

Quality Education for Iowa Death Investigators

IACME

FALL MEETING & EDUCATION EXPO

West Des Moines Marriott

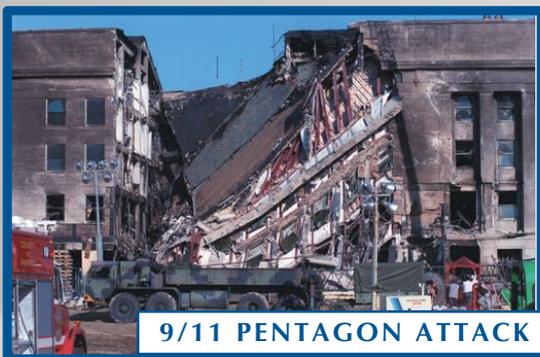
“ *The IACME Fall Meeting is one of the most informative meetings I attend each year. It is far and away the best opportunity for networking with colleagues who face similar management and investigative problems.* ”

Marcus Nashelsky, MD
Johnson County Medical Examiner

Friday and Saturday
NOVEMBER 1-2, 2019

What you need to know

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9/11 PENTAGON ATTACK



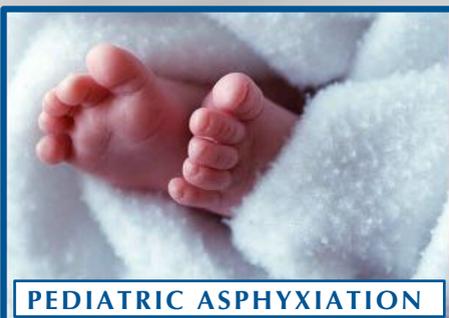
DREW PETERSON MURDER TRIAL



ANCIENT REMAINS



SCENE PHOTOGRAPHY



PEDIATRIC ASPHYXIATION



I-35W BRIDGE COLLAPSE



FIRE DEATHS



IOWA CASE STUDIES

Friday, November 1

- 7:00 a.m. Exhibitor/Sponsor Setup
- 8:30 a.m. Exhibit Hall
- 9:00 - 12:00 p.m. **ME-101** (Death Investigation Basics)
Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH and **Jessica Jessen, F-ABMDI**
- 12:00 -12:55 p.m. Registration/Complimentary Luncheon/Exhibit Hall
- 12:55 p.m. Welcome **Sheila Holcomb, MD, IACME President**
- 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. **Protecting Ancient Human Remains in Iowa: Purposes, Laws and Processes** **Lara Noldner, PhD**
Investigating Fatal Fires **John Kraemer, MHS, CPM**
- 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Break/Exhibit Hall
- 3:00 - 3:15 p.m. Break/Exhibit Hall
- 3:15 - 3:45 p.m. **Importance of Autopsy Data to Trauma Programs**
Gregory Schmunk, MD
- 3:45 - 5:15 p.m. **Pathology of Mass Disasters: The 9/11 Pentagon Attack and the I-35W Bridge Collapse** **Andrew Baker, MD**
- 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. **Crime Scene Processing and the DCI Crime Lab**
Gary Licht
- 6:15 - 6:45 p.m. Reception/Elections/Awards
- 6:45 p.m. Annual Banquet
- 7:30 - 8:45 p.m. **Drew Peterson: The Case that Shocked America**
Larry Blum, MD

Saturday, November 2

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast / Exhibit Hall / Exhibitor Presentations
- 7:55 a.m. Welcome **Dr. Holcomb**
- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. **Pediatric Asphyxial Deaths** **Andrew Baker, MD**
- 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. **Death Scene Photography: Practices, Procedures and Pointers** **Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH** and **Kip Ladage, MEI**
- 10:00 - 10:15 a.m. Break/Exhibit Hall
- 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. **Iowa’s State Medical Examiner System: Annual Update and Future Outlook** **Dennis Klein, MD**
- 11:15 - 12:15 p.m. **Iowa Case Studies** **Dennis Klein, MD**

Who should attend?

