



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: Advances were made in 2013 to (1) further ties between professional medical and pathology organizations, (2) address work-force issues; (3) continue Federal and national initiatives (4) support members in state and local issues; (5) advance knowledge in forensic pathology, medicine and forensic sciences.

1. Updates from 2013 initiatives:

- a. Tara Snethen of the ASIP continues as our meeting manager and we are already learning how to improve our annual meetings. We held a very successful national meeting in Milwaukee, WI. Future meeting sites include Portland, OR and Charlotte, NC.
- b. NAME Facility and Accreditation / Inspection: The voluntary I&A program for forensic systems continues to improve and expand. Over 77 offices are accredited and over 30 in process of accreditation and review.

2. Work-force issues: NAME is concerned with the relatively static numbers of FP Fellows and Pathology residents / residencies. NAME is participating in Pathology round table discussions for a multi-factorial plan to address shortfalls in pathology and forensic pathology recruitment. Some major obstacles remain in ACGME standards for small, usually single fellowship slots which are often a branch of governmental agencies, rather than academic and hospital based programs with overriding GME programs.

3. Education and Research issues:

- a. NAME is participating in two nationally funded educational programs:
 - i. NAME has an educational grant in partnership with RTI to provide death investigation training on line. This training is on-line and free to participants with funding from the National Institute of Justice.
 - ii. NAME and the American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT), through the University of New Mexico convened an expert panel on Opioid deaths and death investigations. A position paper for both professional organizations on dealing with this increasing epidemic of deaths from these substances was published in March, 2013 and was presented in a workshop at AAFS on February, 2014.
- b. NAME continues active CME, CE and SAMs programs for its members. CME, CE and SAMS were offered at the NAME Annual meeting in Milwaukee, WI, where a record attendance at a modified meeting structure was successful. Partnering with ASCP, the "RISE" examination for forensic pathology fellows continues strong performance for current FP fellows.
- c. NAME continues support and increases involvement with scientists and researchers in several areas of sudden and unexpected death including SIDS, SUDI, SUDC and SUDEP.

4. NAME Foundation is active and financially healthy. NAME Foundation serves to promote public charitable, educational, and scientific advancement of NAME and Medicolegal death investigation. In 2013, awards were made for "Best Papers" for members and affiliates at the NAME Annual meeting.

5. National and Federal level initiatives

- a. Two NAME members are on the newly formed Federal Forensic Science Committee.
 - b. Six NAME members participated as advisory members on five National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Committee on Science, Subcommittee on Forensic Science.
 - c. NAME members are active participants in several Scientific Working Groups (SWG) convened by FBI, NIJ, NIST and other Federal partners as a resource and to define expected standards and best practices in respective forensic science areas.
 - d. All of the TWG, SWG and IWG groups will be reorganized under the new NIST Forensic Science initiatives and committees. These will be constructed and populated in 2014.
 - e. Sponsored / supported motions at AMA meeting regarding D-85.994 Strengthening Medicolegal Death Investigations and Hospital autopsy communication.
6. Assistance with legislation: NAME was active in providing assistance to several states regarding a variety of legislative issues. In most of these, CAP and ASCP were also active in efforts. These included:
7. Amicus briefs: NAME was asked and is providing several amicus briefs for various judicial appeals in basic issues for forensic pathology and medicolegal death investigation systems.

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. We are a small professional society, with just over 1000 members and 1.2 staff, however, our contributions to improvement of death investigations, forensic pathology and collaborations with scientists and researchers in several areas of sudden death, trauma and mental health programs are significant, sustained and growing.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Ann Sens, M.D., Ph.D.

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