*We exist to provide answers in support of families, victims, and community during times of need.*



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| **Civil Service Title:** City Medical Examiner  **Title Code:** 53859  **Office Title:** Forensic Neuropathologist  **Division/Work Unit:** Forensic Pathology  **Hours/Shift:** 37.5 hrs per week; including holidays, and weekends | **Level:** II  **Number of Positions:** 1  **Salary:** $189,527-$238,942  **Work Location:** Citywide |

The **Office of Chief Medical Examiner** investigates cases of persons who die within New York City from criminal violence, by accident, by suicide, suddenly when in apparent health, when unattended by a physician, in a correctional facility or in any suspicious or unusual manner or where an application is made pursuant to law for a permit to cremate a body of a person.

We exist to provide answers in support of families, victims, and community during times of need.

# JOB DESCRIPTION

The core values of the OCME are to put the mission of the agency first, to be truly dedicated and to have integrity in every aspect of our professional life. Under administrative direction, and with wide latitude for the exercise of independent initiative and judgment, s/he will perform difficult and complex assignments and investigations which include cases of suspicious death and those deaths resulting from criminal violence.

The Forensic Neuropathologist for the NYC OCME plays a key role in the complete analysis of adult and pediatric deaths, many of which are sudden and unexpected. Of the approximately 6,000 autopsies performed per year, about 800-900 are referred for formal neuropathology (NP) consultation. While traumatic brain injuries (TBI) represent the largest share of case material overall, a significant proportion comprise other interesting NP entities, such as cerebrovascular disease, epilepsy, developmental disorders, and neurodegeneration (see Appendix 1 below).

Specimens are transported from the Queens and Brooklyn offices to the Manhattan site for NP evaluation. Brain examinations are held in a dedicated autopsy room with 3 full tables, computer workstations, and a video set-up that can accommodate virtual case review by off-site MEs, allowing valuable real-time consultation with them about difficult cases. The service is supported by highly experienced Mortuary Technicians, Photographers, and Forensic Pathology Coordinators, as well as by a superb Histology Laboratory, capable of expert embedding of special samples (eyes, cervical vertebral blocks), as well as histochemical (Luxol-fast blue, Bielschowsky silver) and immunohistochemical preparations (APP, amyloid-beta, phospho-tau, alpha-synuclein, etc.) of necessity to modern NP diagnosis.

Each year 2 or 3 NP/Cardiac Path Fellows matriculate following their Forensic Path Fellowship for a 1-year intensive exposure. About 80% of their time is spent in NP, resulting in gross and microscopic experience with hundreds of cases each, for which they generate reports under direct supervision of the Neuropathologist. Because of the value of this experience to forensic practice, the NP/Cardiac Fellowship slots fill several years ahead with highly motivated candidates. The Neuropathologist also teaches routinely as part of the yearly lectures and Grand Rounds activities. The NP service has developed a close collegial relationship with the NP Program at NYU, meeting regularly with them for Consensus/Case Review Conferences, and hosting their NP Fellows at our brain-cuttings. Rotations with the OCME NP service are also sought after by training programs elsewhere in New York and in Boston; we have also welcomed national and international visitors. The NP service also participates in the regional Neuroplex group, which meets bimonthly to share interesting cases.

Scholarly opportunities abound, particularly in the public health arena. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the NP service was on the frontlines, and able to contribute valuable observations leading to new understanding of the pathogenesis of neurologic symptoms in affected individuals.

Duties will include but are not limited to:

* Orders the body to the Medical Examiner's Office for autopsy or other purposes indicated by circumstances.
* Performs autopsies when indicated.
* Carries out necessary histological examinations of tissues and other microscopic examinations.
* Selects organs and tissues for toxicological examinations and materials for serologic examinations.
* Prepares reports on the results of investigations and examinations, and promptly files the reports in the Office of Chief Medical Examiner.
* Certifies the cause of sudden deaths, unexpected deaths and deaths resulting from violence; certifies such causes on the basis of the complete findings of the postmortem and related examinations.
* Testifies before grand juries and in court as an official of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner.
* Reports the findings of deaths reported to the Office of Chief Medical Examiner to proper official agencies as required by applicable law.
* Investigates applications for cremation
* Provides consultations in neuropathology or pediatric pathology for other pathologists serving in the Office of Chief Medical Examiner.
* Certifies the cause of death in such complex and sensitive cases when greater discretion, judgment and expertise are required.
* Develops new policies, methods and techniques in the investigation of deaths.
* Consults with law enforcement agencies, courts, and other City and governmental agencies on confidential policies and problems of mutual concern.
* Provides consultations in neuropathology or pediatric pathology for other pathologists serving in the Office of Chief Medical Examiner.
* Performs teaching and administrative duties as assigned.

# MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

A valid license to practice medicine in the State of New York and completion of one of the following requirements:

1. Two years of an approved residency in anatomical pathology, or three years of an approved residency in anatomical and clinical pathology, and evidence of having performed at least 75 autopsies; **or**
2. An accredited residency training program in neuropathology or pediatric pathology

### SPECIAL NOTE: To be eligible for placement in Level II, the selected candidate must either:

* 1. Be certified in forensic pathology by the American Board of Pathology in addition to meeting one of the following requirements:
     1. Evidence of having performed at least 350 autopsies; **or**
     2. One year of satisfactory performance at Assignment Level I. **OR**
  2. Be certified in neuropathology or pediatric pathology by the American Board of Pathology.

## Additional Information

1. Selected candidates will be required to provide a DNA sample by swabbing.
2. This is an essential staff position.

## Residency Requirement

New York City Residency is not required for this position.

# SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Appendix 1. Breakdown of NP specimens by type of diagnosis/work-up during academic year 2019-2020

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| **Class of Diagnosis** | **Number** | **%** |
| Trauma | 219 | 27 |
| Circulatory/vascular | 247 | 30 |
| Infections | 50 | 6 |
| Congenital/Perinatal | 55 | 7 |
| Degenerative/Demyelinating | 75 | 9 |
| Epilepsy | 74 | 9 |
| Tumors | 9 | 1 |
| Other | 55 | 7 |
| **TOTAL ABNORMAL** | **784** | **96** |
| Normal | 34 | 4 |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | **818** | **100** |

Appendix 2. Scholarly activities of NYC OCME NP service academic year 2020-2021 (names of OCME personnel in **bold**)

Abstracts presented:

**Stram MN**, **Tang Y**, Seheult J, **Folkerth RD**. Molecular Testing in Sudden Death Associated with Epilepsy in a Forensic Office: Genotype-Phenotype Correlation. (American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Annual Meeting [virtual], February, 2021)

**Thomas S\***, **Stram MN\***, **Folkerth RD**. Neuropathologic findings in fatal silicone embolism syndrome: Potential contributions to cause of death. (American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Annual Meeting [virtual], February, 2021)

**Samuel J**, **Criss B**, **Thomas S**, **Ullah N**, **Rainwater C** , **Graham J**, **Folkerth R**, **Stram M**. Forensic Teleneuropathology: A Remote Viewing Approach for Neuropathologic Consultation in the Forensic Setting. (American Association of Neuropathologists, Annual Meeting [hybrid], June, 2021)

**Thomas S**, **Stram MN**, **Folkerth RD**. Neuropathologic Substrate in Decedents with Cerebral Palsy in a Forensic Setting. (American Association of Neuropathologists, Annual Meeting [hybrid], June, 2021)

Manuscripts published/in press/in preparation:

Lee MH, Perl DP, Nair G, Li W, Maric D, Murray H, Dodd SJ, Koretsky AP, Watts JA, Cheung V, Masliah E, Horkayne-Szakaly I, Jones R, **Stram MN**, Moncur J, Hefti M, **Folkerth RD**, Nath A. Microvascular Injury in the Brains of Patients with Covid-19. N Engl J Med. 2021 Feb 4;384(5):481-483. doi: 10.1056/NEJMc2033369. Epub 2020 Dec 30. PMID: 33378608; PMCID: PMC7787217.

Gutierrez Amezcua JM, Jain R, Kleinman G, Muh CR, Guzzetta M, **Folkerth R**, Snuderl M, Placantonakis DG, Galetta SL, Hochman S, Zagzag D. COVID-19-Induced Neurovascular Injury: a Case Series with Emphasis on Pathophysiological Mechanisms. SN Compr Clin Med. 2020;2(11):2109-2125. doi: 10.1007/s42399-020-00598-1. Epub 2020 Oct 22. PMID: 33106782; PMCID: PMC7577845.

Smith DH, Dollé JP, Ameen-Ali KE, Bretzin A, Cortes E, Crary JF, Dams-O'Connor K, Diaz-Arrastia R, Edlow BL, **Folkerth R**, Hazrati LN, Hinds SR, Iacono D, Johnson VE, Keene CD, Kofler J, Kovacs GG, Lee EB, Manley G, Meaney D, Montine T, Okonkwo DO, Perl DP, Trojanowski JQ, Wiebe DJ, Yaffe K, McCabe T, Stewart W. COllaborative Neuropathology NEtwork Characterizing ouTcomes of TBI (CONNECT-TBI). Acta Neuropathol Commun. 2021 Mar 1;9(1):32. doi: 10.1186/s40478-021-01122-9. PMID: 33648593; PMCID: PMC7919306.

