

A webinar for Iowa Death Investigators

IACME

FALL MEETING WEBINAR

“The safety of our members is a primary concern in this pandemic and motivated our decision to have a webinar this year rather than an in-person conference. While the format has changed, the quality of education offered by IACME has not. I urge you all to participate.”

Kevin Locke, MD
IACME President

Friday and Saturday
NOVEMBER 6-7, 2020

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IOWA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Friday, November 6

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| 8:15 a.m. | Welcome IACME President Kevin Locke, MD |
| 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. | Radiological Safety for Medical Examiners Angela Leek |
| 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. | Investigating Explosion Fatalities John Kraemer, MHS, CPM |
| 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. | Break |
| 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. | Toxicology Trends/Best Practices in Forensic Toxicology Sherri Kacinko, PhD |
| 11:45 - 12:30 p.m. | Iowa Violent Death Reporting System Lisa Roth |
| 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. | Lunch Break |
| 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. | Pediatric Abuse Joshua Akers, MD |
| 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. | Motor Vehicle/Pedestrian Fatalities Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH |
| 3:00 - 3:15 p.m. | Break |
| 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. | COVID 19 Death Certification Marcus Nashelsky, MD and Robert Anderson, PhD |
| 4:15 - 5:15 p.m. | Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner Update Dennis Klein, MD |
| 5:15 p.m. | Conclusion Dr. Locke |

Saturday, November 7

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| 8:15 a.m. | Welcome IACME President Kevin Locke, MD |
| 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. | ME-101—Death Investigation Basics Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH and Mark Bethel, F-ABMDI |
| 11:30 a.m. | Conclusion Dr. Locke |

Who should participate?

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.

Registration fees

Friday, Nov, 6 and Saturday,
Nov. 7 presentations — \$100

or

Saturday only (ME-101)— \$50

Joining the webinar

The week before the webinar, we will email a link to the webinar to the email address you provide on your registration form. We will also email instructions on how to download necessary applications.

Meeting materials

After you register and pay for the webinar, we will email you a meeting schedule, the Meeting Evaluation/speaker objectives form, ME and MEI participation/attendance forms.

Please print the Meeting Evaluation/ Speaker Objectives form ahead of time so you have it when the webinar begins.

Accessing speaker handouts

Fall Meeting speaker handouts will be available on the IACME web site a few days before the webinar.

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.

Please be advised that, due to legal and confidentiality concerns, not all speakers are able to provide their complete power point presentations for posting on our web site.

Cancellation policy

If you cancel by Wednesday, Nov. 4, you will receive a full refund minus a \$25 administrative fee.

Recording prohibition

Due to legal and privacy concerns, audio or video recording of any portion of the IACME Death Investigators Webinar is strictly prohibited.

How to register for the IACME webinar

There are two ways to register for the IACME Death Investigators Webinar

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 or email her at iacmeservices@gmail.com.
2. Complete the printable registration form (attached to this brochure and posted in the Fall Meeting section of the web site). Mail it, with your check, to: IACME, PO Box 274, Boone, IA 50036.

In compliance with the IMS Standards for Commercial Support of Continuing Medical Education, sponsors have not controlled or influenced any aspect of this educational program.

Radiological Safety for Medical Examiners



A radiological or nuclear emergency, including the detonation of a nuclear weapon or radiological dispersal device, a reactor or transportation accident, or even a non-emergency death after a procedure involving radioactive materials, could result in radioactively contaminated decedents.

This presentation will increase radiation

awareness and safety for medical examiners in various aspects of their daily work, and increase knowledge of radiation related incidents in mass casualties. The presentation will cover potential routine interactions with radiation, basic radiation safety principles and managing various types of potential radiation incidents.

Presenter: Angela Leek



Angela Leek is Radiological Health Bureau Chief with the Iowa Department of Public Health, a position she has held since 2013. She is responsible for oversight of staff and development of nuclear and radiological related guidance for industry, responders and the public to protect the public and workers from unnecessary radiation exposure. She studied radiologic technology

at the University of Iowa and has a bachelors degree in business management from William Penn University. She has a Master of Science and Radiation Health Physics from Oregon State University.

Investigating Explosion Deaths



As was tragically illustrated with the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, the investigation conducted at the scene of an explosion or bombing plays a vital role in uncovering the truth about the incident. The evidence recovered can be critical in identifying, charging and ultimately convicting suspected

criminals. For this reason, it is absolutely essential that the evidence be collected in a professional manner that will yield successful laboratory analyses. One way of ensuring that investigators obtain evidence of the highest quality and utility is to follow sound protocols.

Presenter: John Kraemer, MHS, BS, CPM



John Kraemer, MHS, BS, CPM is Chief of the Fire Service Training Bureau with 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. He is a certified fire investigator for the State of Iowa. Before joining the State Fire Marshal's Office, he was Director of Forensic Operations with the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner (IOSME).

Toxicology Trends—Best Practices in Forensic Toxicology



The scope of forensic toxicology has expanded tremendously over the past 40 years. As the field of forensic toxicology expands and improves, death investigators face multiple challenges, such as the emergence of new drugs, different standards among

laboratories and discrepancies in interpretation of toxicological findings. New psychoactive substances (NPS) are the constant center of attention in all areas of forensic toxicology, including drug testing. Owing to the constant influx of new drugs and the lack of reference standards, detection and quantification of NPSs in biological fluids are significant challenges.

