



# 2025 NAME

International Relations Toolkit

Welcome to our international colleagues on behalf of the entire National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) membership. We are pleased to 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, including categories and benefits of membership. Especially note the International Relations Page created especially for you, our international colleagues.

This toolkit is designed for international forensic practitioners who are:

- Seeking membership in a forensic pathology or forensic science society in the United States and considering joining NAME,
- 2. Considering attending a NAME meeting or attending for the first time, or
- 3. Interested in visiting a Medical Examiner's or Coroner's Office, getting forensic pathology training in the United States, or practicing as a forensic pathologist in the United States.

#### **Contents**

National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) - If you are seeking membership in a forensic pathole	ogy
or forensic science society in the US and considering joining NAME	3
History	3
·	
Why Join NAME?	5
NAME annual meeting - If you are considering attending a NAME meeting or attending for the first time  Before You Arrive: Registration, Visa, and Pairing  Day One: Welcome Reception for International Attendees  Scientific Sessions and Poster Presentations  Breaks, Refreshments, and Vendor Booths  Fellowship Fair  Resident & Fellow Reception  Other Activities  Final Day: Awards Lunch and Closing Ceremony  Virtual Attendance Option  Final Thoughts	5 6 6 6 7 7
Forensic pathology practice in the US - If you are interested in visiting a Medical Examiner's or Coron Office, getting forensic pathology training in the US, or practicing as a forensic pathologist in the US  • ECFMG  • USMLE and Pathways  • The Training	7 7
	or forensic science society in the US and considering joining NAME.  History

Board certification	9
Working as a Forensic Pathologist in the US	9
Visa information - Visa Applicant Advisory Committee	
Offices accepting international visitors and trainees	
1 0	
Resources	11

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 official duties related to medicolegal investigations of deaths of public interest in the United States.

## **History**

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.

Originating from a small group of dedicated 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 offer crucial expertise in medicolegal death investigations 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.

Progress in medicolegal death investigation 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 supports individuals and jurisdictions striving to

improve medicolegal death investigations 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.

Through its association and members, NAME 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 advise 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 actively seeks international collaboration.

NAME provides a unique opportunity for international counterparts to understand the variety of death investigation systems and how these services are provided in various jurisdictions that operate across the US and Canada. It offers a set of autopsy performance standards that are developed by consensus of practitioners, which are practical and not purely academic, and can be used internationally. This can serve as an attainable goal to raise the quality of professional practice.

Equally important to performance standards 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**

## **Annual and Interim Meetings**

The educational activities of NAME are carried out at the 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. Beyond academic discussions, there are concurrent sessions 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. This meeting is available as in person or virtual attendance.

The Association also meets for an interim half-day virtual meeting each February. Experts discuss recent developments of a forensic pathology topic NAME members would have a keen interest in.

NAME meetings offer a platform for 'iron to sharpen iron', fostering mutual learning and collaboration, and for forming professional connections and friendships that go on beyond the meetings. It fosters mutual sharing and exchange of ideas and opinions, particularly when medicolegal investigation practices are small in many jurisdictions.

Medical and forensic science students, Residents, and Fellows-in-training are encouraged to join the meetings. Those who register by the deadlines can participate for free.

#### **Official Journal**

The journal of NAME, American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology (AJFMP), 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 and it is indexed in PubMed, Medline, Scopus and Clarivate Analytics.

# 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, including international members, are encouraged to participate in committee activities.
- A permanent Executive Director and part time Executive Vice-President provide year long 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

Page 4 Index

inspection and accreditation program for medicolegal death investigative offices. This program provides expert reviews and peer advice for improvement of functioning offices.

NAME's Inspection and Accreditation system offers the framework for those who aspire to lift not just the medical practice of forensic pathology, but also uplift the organizational structure, standards and quality of the medicolegal death investigation system as an integral robust whole within one's own jurisdiction. Through working towards accreditation, the requirements of the Inspection and Accreditation system form a communicable roadmap that brings together key stakeholders to work together to areas of improvement and address these shortcomings. Medicolegal death investigation agencies have benefited significantly from working towards, being inspected and attaining the accreditation.