The IACME Fall Meeting and Education Expo is held the first weekend in November and is the premier educational event for Iowa’s death investigation professionals. Attendees include Medical Examiners, Medical Examiner Investigators, law enforcement, nurses, EMTs, attorneys, social workers, funeral directors, physicians, public officials and others involved in death investigation.

Our exhibitors and sponsors help make the IACME Fall Meeting possible. Please visit our Exhibit Hall during breaks and meals. A representative of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigation (ABMDI) will join us this year to answer questions about MEI certification.

Two ways to register

There are two ways to register for the IACME Fall Meeting:

1. Visit the IACME web site, www.iacountyme.org, Fall Meeting section. Complete the interactive registration form and pay online with a credit card or PayPal. If you need a receipt or assistance with registration, contact Chris Sutton at 515.212.9685.
2. Complete the printable registration form (attached to the brochure email) and mail it, with your check, to: IACME, PO Box 274, Boone, IA 50036.

A \$50 late fee will be charged for those registering or paying after Friday, October 25.

Registration fees

- Physician Member—\$250
- Physician Non-member—\$400
- MEI Member—\$200
- MEI Non-member—\$350
- Students—\$100

Hotel reservations

The West Des Moines Marriott is located at 1250 Jordan Creek Parkway in West Des Moines. The hotel has reserved a block of rooms for IACME Fall Meeting attendees at the special rate of \$124 plus tax per night.

Call 515.267.1500 to reserve your room. Be sure to identify yourself as an IACME Fall Meeting attendee.

The deadline to reserve a room at the special rate is Thursday, October 10.

Cancellation policy

1. Fall Meeting registrants will receive a full refund if a cancellation is received before September 17, 2019.
2. Fall Meeting registrants will receive a 50 percent refund if a cancellation is received by October 1, 2019.
3. No refunds will be issued for cancellations received after October 1, 2019.

Accessing handouts

Fall Meeting speaker handouts, the meeting schedule, speaker bios and other meeting materials will be posted online one week before the conference for access by registrants.

A password for the Meeting Materials section of the IACME web site, www.iacountyme.org, will be emailed to registrants a few days before the conference begins. Speakers whose materials are not online will provide copies at the meeting.

Wi-Fi will be available in the meeting rooms at the IACME Fall Meeting. Attendees with laptops or tablets will be able to access presentation materials online by using their passwords.

Auxiliary needs

If you require auxiliary aids or services identified by the Americans with Disabilities Act, let us know. Layered clothing is recommended for temperature variations in the meeting rooms.

Membership incentive for non-member attendees

Any non-member who registers for the IACME Fall Meeting at the non-member registration rate (\$400 for MEs; \$350 for MEIs) will receive a free 2020 IACME membership.

As a member next year, you will be able to attend the 2020 IACME Fall Meeting at the member rate

If you have questions about this special membership incentive plan, call Chris Sutton at 515.212.9685 or email her at iacmeservices@gmail.com.

Due to confidentiality concerns, video or audio recording any portion of IACME Fall Meeting presentations is strictly prohibited.

Drew Peterson: The Case that Shocked America

Drew Peterson, a Bolingbrook, Illinois police sergeant, first burst into the national spotlight in 2007 when his fourth wife Stacy—who was 30 years his junior—mysteriously disappeared. In the wake of her disappearance, authorities took a closer look at the death of Peterson’s third wife Kathleen Savio, who had been found dead in a dry bathtub three years earlier.

Savio was a victim of domestic violence throughout her marriage to Peterson. When the couple separated and divorced, she confided to several people that her estranged husband would “kill me and make it look like an accident.” Her prediction proved sadly true when the first autopsy done on Savio ruled her death as accidental.