Presenter: Sherri Kacinko, PhD



Sherri Kacinko, PhD is a toxicologist at NMS Labs and adjunct professor at the Community College of Philadelphia and Arcadia University Department of Chemistry. She earned a PhD in toxicology from the University of Maryland and is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to arriving at NMS Labs, Dr. Kacinko worked for the National Institute on Drug abuse and the Florida Department of Law

Enforcement as a forensic chemist. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology.

Iowa Violent Death Reporting System



Iowa's Violent Death Reporting System (IAVDRS) is funded by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention to collect data on violent deaths for the National Violent Death Reporting System. IAVDRS gathers information on cause of death and contributing circumstances, and enters it into a national database.

Statewide data collection began in 2016. Through a contract with the University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center, data are abstracted and uploaded to the web-based surveillance system. Key partners include the IDPH Bureau of Vital Statistics, Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner and the Iowa Department of Public Safety.

Presenter: Lisa Roth



Lisa Roth is Deputy Director of the University of Iowa's Injury Prevention Research Center (UIIPRC). She has more than 20 years of experience in the field of public health and injury prevention. In her role as Deputy Director, she oversees outreach activities and community collaborations. She is the project coordinator for the IAVDRS system and manages the data abstraction and analysis.

Pediatric Abuse



Every day in America, four children die of child abuse and neglect. Over 70 percent of child abuse victims are under age three: boys and girls become victims at nearly the same rate. Nearly three million cases of suspected child abuse are reported every year in the United States.

Pediatric abuse is a difficult topic that causes many misconceptions. This presentation will cover common injuries due to child abuse, the physiology of child abuse injuries and injuries that can mimic child abuse. It will also cover the need for full autopsies and thorough investigation of suspected child abuse.

Presenter: Joshua Akers, MD



Joshua Akers, MD has served as Polk County Chief Medical Examiner since early 2020 and was formerly assistant Polk County Medical Examiner. He has a BS degree in biology from Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. He earned his MD from American University of the Caribbean and completed a residency in anatomic and clinical pathology with the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

He created a Pathology Interest Group for Des Moines University with the goal of introducing medical students to topics in pathology and forensic pathology.

Motor Vehicle and Pedestrian Fatalities



Motor vehicle and pedestrian fatalities are commonly encountered at the medical examiner's office. Information an investigator provides from a death scene can significantly enhance interpretation of injury patterns identified at autopsy.

Presentation participants should be able to recognize common injury patterns seen in these cases and have an understanding of what information should be gathered during a scene investigation.

Presenter: Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH



Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH is an Associate State Medical Examiner at the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner. She earned her MD and master of public health degrees from Saint George's University in Grenada, West Indies, and a BS in anthropology from Tulane University in New Orleans, LA. She is board certified in anatomic, clinical and forensic pathology. She is a member

of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and a board member with the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners.

COVID 19 Death Certification



Data from death certificates are used to track mortality trends and improve public health. Everyone agrees that accurate COVID-19 death certification is vital if we are to understand the extent and progression of the virus, who is dying, where they live and their associated medical conditions.

According to an introduction to a recent *JAMA* article, “Public health mortality data are only as good as the quality of death certificates, but proper death certification has been a long-standing challenge in the United States. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted shortcomings that may compromise an accurate count of COVID-19 deaths.”

According to an article titled **‘Which Deaths Count?’** published in the *Washington Post*, “Inconsistent counting methods also raise questions about the ability to draw comparisons from state to state, and they play into a political debate about the reliability of the numbers.” This presentation will cover the importance of information reported on death certificates, understanding how the cause of death should be reported, methods for improving the accuracy of COVID-19 death certificates and entering correct medical information for Parts 1 and 2 of a death certificate.

Presenters: Marcus Nashelsky, MD and Robert Anderson, PhD



Marcus Nashelsky, MD is a Clinical Professor of Pathology with University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, and has been an Assistant State Medical Examiner since 2003. He is certified in anatomic and clinical pathology and forensic pathology by the American Board of Pathology. He served as President of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) in 2015 and is a past board member with the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners.



Robert Anderson, PhD is Chief Statistician, Mortality Statistics Branch, Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a post he has held since 2004. He earned his PhD in demography and sociology with a statistics minor from The Pennsylvania State University. He has published articles in numerous scientific journals and is a frequent presenter at professional meetings, workshops and seminars in America and internationally.

Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner Annual Update



IOSME Update is an annual feature of the IACME Fall Meeting. This presentation provides county medical examiners and medical examiner investigators training in the latest policies and procedures in performing medicolegal death investigations.

Participants will be able to appreciate the importance of timely and accurate completion of death

investigation reports, understand the value in standardized language in death certification and prepare for updates and improvements in electronic reporting of deaths.

Presenter: Dennis Klein, MD



Dennis Klein, MD is Iowa Chief State Medical Examiner. 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 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.

ME 101—Death Investigation Basics

ME-101 is designed as an orientation for new MEs and MEIs and continuing education for existing MEs and MEIs. 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.

Presenters: Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH and Mark Bethel, F-ABMDI



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 member of the National Association of Medical Examiners and a board member with the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners.



Mark Bethel, F-ABMDI has been Marshall County Medical Examiner Investigator since 2000 and Story County MEI since 2020. He serves on the staff of the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner. Mark is a graduate of the Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Wheeling, Illinois and is Board Certified by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators.