (Year: ____)

☐ Clinical Pathology (Year: ____)

☐ Other: _____ (Year: ____)

Memberships in Other Societies:

☐ AAFS

☐ AMA

☐ ASCP

☐ CAP

☐ Local Medical Society

☐ Other: _____

Years in Forensic Field: _____ Area of Interest: _____

Please submit a copy of your license, a copy of your Curriculum Vita, and ONE (1) letter of recommendation from a member of N.A.M.E.

I hereby make application for membership in the National Association of Medical Examiners. I hereby agree to abide by the Bylaws of the Association and such changes and amendments to same as may hereafter be properly adopted. I hereby agree to revocation of my membership, if granted, in the even that any of the statements hereinafter made by me are found to be false, and to hold the National Association of Medical Examiners and its members, officers and agents free from any damage or complaint by reason of any they, or any of them, may take in connection with this application.

CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

As a means to promote the highest quality of professional and personal conduct of its members, the following constitutes the Code of Ethics and Conduct which is endorsed and recommended to be adhered to by all members of the Association:

- A. Every member of the Association shall refrain from exercising professional or personal conduct adverse to the best interests and purposes of the Association or to the medical examiner profession.
- B. No member of the Association shall materially misrepresent his or her educational training, experience, area of expertise, certification, membership status within the Association, or official title or position in a medicolegal system.
- C. Every member of the Association shall refrain from providing any material misrepresentation of data upon which an expert opinion or conclusion is based.
- D. Except for the President and Chairperson of the Board of Directors, no member of the Association shall issue public statements which appear to represent the position of the Association without specific authority first obtained from the Board of Directors.
- E. All applicants for membership and annual renewal of membership shall affirm by their signatures that they have read, understood, and endorsed the Code of Ethics and Conduct in this Article X.

Signed:_____ Date:_____

ME/C/Forensic Offices Willing to Accept International Visitors and/or Trainees, 2018

Medical Examiner	Office	City	State	Contact Information
Judy Melinek	Alameda County		California	drjudymelinek@pathologyexpert.com 415-850-7056 415-310-5370
Jon Lucas	Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner Coroner	Los Angeles	California	jlucas@coroner.lacounty.gov 323-343-0522
John Thornburg		Monterey	California	831-755-3761
Michael Hunter		San Francisco	California	Michael.hunter@sfgov.org
James Caruso	Office of the ME	Denver	Colorado	James.caruso@denvergov.org 720-337-7600
Roger Mitchell	OME in DC	Washington, DC	District of Columbia	Terencia.davenport@dc.gov 202-698-9000
Craig Mallak	Broward	Broward	Florida	954-357-5200 cmallak@broward.org
Emma Lew	Miami Dade	Miami	Florida	305-545-2449
Valerie Rao	District 4 Medical Examiner's Office in Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Florida	vrao@coj.net 904-255-4006
Russ Vega	12 th District of Florida MEO	Sarasota	Florida	rvega@fldist12me.com office = 941-361-6909 cell = 941-356-6014
Michael Steckbauer	16 th District MEO, Monroe County Florida	Monroe County, Florida Keys	Florida	thnts@aol.com 305-743-9011
Jonathan Eisenstat	Georgia Bureau of Inv.	Atlanta	Georgia	Jonathan.Eisenstat@gbi.ga.gov 404-270-8186
Jan Gorniak	Fulton County MEO	Atlanta	Georgia	Jan.gorniak@fultoncountyga.gov 404-613-4407
Mike Kobayashi	Department of the ME	Honolulu	Hawaii	mikobayashi@honolulu.gov 808-768-3090
Ponni Arunkumar	Cook County	Chicago	Illinois	312-997-4500 Ponni.Arunkumar@cookcountyil.gov
Dave Fowler	OCME Baltimore	Baltimore	Maryland	fowlerd@ocmemd.org 410-333-3250
Luby Dragovic	Oakland County	Oakland	Michigan	dragovic@oakgov.com 248-858-4046
Rudy Castellani	Center for Neuropathology Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine	Kalamazoo	Michigan	Rudolph.castellani@med.wmich.edu
Steve Cohle	Spectrum Health	Grand Rapids	Michigan	sdcohle@comcast.net
Melissa Lallak	Hennepin Co MEO	Minneapolis	Minnesota	Melissa.lallak@hennepin.us 612-215-6328
Quinn Strobl	Midwest MEO Anoka County	Ramsey	Minnesota	Angie Chalmers Angie.chalmers@co.anoka.mn.us 763-324-4400
Kurt Nolte	New Mexico OMI	Albuquerque	New Mexico	KNolte@salud.unm.edu 505-272-3053
Nancy Izquierdo	New York City OCME	New York	New York	nizquierdo@ocme.nyc.gov 212-447-2613
Tom Gilson	Cuyahoga Co MEO	Cleveland	Ohio	tgilson@cuyahogacounty.us
Eric Pfeifer	Oklahoma office of the CME		Oklahoma	Eric.pfeifer@ocme.ok.gov
Feng Li	Davidson County OCME	Nashville	Tennessee	Fli@forensicmed.com 615-743-1800
John Lott	Knox Co. Regional Forensic Center	Knox County	Tennessee	865.215-8028
Randy Frost	Bexar County MEO	San Antonio	Texas	frostmd@bexar.org
Mario Rascon	CME El Paso County	El Paso	Texas	mrascn@epcounty.com 915-532-1447
Wendy Gunther	OME Norfolk VA	Norfolk	Virginia	Wendy.Gunther@vdh.virginia.gov
Heather Oie	Snohomish County OME	Everett	Washington	Heather.oie@snohomish.wa.us
Richard Harruff	King County MEO	Seattle	Washington	206-731-3232 Richard.harruff@kingcounty.gov
Linda Iles	Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine	Melbourne	Australia	Linda.iles@vifm.org
Gut Rutty	East Midlands Forensic Pathology	Leicester	United	Frances Hollingbury