However, the disappearance of fourth wife Stacy, combined with Savio’s death three years earlier, focused new suspicion on Peterson. Savio’s body was exhumed and, in late 2007, a new autopsy was conducted by Larry Blum, MD, our banquet speaker. Dr. Blum ruled the death as a homicide; Peterson was indicted in May of 2009 for the murder of Kathleen Savio and jailed to await trial.



The dramatic circumstances of the case, amplified by Peterson’s flamboyant narcissism and outrageous behavior during the months before his incarceration, drew national and international media coverage of his arrest and trial. Peterson even hired a publicist, sought constant media attention and appeared on numerous media outlets including the Larry King show.

Dr. Blum’s testimony in Peterson’s trial was a crucial factor in the guilty verdict, and Peterson was sentenced to 38 years in prison. An additional 40 years was added to his sentence in 2015 when he attempted to hire a hit man to kill State’s Attorney James Glasgow, the leading prosecutor in his murder trial.

Stacy Peterson’s body has never been found and Peterson has not been charged in her disappearance.

Our speaker

Larry Blum, MD was Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois Medical School (Rockford branch) in the area of forensic pathology and neuropathology. Since his retirement in 2015, Dr Blum has been a Forensic Pathologist Consultant. According to a 2014 article in the *Rockford (Illinois)*

Register Star, Dr. Blum has performed more than 10,000 autopsies, 10 percent of which were homicides. His expert opinion has been



largely sought by prosecutors, but defense attorneys occasionally call on him. His findings and testimony helped to clear Ryan Ferguson, a high school student convicted of killing a sports editor in Columbia, Missouri and another young man wrongly accused of killing his girlfriend in 1997. Dr. Blum has been featured in episodes of *Forensic Files*, a documentary series that reveals how forensic science is used to solve crimes.

The Friday evening IACME reception and banquet are free for meeting registrants. The charge for a guest is \$65. Both the online registration form and the printable registration form ask if you will attend the reception and banquet and if you plan to bring guests.

ME 101—Death Investigation Basics



Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH



Jessica Jessen, F-ABMDI

ME-101 is designed for new MEs and MEIs or anyone who wants a refresher course in death investigation. ME-101 is taught by Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH and Jessica Jessen, FD, F-ABMDI. You must be registered for the IACME Fall Meeting to attend this course.

Topics covered include: common methods of forensic death investigation, death scene procedure, understanding basic death scene practices, identifying deaths that come under medical examiner jurisdiction, the importance and processes of decedent identification and the Electronic Medical Examiner Reporting (EMER-ME1) process.

To register, check the ME-101 box on the interactive registration form in the Fall Meeting section of the IACME web site, www.iacountyme.org.

Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH is an Associate State Medical Examiner at the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner. She is board certified in anatomic, clinical and forensic pathology. She is a board member with the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners.

Jessica Jessen, FD, F-ABMDI is the Medical Examiner Investigator Liaison Officer with the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner. She is board certified by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators and serves as a County Medical Examiner Investigator.

Protecting Ancient Human Remains in Iowa: Purposes, Laws and Processes

Bioarchaeologists are deeply aware that they are handling what was once a living person. They are speakers for the dead, giving a voice to those whose stories might otherwise be lost to history.

The mission of the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) is to preserve knowledge of Iowa's human past through Midwestern and Plains archaeological research, scientific discovery, public stewardship and education. The OSA also preserves ancient burial sites and examines and reinters ancient human remains.



Lara Noldner, PhD

This presentation will cover who to contact if reported human remains are determined to be ancient, proper procedures to preserve contextual/archaeological integrity of ancient remains and procedures for handling and transferring ancient human remains to the OSA.

Lara K. Noldner, PhD is Bioarchaeology Director with the Office of the State Archaeologist at the University of Iowa. Her duties include supervising and directing all activities pertaining to ancient human remains and burial sites in Iowa. In consultation with the State Archaeologist, she maintains compliance with state and federal legislation regarding human remains. She holds certifications from the National Preservation Institute Seminars and has contributed to the Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society and to several books on ancient Native American remains.

Investigating Fatal Fires



John Kraemer, MHS, CPM

In Iowa and nationally, over 80 percent of fire fatalities are due to home fires. Home fires can spread rapidly and leave families as little as two minutes to escape after an alarm sounds.

There were 41 fire fatalities in Iowa last year; in 2017, there were 56 Iowa fire fatalities. In many of these cases, there was no properly working smoke detector in the home.

Deaths caused by fires are not uncommon in forensic practice but can be among the most difficult cases to investigate. Important scene evidence is often destroyed in the conflagration, and all or part of the body under investigation can also be destroyed. In addition, the scene is often drastically altered by firefighters attempting to save lives and property.

This presentation will cover basic fire behavior and how to apply fire and arson investigation principles. It will also provide a review of burn/thermal/blast injuries and their application to investigations. Attendees will learn how to properly care for decedents at the scene of a fire and how to perform death investigation techniques at the scene.

John Kraemer, MHS, BS, CPM is Bureau Chief for the Fire Service Training Bureau within the Division of the State Fire Marshal. Over the past 17 years, he has served in many leadership roles within the fire and emergency medical services. Before joining the State Fire Marshal's Office, he spent 18 years as Director of Forensic Operations with the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner (IOSME).

The Importance of Autopsy Data to Trauma Programs

Medical examiners and medical examiner investigators play a vital role in development of a standardized trauma system that can efficiently handle multiple causes of injury and death.

This presentation will cover why accurate autopsy data is important to trauma centers. Attendees will gain a basic understanding of trauma registries, understand how trauma registrars determine the probability of victim survival and learn how to properly document autopsy findings.

Gregory A. Schmunk, MD has been Polk County Chief Medical Examiner since 2004. He serves on the IACME Board of Directors, is a past president of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and has served on the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigation (ABMDI) since 2006. He has performed over 5,200 forensic examinations, including 470 homicides in Washington, California, Wisconsin and Iowa.



Gregory Schmunk, MD

The Pathology of Mass Disasters

The 9/11 Pentagon attack and the I-35W Bridge Collapse



Andrew Baker, MD

American Airlines Flight 77 was hijacked on September 11, 2001 by five terrorists who deliberately crashed the airplane into the west side of the Pentagon. All 64 people on board were killed, as well as 125 people in the Pentagon. A portion of the building collapsed, and firefighters worked several days to extinguish a large fire.

The I-35 Mississippi River bridge was an eight-lane steel arch bridge that carried Interstate 35W across the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. On August 1, 2007, the bridge had a catastrophic fail during evening rush hour, killing 13 people and injuring 145.

The forensic pathologist has a central role in identification of the dead in accidents or disasters involving multiple victims, some injured beyond recognition. Advances in forensic, odontology, genetics and anthropology have improved the chances of identifying victims. This presentation will cover the strengths and weaknesses of methods used to identify human remains and the added challenges when the disaster is the result of terrorist activity, and highlight the interaction between agencies when investigating a transportation-related mass fatality.

Andrew Baker, MD is Chief Medical Examiner for Hennepin, Dakota and Scott Counties in Minnesota. He received his MD degree from the University of Iowa and served as a Major in the US Air Force and Medical Examiner for the Department of Defense before returning to the Midwest. He regularly speaks at the local and national levels about death investigation and forensic pathology.

Crime Scene Processing and the DCI Crime Lab

Experienced crime scene officers know that the key to doing the job well is protecting the crime scene. This means securing the scene, limiting access to only essential personnel and keeping accurate and complete records of everything that happens at the scene. In some cases, preventing contamination of a crime scene can be especially tricky. If there is a victim at the scene, there may be multiple first responders tending to the victim who leave behind fingerprints, footprints or even DNA.



Gary Licht

This presentation will cover key points of crime scene processing, how a crime scene team approaches and processes a scene and an examination of actions taken prior to the scene being declared a potential homicide scene. Attendees will also learn how to proactively retain items for potential use by a crime lab.

Gary Licht is a Criminalist Supervisor and Questioned Document Examiner with the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) in Ankeny. He has received specialized training in forensic examination of charred and watersoaked documents, simulated signatures and footwear impressions. He is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and has testified over 90 times in courts and depositions in Iowa and Florida.

Pediatric Asphyxial Deaths



Andrew Baker, MD

A wide range of accidental, inflicted and natural conditions can cause fatal asphyxia in infants and young children, and investigating possible asphyxial death in infants and children poses numerous challenges.

Since autopsy findings may be minimal and nonspecific, proper recognition of the cause of death in many cases involving infants and young children will rest heavily on the history and scene investigation. Though presumably rare, intentional asphyxiation of infants in most

cases remains almost impossible to distinguish from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) or accidental asphyxiation such as sleeping accidents.

This presentation will cover the components of a thorough pediatric death investigation, the limits of a postmortem examination in confirming or refuting an asphyxial death, the importance of scene re-enactment in infant deaths and the features of intentional asphyxia in infant and small child deaths.

Andrew Baker, MD is Chief Medical Examiner for Hennepin, Dakota and Scott Counties in Minnesota. He received his MD degree from the University of Iowa and served as a Major in the US Air Force and Medical Examiner for the Department of Defense before returning to the Midwest.

Death Scene Photography— Practices, Procedures and Pointers

The purpose of death scene photography is providing a true and accurate record of the death scene. No matter how well an investigator verbally describes a scene, a photograph freezes time, records evidence and tells the story more effectively. This presentation will cover how to use basic knowledge of photography to document death scenes, recognizing the importance of scene photography, determining the types of photographs that should be taken at all death scenes and how to determine what additional photographs are appropriate in different case scenarios.

Kip Ladage, MEI has been a Medical Examiner Investigator for Bremer County for 15 years and also provides investigative assistance to Fayette and Butler Counties. His passion is wildlife and outdoor photography. His photographs have been used around the world in books, magazines and video productions.



Kip Ladage, MEI

Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH is an Associate State Medical Examiner at the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner. She is board certified in anatomic, clinical and forensic pathology. She is a board member with the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners.



Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH

Iowa's State Medical Examiner System Annual Update and Future Outlook



It's been another eventful year for the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner.

In this presentation, attendees will be updated on staff changes and other administrative developments at IOSME, in addition to facility and equipment improvements.

The presentation will also cover the need for accurate and timely submission of death investigation information and the value of ordering autopsies in suicide cases and cases of a suspected overdose.

Finally, the presentation will inform attendees about current trends in causes and manners of death in Iowa.

Dennis Klein, MD is Iowa Chief State Medical Examiner, Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor with the University of Iowa School of Medicine and Adjunct Associate Professor of Forensic Pathology with Des Moines University in Des Moines. He is a diplomate for the American Board of Pathology in anatomic, clinical and forensic pathology. He received his MD from the University of Vermont College of Medicine. He completed a residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston and fellowships in forensic pathology at state medical examiner offices in Massachusetts and New Mexico. Dr. Klein serves on the IACME Board of Directors and is IACME Program Chair.

Iowa Case Studies

Note: A session on Iowa Case Studies was presented for the first time at the 2018 IACME Fall Meeting as part of a dual track session. The presentation was very well-received by attendees and will be a general session this year.

For death investigators, case studies are a valuable teaching tool because they demonstrate how knowledge and theory are applied. They present an opportunity to learn by evaluating the actions of death investigators in an actual case. What was done correctly? What could have been done better? What does the case teach us that we can use in future cases? In this session, actual Iowa cases submitted by IACME members will be presented and discussed.

This presentation will help attendees identify suspicious findings that would prompt an autopsy order, describe proper procedures in forensic pathology cases and review best practices in body, scene and evidence examinations.



Dennis Klein, MD