Vivekanandarajah A, Nelson ME, Kinney HC, Elliott AJ, **Folkerth RD**, Tran H, Cotton J, Jacobs P, Minter M, McMillan K, Duncan JR, Broadbelt KG, Schissler K, Odendaal HJ, Angal J, Brink L, Burger EH, Coldrey JA, Dempers J, Boyd TK, Fifer WP, Geldenhuys E, Groenewald C, Holm IA, Myers MM, Randall B, Schubert P, Sens MA, Wright CA, Roberts DJ, Nelsen L, Wadee S, Zaharie D, Haynes RL; PASS Network. Nicotinic Receptors in the Brainstem Ascending Arousal System in SIDS With Analysis of Pre- natal Exposures to Maternal Smoking and Alcohol in High-Risk Populations of the Safe Passage Study.

Front Neurol. 2021 Mar 10;12:636668. doi: 10.3389/fneur.2021.636668. PMID: 33776893; PMCID: PMC7988476.

Bieniek KF, Cairns NJ, Crary JF, Dickson DW, **Folkerth RD**, Keene CD, Litvan I, Perl DP, Stein TD, Vonsattel JP, Stewart W, Dams-O'Connor K, Gordon WA, Tripodis Y, Alvarez VE, Mez J, Alosco ML, McKee AC; TBI/CTE Research Group. The Second NINDS/NIBIB Consensus Meeting to Define Neuropathological Criteria for the Diagnosis of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy. J Neuropathol Exp Neurol. 2021 Feb 22;80(3):210-219. doi: 10.1093/jnen/nlab001. PMID: 33611507; PMCID: PMC7899277.

Bonheur AN, **Thomas S**, Soshnick SH, McGibbon E, Dupuis AP 2nd, Hull R, Slavinski S, Del Rosso PE, Weiss D, Hunt DT, McCabe ME, Dean AB, **Folkerth R**, **Laib AM**, Wong SJ. A fatal case report of antibody-dependent enhancement of dengue virus type 1 following remote Zika virus infection. BMC Infect Dis. 2021 Aug 4;21(1):749. doi: 10.1186/s12879-021-06482-0. PMID: 34348665; PMCID: PMC8334327.

Priemer DS, **Folkerth RD**. Dementia in the Forensic Setting: Diagnoses Obtained Using a Condensed Protocol at the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, New York City. J Neuropathol Exp Neurol. 2021 Aug 13:nlab059. doi: 10.1093/jnen/nlab059. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34388235.

Invited Presentations:

**Folkerth RD**, Dams-O’Connor K, Keene D, Stein T. IN: Update on Traumatic Brain Injury and Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, CME Session, Texas Society of Pathologists, Annual Meeting (virtual), January, 2021.

**Folkerth RD**. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria. IN: Session 2 - Open Consent and Tissue Pipeline for Prospective Collection; Tissue Quality and Pipeline for Human Brain Census Workshop, The BRAIN Initiative and NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience Research (virtual), February, 2021.

**Folkerth RD**. The Neuropathology of COVID-19: What We Know So Far. IN: Neuroscience in the Clinic: Emerging Neuroscience in Neurologic Complications of COVID-19 Session, American Academy of Neurology, Annual Meeting (virtual), April, 2021.

**Folkerth RD.** Mistakes Are My Legacy: A Tribute to My Mentors (Who Helped Me Avoid Catastrophe). IN: Course, “What My Mistakes Have Taught Me”, Martin A. Samuels, Director, Oakstone Publishing, June, 2021.

**Folkerth RD**. The Neuropathology of COVID-19: Neuroinflammation and Vascular Pathology. IN: Neurologic and Psychiatric Effects of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Symposium (virtual), National Institute of Mental Health, July 2021.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

# For any questions, you can contact us at [TalentMgmt@ocme.nyc.gov](mailto:TalentMgmt@ocme.nyc.gov) or at 212-323-1750.

# TO APPLY

PLEASE SUBMIT RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO: **nyc.gov/ocmecareers.** Please note that only candidates selected for interview will be contacted for this position.

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\*\*FINAL APPOINTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET APPROVAL\*\*

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| **POST DATE: 7/20/2021** | **POST UNTIL: Until Filled** | **JOB ID #469179** |