	University of Leicester		Kingdom	Fh97@le.ac.uk
Paul Chui	Forensic Medicine Division Health Science Authority	Singapore	Singapore	chuisg@gmail.com , Paul CHUI@hsa.gov.sg



NAME ACCREDITATION

*Promoting excellence in forensic pathology
and medicolegal death investigation*

Benefits of NAME accreditation for a medical examiner/coroner office:

- ✓ An endorsement of the quality, integrity, and credibility of the office
- ✓ Verification of adherence to peer-reviewed standards in forensic pathology and medicolegal death investigation
- ✓ A management tool for positive change
- ✓ Documentation of robust quality assurance
- ✓ Increased credibility of courtroom testimony
- ✓ Networking and exchange of information among forensic pathologists, scientists, and investigators
- ✓ Enhanced attraction and retention of professional staff in a competitive market place
- ✓ Indication of autonomy from outside vested interest groups
- ✓ Justification and leverage for sufficient funding and staffing

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CONTACT**



Dr. Barbara Wolf
barbaracwolf@aol.com

Dee McNally
name@thename.org

Mission:

The goal of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) Inspection and Accreditation Program is to improve the quality of forensic/ medicolegal death investigation nationally and internationally.

Medical examiner/coroner offices can apply for inspection and accreditation under either of two programs or both:

- ✓ NAME's core accreditation program
- ✓ ISO/IEC 17020 standard through an alliance formed between NAME and ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB)

J IN US!

The National Association of Medical Examiners

The Organization for Forensic Pathologists and Medicolegal Death Investigators

www.thename.org

Why Should You Join?

International Corresponding Membership is \$90 (US\$)/year

NAME international member benefits:

- ✓ Free Academic Forensic Pathology journal, the peer-reviewed journal of NAME
- ✓ Discount registration at annual meetings
- ✓ Opportunity to serve on NAME committees
- ✓ NAME listserv; be a part of lively educational discussions via email! A true learning experience!
- ✓ Office accreditation opportunities
- ✓ Access to member only sites on NAME website
- ✓ Access to NAME consensus position papers
- ✓ Access to autopsy standards
- ✓ Access to policies and procedures for medical examiners and coroners
- ✓ Access to consultants
- ✓ NAME is the largest organization of forensic pathologists AND medicolegal death investigators
- ✓ Networking with local, national, and international colleagues
- ✓ Opportunities for visits or training at a US medical examiner's office
- ✓ NAME is a forum for the exchange of information, ideas, and experiences between forensic pathologists AND medicolegal death investigators

NAME is here for you!