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, providing key stakeholders with quality assurance. 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. Currently, several international offices are already accredited by NAME.

# **Membership Opportunities**

Membership in the NAME is open to all physicians, investigators, and administrators who are active in medicolegal death investigation. The categories vary based on individual roles in death investigation. The NAME annual dues include a subscription to the Association's official journal, AJFMP.



Vendor hall – Breakfast

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.

# **Special International Corresponding Membership Category**

NAME has a category of membership specifically for those individuals practicing outside of the US and Canada. Specifically, 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, AJFMP, and can serve on NAME committees.

## **Committee Service**

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



Scientific session



Past Presidents of NAME

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

#### **NAME** Foundation

The NAME Foundation is a nonprofit charitable corporation established as the Endowment Committee of NAME in 1996 by Emeritus Trustee Thomas Noguchi, MD, the former Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner for Los Angeles County. The purpose of the NAME Foundation is to support forensic sciences through education and research, and to preserve the history of forensic pathology. The NAME Foundation supports funding for the John Smialek Best Resident/Fellow Platform and Poster Presentations, John Pless Best Student Platform and Poster Presentations, and Mary Fran Ernst Best Affiliate Presentation. Since 2016 The Foundation has held a fundraising event at the NAME annual meeting. Tickets that are sold benefit our research and educational efforts. In addition, the Foundation also provides travel stipends - the Beth Frost Early Achievement Award - to eligible students and residents who present at the meeting and who have fulfilled the requirements for the stipends. There is also a silent auction where donors submit items which are purchased by members at the meeting. A \$50 minimum annual donation will qualify for membership benefits, including free access to Academic Forensic Pathology, the official journal of the NAME Foundation, where the members may find a good opportunity of publication.

## Why Join NAME?

- Be part of a globally respected professional body.
- Access cutting-edge education and resources.
- Gain professional recognition and collaboration opportunities.
- Contribute to raising standards of forensic practice in your country.



Socializing and Networking

"NAME is not only a professional network—it is a community committed to excellence, advancement, and service in medicolegal death investigation around the world."

# 2 NAME annual meeting - If you are considering attending a NAME meeting or attending for the first time

Attending the NAME Annual Meeting as an international member is a valuable and rewarding experience. Support from NAME begins right from your home country, and the entire process—from planning your trip to attending the final awards luncheon—is meant to be welcoming and inclusive. The NAME Annual Meeting is usually held in early October each year and typically begins on a Friday, going through until the following Tuesday—the location changes from year to year.

Here's a detailed guide to help you navigate every step:

# Before You Arrive: Registration, Visa, and Pairing

Once your abstract is accepted or you register for the NAME meeting, you can request a Letter of Invitation from NAME to support your U.S. visa application. This letter helps you present your purpose of travel clearly to the embassy or consulate.

In the weeks leading up to the meeting, the NAME International Relations Committee (IRC) reaches out to international attendees. Through the pairing program, first-time international attendees are matched with experienced NAME members who volunteer to guide and support them. You will receive an email from your assigned mentor or "resource person"—feel free to contact them with any questions regarding travel, accommodations, the meeting schedule, or anything else you're curious about. This personal connection can make a big difference in easing your journey.

Page 6

# Day One: Welcome Reception for International Attendees

Your NAME experience begins on the evening before the scientific sessions with a warm and welcoming Reception for International Attendees, hosted by the International Relations Committee (IRC). This gathering is:

- An opportunity to meet other international members, NAME leadership, and IRC volunteers;
- A great moment for ice-breaking and networking in a relaxed atmosphere; and
- Where you'll receive your registration badge and materials, including a special sticker identifying you as an international attendee, making it easier for others to connect with you during the event.

Following the international reception on the first evening of the meeting is the Grand Opening of Exhibits, Welcome Reception, and Dinner. An IRC member will be happy to escort you to the Grand Opening.

