



National Association of Medical Examiners

Hic locus est ubi mors gaudet succurrere vitae

National Association of Medical Examiners

The National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) is the national professional organization of forensic pathologists, physician medical examiners, medical death investigators and death investigation system administrators who perform the official duties of the medico-legal investigation of deaths of public interest in the United States. NAME was founded in 1966 and currently has over 1000 members.

Organizational Achievements:

1. NAME selected a new journal for scientific dissemination and research findings in Forensic Pathology. The new journal, Academic Forensic Pathology, will be produced by NAME members and initially available as an on-line journal with hard cover yearly bound issues. CME and SAMs credits will be available through the journal. Four thematic issues will be issued annually. The journal is produced by Drs. Evan Matshes, David Dolinak and Emma Lew. The inaugural Editor in Chief is J. Keith Pinckard, MD.
2. NAME selected a new Meeting manager for its Annual meeting and interim annual meetings, held in coordination with the American Academy of Forensic Science. The ASIP Meeting manager group will provide meeting manager services for NAME, starting with the NAME Annual meeting in Baltimore, MD in 2012.
3. NAME re-organized this year as a 501c3 organization to best serve membership.
4. Accreditation and Inspection for Forensic Facilities: In 1976, NAME established a voluntary inspection and accreditation program for forensic facilities. Currently, many major metropolitan offices are accredited and some states now require NAME accreditation for performance of forensic services. The checklists, accreditation standards and guidelines for performance of forensic autopsies have grown. In 2009, NAME began formally certifying inspectors for the accreditation process; currently NAME is seeking accreditation for the NAME accreditation process. This is in line with recommendations of the NAS report, "Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward", issued in 2009.
5. Activities at Federal Level: In response to the 2009 National Academy of Science report "Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward", there are increased Federal initiatives to address needs and scientific issues in Forensic Sciences, including Forensic Pathology and Medical-legal Death Investigation. NAME, and NAME members are active participants in
 - a. The NAME will participate as advisory members on the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Committee on Science, Subcommittee on Forensic Science. These groups will assist in addressing the numerous issues in forensic science identified by the National Academy of Science 2009 report. Nominees from NAME are:

- i. Forensic Pathology-Research, Development, Testing (Dr. Mary Ann Sens, Dr. Victor Weedn)
 - ii. Standards, Practices and Protocols (Dr. Jamie Downs)
 - iii. Education and Ethics (Dr. Ross Zumwalt)
 - iv. Accreditation and Certification (Dr. David Fowler)
 - v. Outreach and Communication (Dr. Kurt Nolte)
 - b. NAME also participates in Scientific Working Groups (SWG)'s for issues relating to Forensic Science. Members involved in these are:
 - i. Disaster Victim Identification (cosponsored by NIJ/NTSB): Drs. Craig Mallak, Victor Weedn, Yvonne Milewski, Joyce deJong and Mary Dudley.
 - ii. Scientific Working Group on Medicolegal Death Investigations (SWGMDI). Drs. Mary Ann Sens, Lindsey Thomas, Donald Jason, Bruce Hyma, Thomas Andrew, Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran and Randy Hanzlick.
6. NAME continues active CME, CE and SAMs programs for its members. In 2010, a near record attendance of over 400 registrants attended the 44th Annual meeting in Cleveland Ohio. In 2011, an interim meeting with the theme of "The Negative Autopsy" was held at AAFS meeting in Chicago, IL for both CME and SAMs credit. The 2011 Annual Meeting will be held Aug 2 – 8 during an Alaskan Cruise with the theme of "Controversies in Forensic Pathology".
7. Awards for NAME in 2010 included the 2010 George Gantner Jr . MD Memorial Lecture, awarded to Dr. John Pless and the Outstanding Service Award given to Dr. Elizabeth Balraj. Outstanding lifetime Service "Iceberg" awardees were Victor Weedn, M.D. Jamie Downs, M.D. Mitra Kalekar, M.D. and Greg Schmunk, M.D. Our resident/fellow presentation awards were:

2010	Ralph Newton Sams, M.D. (<i>Best Resident platform</i>)	"Suicide with Hydrogen Sulfide"
	Allison Edgecombe, MD, MSc (<i>Best Resident poster</i>)	"Sudden Death from Superior Mesenteric Artery Thrombosis in a Cocaine User"

NAME continues to grow and thrive in its mission of promoting excellence in medical legal death investigation and to promote and enhance the role of medical examiners in society.

Respectfully submitted,



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