When you contact NAME or attend the meetings, we want you to feel comfortable.



Languages that NAME members speak other than English

JOIN NAME AND BE A PART OF
INTERNATIONAL ADVANCING,
PROGRESSIVE FORENSIC
PATHOLOGY!

Contact Dee McNally



name@thename.org
Or KimcollinsMD@gmail.com

- ❶ Antillean Creole
- ❷ Bengali
- ❸ Bosnian
- ❹ Bulgarian
- ❺ Chinese
- ❻ Croatian
- ❼ Czech
- ❽ Danish
- ❾ Dutch
- ❿ French
- ⓫ German
- ⓬ Gujarati
- ⓭ Gulla/Geeche
- ⓮ Hebrew
- ⓯ Hindi
- ⓰ Irish Gaelic
- ⓱ Italian
- ⓲ Japanese
- ⓳ Kannada
- ⓴ Korean
- ⓵ Macedonian
- ⓶ Malayalam
- ⓷ Mandarin Chinese
- ⓸ Marathi
- ⓹ Montenegrin
- ⓺ Polish
- ⓻ Portuguese
- ⓼ Punjabi
- ⓽ Romanian. Arterial language.
- ⓿ Russian
- ❶❶ Sanskrit
- ❶❷ Serbian
- ❶❸ Sinhala
- ❶❹ Slovenian
- ❶❺ Spanish
- ❶❻ Tamil
- ❶❼ Urdu



NAME *International Toolkit*

Index

Welcome	1
History	2
National and International Visibility	2
Educational Opportunities	3
Membership	5
Leadership	6
Inspection and Accreditation (I&A)	7
Frequently asked questions	7
languages spoken by NAME members other than English	11

TO OUR INTERNATIONAL COLLEAGUES ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE NAME MEMBERSHIP.



It is with pleasure that we offer some insight into our association and encourage you to join us. We recommend that you visit our website (www.thename.org) for membership information, categories of and benefits of membership. Especially note the International Page created especially for you, our international colleagues.



ABOUT NAME



History:

The National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) is the national professional organization of physician medical examiners, medicolegal death investigators, and death investigation system administrators who perform the official duties of the medicolegal investigation of deaths of public interest in the United States. NAME was founded in 1966 with the dual purposes of fostering the professional growth of physician death investigators and disseminating the professional and technical information vital to the continuing improvement of the medical investigation of violent, suspicious and unusual deaths. Growing from a small nucleus of concerned physicians, NAME has expanded its scope to include physician medical examiners and coroners, medical death investigators and medicolegal system administrators from throughout the United States and other countries.

NAME members provide the expertise to medicolegal death investigation that is essential to the effective functioning of the civil and criminal justice systems. NAME is now the national forum for the interchange of professional and technical information in this important segment of public administration. NAME seeks to promote excellence in the day to day investigation of individual cases as well as to improve the interaction of death investigation systems with other agencies and political entities that interface with death investigation in each jurisdiction in this country.

The evolution of excellence in the medicolegal investigation of death in the United States has been slow

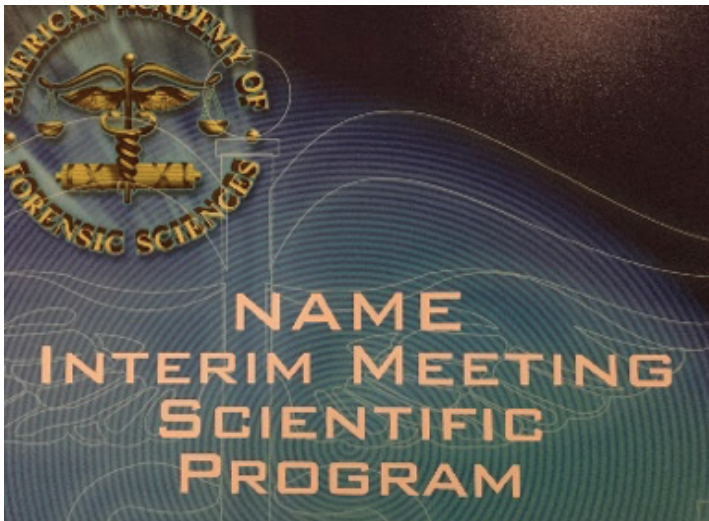
and arduous. In many jurisdictions the medical aspects of death investigation remain relegated to personnel without medical training, or are performed by persons with little or no education in death investigation. NAME serves as a resource to individuals and jurisdictions seeking to improve medicolegal death investigation by continually working to develop and upgrade national standards for death investigation. The published NAME Standards for a Modern Medicolegal Investigative System provide a model for jurisdictions seeking to improve death investigation. NAME aims to involve competent professional medicolegal death investigators in every jurisdiction in the United States.