#### **Scientific Sessions and Poster Presentations**

The core academic program typically spans two days, featuring:

- Platform presentations: Themed sessions where invited speakers and abstract presenters share their research. The presentations are of variable length, typically 10 minutes to 2 hours. The longer presentations are often workshops and/or multiperson; and
- Poster sessions: Held in a designated hall, allowing you to meet poster presenters faceto-face, discuss findings, and explore the latest developments in forensic pathology and related fields. Poster presenters are required to be present at their posters during the lunch break.



Inspection and Accreditation Committee meeting

All presentations are listed in a NAME meeting app, which includes session schedules, speaker profiles, abstracts, and messaging features to connect with other attendees.

Tip: Use the app to bookmark sessions of interest and take digital notes. Don't hesitate to approach speakers after sessions or during breaks!

#### Breaks, Refreshments, and Vendor Booths

Between sessions, NAME provides refreshment breaks in the vendor hall with coffee, tea, juice, and snacks—perfect for recharging and mingling. Breakfast each day is also usually served in the vendor hall.

In the vendor area, you'll find:

- Stalls showcasing forensic tools, lab equipment, software solutions, and digital pathology platforms;
- Opportunities to learn about new technologies and interact directly with company representatives;
   and
- Fun giveaways and educational materials.

Tip: Introduce yourself to vendors and ask how their products are used in U.S. medicolegal systems—it's a valuable learning and networking opportunity.

#### Fellowship Fair

One of the most exciting and useful events for international attendees is the Fellowship Fair. Almost all forensic pathology fellowship programs from across the U.S. set up booths with:

- Program leadership and coordinators present in person; and
- Information on application processes, eligibility, interview tips, and more.



Breakfast workshop



Awards lunch

This is a dedicated time slot, so there are no competing academic sessions. You're free to walk around, ask questions, and make lasting connections. Bring your CV and don't hesitate to express your interest in future training opportunities.

#### **Resident & Fellow Reception**

This social event is specifically for residents, fellows, and early-career professionals, including international visitors. It typically lasts 1.5 to 2 hours and features:

- Fun activities and games to help start conversations; and
- Opportunities to meet your peers, learn from those already in U.S. training programs, and start forming your support network.

#### Other Activities

Optional sporting events are the Annual Rigor Run/Walk and the Randy Hanzlick Memorial Cadaver Open Golf Tournament

# Final Day: Awards Lunch and Closing Ceremony

On the final day of the meeting, there is an awards luncheon—a highlight of the event. All attendees gather in a banquet-style setting to enjoy:

- A delicious lunch (with vegetarian options available) included with the cost of registration;
- Presidential remarks and a thank-you note from NAME leadership;
- Award presentations for the best podium and poster presentations, top publications in the practice of forensic pathology, and service recognitions; and
- The Milton Helpern Laureate Award Lecture.



Reception for International Attendees

It's a wonderful way to end the meeting on a celebratory note and strengthen the connections formed over the previous days.

#### **Virtual Attendance Option**

Can't travel to the U.S.? NAME offers a robust virtual attendance option. All academic sessions are:

- Live-streamed in high resolution;
- Available for on-demand viewing after the event; and
- Fully accessible through the NAME platform.

Virtual attendees also have access to presenter profiles and receive certificates of attendance. While it doesn't fully replicate the in-person networking experience, it's an excellent alternative for staying engaged and updated.

### **Final Thoughts**

Attending the NAME Annual Meeting as an international guest is more than just a professional event—it's a community experience. With good preparation, you'll learn from experts and build lasting professional relationships.

Welcome to the NAME family—we're excited to meet you!

3 Forensic pathology practice in the US - If you are interested in visiting a Medical Examiner's or Coroner's Office, getting forensic pathology training in the US, or practicing as a forensic pathologist in the US

#### **ECFMG**

The ECFMG (Educational Commission for Foreign Medical

Page 8 Index

Graduates) Certification evaluates the qualifications of international medical graduates (IMGs) aiming to enter the U.S. healthcare system. ECFMG defines IMGs as individuals who earned their medical degree from institutions outside the U.S., irrespective of their citizenship. Graduates from Canadian medical schools as of July 1, 2025, will also be considered IMGs for U.S. graduate medical education (GME) programs. To join ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education)-accredited residency programs, they must either obtain ECFMG Certification or possess a full, unrestricted medical license in the applicable U.S. jurisdiction.

To qualify for ECFMG certification, an IMG must fulfill the following criteria:

- Be a medical student officially enrolled in or a graduate of a medical school listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools, meeting ECFMG eligibility standards.
- 2. Submit the online application for ECFMG Certification along with the Certification of Identification Form (Form 186), which must be completed and notarized.
- 3. Meet the medical science examination requirement by passing Step 1 and Step 2 CK of the USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Examination).
- 4. Fulfill the clinical skills and communication skills requirements by completing a Pathway or demonstrating passing performance on the former Step 2 CS (Clinical Skills) component of USMLE, which is valid for ECFMG Certification.

ECFMG requires IMGs to satisfy examination requirements for ECFMG Certification within seven years from the date of their first passed exam.

## **USMLE** and Pathways

The USMLE is a three-step examination for medical licensure in the United States. Based on the 2025 USMLE Bulletin of Information, the examination can be summarized as follows:

- STEP 1 evaluates the examinee's knowledge and ability to apply essential basic science concepts to medical practice; it includes roughly 280 multiple-choice questions, divided into seven 60-minute blocks, lasting approximately eight hours. Results are reported as 'Pass / Fail' with no numerical score.
- STEP 2 CK assesses the examinee's capability to apply medical knowledge, skills, and understanding of clinical science crucial for providing supervised patient care, focusing on health promotion and disease prevention; it comprises about 318 multiple-choice questions, split into eight 60-minute blocks, taking around nine hours. Results are reported as 'Pass / Fail' with a numerical score.

- STEP 3 is a two-day examination that evaluates the examinee's proficiency in unsupervised patient management; Day 1 contains approximately 232 multiple-choice questions in six 60-minute blocks; Day 2 consists of about 180 multiple-choice questions across six 45-minute blocks and includes 13 computer-based case simulations (CCS). Results are reported as 'Pass / Fail' with a numerical score.

Step 1 and Step 2 CK can be taken in any sequence. Step 3 can be taken only after passing Step 1 and Step 2 CK.

Most US state medical boards mandate that all Steps of the USMLE sequence are completed successfully within a specified timeframe. Details on state-specific licensure requirements can be found at.

The former 'Step 2 Clinical Skills - (CS)' was permanently discontinued in 2021. Applicants must now score satisfactorily on the Occupational English Test (OET) Medicine to meet Pathways requirements. Six Pathways exist, each for a different applicant type. More information is at.

While applicants certified by ECFMG based on previously administered USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) receive an ECFMG Certificate that is valid indefinitely, a medical doctor who is certified by ECFMG through a Pathway will receive an ECFMG Certificate expiring when the Pathway expires (e.g., December 31, 2027, for 2025 Pathways).

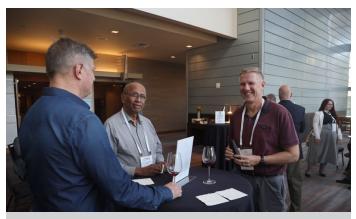
To have an ECFMG Certificate based on a Pathway valid indefinitely, a physician must complete 12 months of clinical education in a U.S. ACGME-accredited GME training program, a non-standard program linked to an ACGME-accredited program, or possesses an unrestricted medical license in a U.S. state or the District of Columbia.

## The Training

A Forensic Pathologist is a licensed medical professional who completes medical school followed by advanced residency training in pathology and a specialized fellowship in Forensic Pathology.