National and International Visibility

NAME, as an association and through its members, maintains active cooperative relationships with the College of American Pathologists, American Society of Clinical Pathologists, American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and other professional organizations. NAME representatives participate and serve in an advisory capacity to federal, public, and private organizations on projects of mutual interest. As the official specialty association of physician medical examiners, the NAME promotes its vision of competent national death investigation from a seat in the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association and on the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations.

NAME also wants to continue relationships with international forensic organizations, open avenues of communication, and coordinate global efforts in the area of medicolegal death investigation. NAME seeks international collaboration!



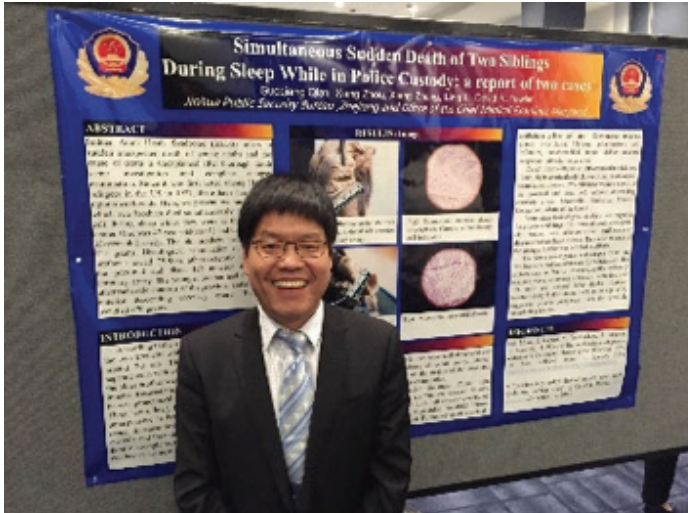
Equally important as standards for performance and the technical scientific knowledge which NAME imparts, is a concept for the administrative and operational aspects of death investigation systems. The educational functions of NAME are simultaneously directed towards the development and improvement of administratively efficient, cost effective death investigation systems. The Association serves as the national forum for medical death investigators and system administrators for the discussion and dissemination of such information. NAME further encourages members to participate in the training of law enforcement officers, allied health professionals, paramedical personnel, and others who interface with death cases.



Educational Opportunities

The educational activities of NAME are carried out at the weeklong annual meeting each Fall. The meeting's didactic sessions provide





instruction on subjects of medicolegal interest while the scientific sessions provide a platform for individual presentation of scientific studies and research in a peer review setting. Concurrent sessions are scheduled for medical investigators and administrators to discuss issues of mutual interest, share information and procedures, and present papers relating to the administrative and investigative functions of death investigation systems. The Association meets for an interim half day meeting each February in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. The journal of NAME, *Academic Forensic Pathology*, is an excellent source for the most current information on the practice of forensic pathology and medicolegal death investigation. The journal is available to all members. Educational opportunities are also available through committee service. All members are encouraged to participate, learn, and be an integral part of NAME.





International members who attend NAME meetings will be welcomed by one of our International Committee members, introduced to other members and encouraged to bring colleagues to our meetings.



Membership

Membership in the National Association of Medical Examiners is open to all physicians, investigators, and administrators who are active in medicolegal death investigation. The categories vary based on individual role in death investigation. The NAME annual dues include a subscription to the

Association's official journal, *Academic Forensic Pathology*, and access to NAME-L, an interactive and educational internet listserve. NAME also offers an International Corresponding Member category for those members practicing outside of the United States and Canada.

Special International Corresponding Membership Category: NAME instituted the category of membership specifically for those individuals practicing outside of the US and Canada. The category description is as follows:





“International Corresponding Members” shall be physicians or other practicing medicolegal death investigators who reside outside of the United States of America or Canada. International Corresponding Members shall be forensic pathologists, physician medical examiners, physician coroners, and those engaged in the teaching or practice of legal medicine, provided, however, that the foregoing examples are provided for clarity, and mere possession of any of the foregoing job titles does not automatically qualify any individual for membership as an International Corresponding Member, nor does lack of such title automatically disqualify any individual who is a practicing medicolegal death investigator.”

International corresponding members pay lower annual dues, have access to the NAME journal, Academic Forensic Pathology, and can serve on NAME committees.

NAME aims to enhance forensic pathology and medicolegal death investigation, education, and collaboration in the United States and internationally. NAME welcomes continuous communication with international forensic organizations and hopes that you will convey this message to colleagues and organizations in your home country. By establishing open lines of communication members can support each other professionally in investigating and dealing with the challenges inherent to our profession.



Leadership

The work of NAME is carried out by individuals and committees under the direction of its Officers and a Board of Directors elected by the membership. An Executive Committee is responsible for the fiscal affairs and management of the Association. Standing committees deal with issues of membership and credentials, education, program and publications, ethics, standards, inspection and accreditation, and finance. All members are encouraged to participate in committee activities. A permanent Executive Director and part time Executive Vice-President provide yearlong administrative support.



Inspection and Accreditation (I&A)

As part of its mission to improve the quality of death investigation nationally and to recognize excellence in death investigation systems, the NAME offers a voluntary inspection and accreditation program for medicolegal death investigative offices. This program is designed to offer expert evaluation and peer recommendations for improvement of functioning offices. Accreditation by NAME is an honor and significant achievement for an office. It signifies to the public that the office is performing at a high level of competence and public service. NAME also offers consultative services for jurisdictions seeking to establish medicolegal death investigation systems and for political entities wishing to evaluate death investigation systems under their administrative purview. Well-known and respected globally, NAME also extends its inspection and accreditation expertise internationally to medicolegal death investigative offices.



1 What are the differences between a coroner and a medical examiner in the United States?

Coroner

Historically, the coronial system was attributed to the reign of English King Henry II in 1194. The coronial system was developed to “consolidate government functions, check the growing power of the sheriff, and to raise revenue for the Crown” (Jentzen 2009). Coronial duties included magisterial and judicial. In some parts of the world, this system exists and is the functioning death investigation system. It includes death investigations for the purposes of the judicial system and the medical public

health functions. Coroners in these jurisdictions may also oversee public inquests as needed.



In the US, the coronial system was adopted initially and was followed by development of the medical examiner system. Coroners in the US are elected officials whose responsibility is to ensure documentation of death, a cause of death, and death certification. Coroners in the US may or may not be medical doctors, are elected to fulfill their mandate for defined periods of time, and may be voted out of office. Outside of the US, some systems have appointed coroners who may or may not be medical doctors. Coroner's offices may be part of a law enforcement agency, such as the sheriff's department. Coroner's offices rely on forensic pathologists to perform autopsies and the pathologist will determine the cause of death, but the supervision of the investigation and the final death certificate determination, including the assignment of manner of death (natural, homicide, suicide, accident, or undetermined), rests with the coroner.

Medical Examiner:

Medical Examiners in the death investigation system are physicians, usually trained pathologists, who have received formal training and certification. Pathologists are trained and certified in anatomic pathology or combined anatomic/clinical pathology. This is followed by training in an approved program for forensic pathology and board certification in forensic pathology. Typically,



Medical Examiners are hired, not elected. In a medical examiner system the office is run by a physician and the determination of cause and manner of death are the responsibility of the medical examiner.

Forensic Medical Practitioners

Internationally there is another group of doctors whose tasks include examination of living victims of crime and criminals incarcerated by the legal authorities. These physicians are typically referred to as forensic medicine specialists. Some Medical Examiners perform this role.

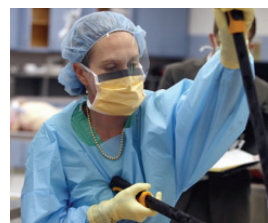
2 What course(s) does one need to study in order to be a Board Certified Forensic Pathologist?