Pathology residency programs offer various training tracks, including combined Anatomical Pathology/Clinical Pathology (AP/CP), solely Anatomical Pathology (AP), and Anatomical Pathology/Neuropathology (AP/NP). Some programs also provide research-focused tracks. The duration of training ranges from 3 years for AP-only to 4 years for combined tracks (AP/CP, AP/NP), while research track length varies depending on the program.

To enter the Residency program, applicants must go through the Main Residency Match System. The system pairs applicants with training programs using a computerized algorithm based on mutual rank order lists submitted by both parties. Applicants rank programs they've interviewed



Reception for International Attendees

with, and programs rank the applicants they wish to train. The algorithm attempts to place applicants into their highest-preferred program that also ranks them, and results are announced on Match Day in March. If applicants do not match, they can still seek available unfilled positions during the Match Week Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP).

The rules may change each year and differ according to the program. Based on the Association of American Medical Colleges 2025 general requirements for programs utilizing the ERAS application system, the candidates need to fill the ERAS Common Application Form and provide a Curriculum Vitae, a Medical School Transcript, a Medical Student Performance Evaluation (formerly known as the Dean's Letter), three letters of recommendation, a personal statement, and USMLE scores. For programs that do not utilize the ERAS application system, details should be verified on the program's website. More information is available at and.

Forensic Pathology fellowship programs provide a year of specialized training for graduates of Pathology Residency programs (AP/CP; AP-only). This field is recognized as a board-certified subspecialty by the American Board of Pathology. During the fellowship, participants are expected to conduct over 200 autopsies and are introduced to related areas in forensic sciences. Forensic pathology has recently (2023–2024) been formally integrated into the national matching service, joining a group of other subspecialties now matched via a centralized algorithm. Applicants apply through ERAS, interview over the fall and winter, then both programs and applicants submit rank lists. Match registration typically opens in February, ranking in March, and Match Day occurs in late April. Similar to the residency match, this system ensures a fair, binding, and transparent process, giving applicants more control and flexibility compared to the former unofficial and often rushed "firstcome, first-served" approach.

Both Pathology residents and Forensic Pathology fellows receive salaries that vary according to the year of training (residency) and the state (residency, fellowship).



Reception for International Attendees

#### **Board certification**

According to the American Board of Pathology (ABPath) 2025 Booklet of Information, candidates seeking ABPath certification must have graduated from a medical school in the United States or Canada that is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, an osteopathic college of medicine accredited by the American Osteopathic Association, or an internationally recognized medical school deemed acceptable by the ABPath. Applicants must also:

- Submit their medical school diploma
- Hold or have applied for a full and unrestricted license in a state or jurisdiction of the United States or Canada that will be valid when examination results are released
- Complete at least 30 autopsies by the time the certification application is submitted
- Finish a graduate medical education program in pathology or a pathology subspecialty accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), or a primary pathology program accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).

Qualified candidates are required to take the Anatomic Pathology examination (for all tracks) and the Clinical Pathology examination (for AP/CP graduates).

The Anatomic Pathology examination is a one-day, computer-based test composed of both Written and Practical sections, as well as sections on Virtual Microscopy (VM). The total duration of the exam is approximately 8 hours. Meanwhile, the Clinical Pathology examination is also a one-day test that includes combined written and practical sections. Each section features image questions, as well as questions involving graphs, charts, karyotypes, pedigrees, red cell panels, formulas, and other problem-solving exercises.

Page 10 Index

#### Working as a Forensic Pathologist in the US

Unless one already has US citizenship or permanent residency (Green Card) via another route, employment requires visa sponsorship and support by the prospective employer. The process of obtaining a visa for employment can vary in timeline and complexity depending on the visa option selected.

Typically, the visa options for employment are the H1-B visa and the O-1 visa.

Those currently training in forensic pathology in the US holding a J-1 visa can also seek a waiver of the 2-year home residence requirement (INA §212(e) (Immigration and Nationality Act, Section 212(e)) by applying for a 'Conrad 30 Waiver Program'. Several forensic offices have been successful in working with J-1 visa holders to obtain this waiver. On the NAME website under the Visa Applicant Advisory Committee tab, there is a list of offices that can work with J-1 visa waivers, and a tool that is helpful in identifying Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs) where the Conrad 30 Waiver program would be applicable.

The H-1B visa is a 'dual intent' visa that allows U.S. employers to hire foreign workers in specialty occupations requiring specialized knowledge and at least a bachelor's degree. It is initially granted for up to three years and can be extended to a maximum of six years. Extensions beyond six years are possible if the worker is pursuing permanent residency through an approved immigration petition. The visa is employer-specific, requiring a new petition for job changes. 'Dual intent visa' means that holders can legally pursue permanent residency while on the visa without jeopardizing their non-immigrant status. After receiving a 'J1-visa waiver', the applicant can transition to a special H1B visa, which remains active as long as the physician commit to working full-time for at least three years in the office that granted the waiver.

The O-1 visa is a non-immigrant visa for individuals who possess extraordinary ability or achievement in fields such as sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics, demonstrated by sustained national or international acclaim. It is typically granted for an initial period of up to three years, with unlimited extensions in one-year increments based on ongoing work related to the individual's extraordinary ability. The O-1 visa requires a U.S. employer or agent to file a petition on behalf of the applicant.

An individual subject to the J-1 'two-year home residency requirement' can still obtain an O-1 visa; however, obtaining the O-1 visa does not cancel or waive the two-year return rule. The applicant remains obligated to fulfill the home residency requirement or obtain an official waiver before becoming eligible for certain immigration benefits. While the O-1 visa allows temporary work in the U.S., it does not eliminate the underlying obligation imposed by the J-1 visa.

#### Visa information - Visa Applicant Advisory Committee

Other visas suitable for forensic pathology training and observership are discussed in detail in the NAME flier "Visa Information for Medical Professionals Seeking to Visit Medical Examiner and Coroner's Offices in the US" under the NAME International Relations/Visa Advisory tab on the website.

Since individual circumstances vary, the NAME Visa Applicant Advisory Committee is available for those members who have questions or need guidance about visa processes for forensic pathologists/trainees.



Dr. Thomas Noguchi and Dr. Gregory Schmunk at the Reception for International Attendees



International Relations Committee Chair Dr. Kim Collins at the Reception for International Attendees

#### Offices accepting international visitors and trainees

Many international medical graduates and forensic pathologists pursue opportunities to gain professional experience in the United States, and some U.S. forensic pathology offices offer observership positions for qualified international visitors. Acceptance typically depends on the office availability and institutional policies. A list of currently available offices offering such opportunities is provided on the NAME website.

#### Resources

- 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. Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates www.ecfmg.org
- 6. Federation of State Medical Boards www.fsmb.org
- 7. National Resident Matching Program www.nrmp.org
- 8. Association of American Medical Colleges www.aamc.org
- 9. NAME Foundation namefoundation.wildapricot.org

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.

NAME International Relation Committee

Chair: Kim A. Collins

Toolkit Subcommittee

Members:

**Clare Bryce** 

Paul Chui

**Muhammad Ahmad Faraz** 

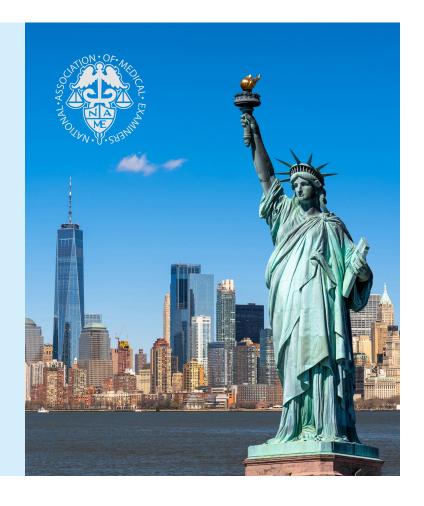
Lorenzo Gitto

Chamila Lakmali

**Dianne Little** 

Masahiko "Mike" Kobayashi

Ilaria Tarozzi



Page 12 Index