To become a forensic pathologist in the US requires successful completion of a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy degree (MD or DO), followed by a residency program in an accredited program in anatomic or combined anatomic/clinical pathology (with certification examination), followed by formal forensic pathology fellowship program of at least 1 year duration and followed by a certification examination process. The examinations in the US are administered by the American Board of Pathology (www.abpath.org). Individuals from other countries need to verify the needs for certification in their home jurisdiction. Newly trained forensic pathologists are expected to demonstrate continued maintenance of competency and certification by an examination every 10 years.

3 My professor of legal medicine advises me to visit a US medical examiner's office. Whom should I contact?

Choices are available:

- If you know a Chief Medical Examiner of a jurisdiction, apply directly to that individual.
- Visit the International page on the NAME website for a list of offices that welcome and have the ability to accommodate international visitors and trainees.



4 I am a medical student and would like to rotate through a medical examiner's office. How do I arrange this?

Many medical examiner offices are affiliated with an academic institution (university), so this is relatively easy as most medical schools in the US and Canada have a system of well-established training electives. Many academic institutions have a defined electives office which will facilitate. It is also helpful to contact the local ME office of interest for their direction to facilitate this experience.

5 I am currently a physician working at the medical examiner or coroner office in my home country and would like to come to the US to continue working as a medical examiner. What steps should I take?

Application to the posted jobs available and advertised on the NAME website is an excellent way to begin the process. The candidate will need to contact the state boards of medicine for licensing requirements of the jurisdiction where they intend to practice. Additionally, for immigration into the US, various visa requirements need to be met. This information is available through the American Embassy in the home nation, and the university to which the medical examiner's office is affiliated may offer some practical assistance. If a work or study visa is being sought, sponsorship by a potential employer or forensic training program would be needed.

First of all, contact your medical school and see if they have information that might be helpful. The American Medical Association has information about the ECFMG (the examination needed to get an American medical license) on line at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/about-ama/our-people/member-groups-sections/international-medical-graduates/practicing-medicine.page>

Once you pass the ECFMG test you can apply for an Anatomic Pathology residency in the United States. I would contact the American Board of Pathology (ABP) <http://www.abpath.org> and the American College of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) <https://www.acgme.org/acgmeweb/about-residency-programs>. Every year there are residencies in pathology that don't fill so if you're open to working anywhere in the US you will likely be able to find a program. In your first year of residency training you should do a rotation at the Coroner or Medical Examiner's Office and apply for fellowship.

6 Will my training outside of the US be credited toward the American Board of Pathology forensic pathology board certification?

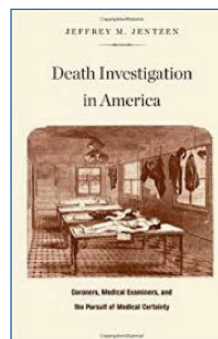
The applicant not only will need their forensic credentials evaluated but also the basic training credentials (ie anatomic pathology/ clinical pathology). The applicant should check with the American Board of Pathology (www.abpath.org) to determine if training and certification meet with the board accreditation requirements. If it does not comply, then there would likely be a need to apply for some retraining, often in some or all of an anatomic pathology residency as well as a US forensic pathology fellowship, or individual case consideration for the purpose of credential recognition. Some universities will be able to facilitate this with academic appointments, but generally this is utilized for those individuals who are well-recognized internationally and can be brought in as a full professor.

7 I want to attend a NAME meeting. What resources are available for me to find accommodations?

Check on the NAME website for information about registration. For all meetings there are group discount rates available at the hosting hotel, but sometimes better deals can be found on line. Reach out to the international committee and we will pair you up with another member who can get together with you at the meeting, introduce you to other members and to leadership.

Resources:

A valuable resource for the history of death investigation in America can be found in the following publication: *Death Investigation in America. Coroners, Medical Examiners and the Pursuit of Medical Certainty.* Jeffery M. Jentzen. Harvard University Press. 2009.





- 1 National Association of Medical Examiners www.thename.org
- 2 American Board of Pathology www.abpath.org
- 3 College of American Pathologists www.cap.org
- 4 American Academy of Forensic Sciences www.aafs.org
- 5 World Association for Medical Law <http://wafml.memberlodge.org>

Become a NAME International Corresponding Member Today!

US Medical Examiner Offices that welcome international visitors and trainees

Contact Dee McNally
at name@thename.org
Or KimcollinsMD@gmail.com

Languages other than English Spoken By NAME Members

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Antillean Creole | 21. Malayalam |
| 2. Bengali | 22. Mandarin Chinese |
| 3. Bosnian | 23. Marathi |
| 4. Bulgarian | 24. Montenegrin |
| 5. Chinese | 25. Polish |
| 6. Croatian | 26. Portuguese |
| 7. Czech | 27. Punjabi |
| 8. Danish | 28. Romanian. Arterial language. |
| 9. Dutch | 29. Russian |
| 10. French | 30. Sanskrit |
| 11. German | 31. Serbian |
| 12. Gujarati | 32. Serbian |
| 13. Hebrew | 33. Sinhala |
| 14. Hindi | 34. Sinhalese |
| 15. Irish Gaelic | 35. Slovenian |
| 16. Italian | 36. Spanish |
| 17. Japanese | 37. Tamil |
| 18. Kannada | 38. Urdu |
| 19. Korean | |
| 20. Macedonian | |

International Relations Committee of NAME

Editors-in-Chief
Kim A. Collins and Judy Melinek

Coordinator
Denise McNally

Graphic designer
Raul Vergara



Visa Information for International Medical Professionals seeking to visit Medical Examiner and Coroner's Offices in the US

Purpose

This guide is intended to be an introduction to the various avenues available to medical professionals seeking to visit ME/Coroner's offices in the US.



Target Audience

Foreign medical professionals and ME/Coroner's offices

Visa Options

For many ME offices that are happy to accept international visitors/trainees, the B-1 Visa, J-1 Visa or Visa Waiver program would be good options. Which option to choose would depend on the length and purpose of the intended visit and sponsorship capabilities of the host organization.

Glossary

Visa: An endorsement on a passport indicating that the holder is allowed to enter, leave or stay for a specified period of time in a country

B-1: Short term, non-immigrant visa for observership Maximum duration of 6 months

J-1: Non-immigrant visa for observership, training or research Maximum duration of 7 years

H-1B: Dual-intent visa i.e. a visa holder could apply for a green card Maximum duration of 6 years

Visa Waiver: No visa needed. For short observerships, no longer than 90 days

B-1 VISA

- 1 Short-term, non-immigrant visa for observerships.
- 2 Maximum 6 months stay, although can occasionally be extended.
- 3 The visitor is responsible for applying for the visa and a fee is involved.
- 4 ME/Coroner Office must provide letter of invitation to applicant, stating purpose of visit (strictly observership), applicant's financial arrangement (no US funds used), and the start and end dates. Other than this, no sponsorship needed.

Other requirements are that:

- 5 The visitor must have a profession or studies outside the U.S. to which he or she will return (may need documentation to prove this).
- 6 There must be evidence that the visitor has finances to fund the visit, including transportation and health insurance.
- 7 For those individuals with a medical degree; there are no patient care responsibilities, only observing.
- 8 Will not be paid a salary from a U.S. source.
- 9 The activity at the ME office will primarily benefit the visitor, not the ME office

Note: It is probably a good idea for B-1 visa applicants to consult with an immigration attorney to ensure the process is as smooth as possible.

J-1 VISA

- 1 Non-immigrant visa for observerships, training or research.
- 2 Maximum length of stay varies depending on purpose of visit.
- 3 For physician residency training (including fellowship), maximum stay is 7 years.
- 4 Needs sponsorship by the host organization.
- 5 There are eligibility requirements to become a J-1 sponsor, and paperwork for both the host organization and visitor.
- 6 Sponsorship is best achieved through an affiliated academic institution or a private entity that contracts with the host organization to co-ordinate paperwork (See later section: Additional Considerations for Host ME/Coroner's Offices).

Note: An advantage of the J-1 visa is that a spouse of the visa holder is eligible to work in the US during their stay. The foreign physician is required to return to their home country after completion of the program of study, but in some cases a waiver of home residence requirement can be obtained: that discussion is beyond the scope of this guide, but further information about J-1 waivers is readily available online.

Visa Waiver for Business Program

Short-term, non-immigrant program. Does not require a visa.

For this, the individual must stay no longer than 90 days; therefore, this option would only be appropriate for short term electives or observerships.

There is a list of 38 countries that participate on the US Department of State website at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visa-waiver-program.html>

Individuals eligible for this would need to obtain a travel authorization (ESTA) - an automated application can be done online at: www.esta.us

Note: It is also advisable for the hosting office to provide a letter, similar to that used for the B-1 visa, to facilitate the visitor's entry to the US. This letter can be shown to an immigration officer at the port of entry if there are questions about the purpose of the visit.

H-1B VISA

- 1 A dual-intent visa i.e. the visa holder could potentially apply for permanent resident status (green card).
- 2 The dual-intent nature of the visa means that the scrutiny for H visas is much heavier than for J-1 and B-1.
- 3 Maximum length of stay is 6 years (granted for 3 years initially, with option to renew for further 3 years if needed).
- 4 The processing time is long (usually 2-6 months but can be longer). This time can be reduced by paying a 'premium processing' fee.
- 5 H-1B visa applications are complex, usually requiring legal assistance.

Note: The employer needs to demonstrate that the applicant has specialized knowledge and qualifications that make them eligible for the position, and that there are no equivalent US citizens available to fill the position. Paperwork and expenses, such as application and legal fees, can be considerable. As with J-1 visas, sponsorship for an H-1 visa applicant is best achieved with the assistance of an affiliated academic institution or a private entity. If these options are not available, then the input of an immigration lawyer who specializes in work visas is advisable. The latter can add extra expense to the process, in addition to the visa application fees.

Additional Considerations for Host ME/Coroner's Offices

- 1 ME/Coroner offices interested in hosting foreign visitors are advised to look into affiliation with a local institution ahead of time, if this is not already in place, and discuss sponsorship requirements with the institution's immigration office, as well as other necessary visitor requirements like medical insurance, so that they are prepared for potential applicants.
- 2 A key point is that ME offices accepting visitors would need to ensure the visitor has adequate health insurance coverage, up to date immunizations and, if required, adequate funds and return travel arrangements.
- 3 There are private entities available that contract with host institutions to facilitate the sponsorship process. They work with the State Department and the international visitor to manage and co-ordinate required paperwork, including insurance and immunizations. The assistance of these entities can considerably reduce the time burden and complexity of the process for the sponsoring office. One such organization is the Center for International Career Development (CICD). They have worked with several medical examiner offices to successfully sponsor a foreign physician visitor. Website links to this and another similar private organization are listed in the Useful Links section.

Summary

There are several visa options available for foreign medical professionals wishing to visit a US ME/Coroner's Office. Selecting the appropriate option is an individual choice, both for the visitor and sponsoring institution, based upon a variety of factors such as the intended course of study, length of stay and sponsorship requirements.

Private organizations are available who can contract with the host office to considerably ease the process of sponsoring a foreign medical professional.

Foreign physicians and potential hosts interested in exploring these visa options are encouraged to connect with members of the International Relations Committee at the NAME meeting.

Many of the committee members have first-hand experience, both as visa holders and sponsors, and would be happy to discuss them further.

USEFUL LINKS

B-1 Visa

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-visitors-business/b-1-temporary-business-visitor>

<https://visaguide.world/us-visa/nonimmigrant/visitor/b1/>

H-1B Visa

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-1b-specialty-occupations-dod-cooperative-research-and-development-project-workers-and-fashion-models>

<https://www.dol.gov/whd/immigration/h1b.htm>

J-1 Visa

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/students-and-exchange-visitors/exchange-visitors>

<https://j1visa.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/J1Visa-fact-sheet-2018.pdf>

<https://j1visa.state.gov/participants/>

<https://j1visa.state.gov/participants/common-questions/>

US Visas in general

<https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/visas/BusinessVisa%20Purpose%20Listings%20March%202014%20flier.pdf>

Private Entities Contracting with Host Institutions to Facilitate Sponsorship Process

CICD: <https://www.cicdgo.com/>

IIE: <https://www.iie.org/en/Work-With-Us/US-Exchange-Visitor-Sponsorship>

Working in the US

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/working-us>

Editors:

Clare Bryce

Kim A. Collins

Graphic designer:

Raul Vergara