

2019 IACME Fall Meeting and Education Expo November 1-2, 2019, West Des Moines Marriott

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES (alphabetical order)

Andrew Baker, MD

Andrew Baker, MD is the Chief Medical Examiner for Hennepin, Dakota and Scott counties in Minnesota. Dr. Baker received his BS. and MD degrees from the University of Iowa, completed his pathology residency at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and trained in forensic pathology in Hennepin County.

He served as a Major in the U.S. Air Force and a medical examiner for the Department of Defense, before returning to the Midwest. Dr. Baker has served as the president and chair of the board of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME), and as chair of NAME's Standards Committee. He is also active in the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the Forensic Pathology Committee of the College of American Pathologists. He is an Assistant Professor (adjunct) in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the University of Minnesota. He is Board Certified in forensic pathology and anatomic and clinical pathology.

Dr. Baker regularly speaks at the local, regional and national levels about death investigation and forensic pathology. He is on the editorial board of Academic Forensic Pathology (the official publication of NAME) and serves as an ad hoc editor for the Journal of Forensic Sciences. His awards include NAME's Outstanding Service Award, and Star Performer and Champions of Change Awards from Hennepin County.

Larry Blum, MD

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. Dr. Blum is a native of Rockford, Illinois. He earned his BS degree from Loras College in Dubuque and his MD degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He holds Anatomic, Clinical and Forensic certifications from the American Board of Pathology.

Dr. Blum was thrust into the public limelight in 2007 when he was asked to conduct a second autopsy on Drew Peterson's third wife Kathleen Savio. He ruled the cause of death as drowning by homicide, reversing an earlier ruling that Savio's death was accidental. Peterson was later charged and convicted of Savio's murder.

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-style series that reveals how forensic science is used to solve violent crimes.

Jessica Jessen, FD, F-ABMDI

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. She earned her undergraduate BS and BA degrees from the University of Iowa. She completed the Mortuary Science Program at Des Moines Area Community College and currently holds a license as an Iowa Funeral Director. She is a member of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and Iowa Mortuary Operational Response Team (IMORT).

Dennis Klein, MD, Iowa Chief State Medical Examiner

Dennis Klein, MD is Iowa Chief State Medical Examiner and formerly served as Deputy Chief State Medical Examiner. He is an 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 degree 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 is a member of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and serves on the IACME Board of Directors. He is IACME Program Chair.

John Kraemer, MHS, BS, CPM

John Kraemer, MHS, BS, CPM is Bureau Chief for the Fire Service Training Bureau within the Division of State Fire Marshal. Over the past 17 years, Mr. Kraemer has served in many leadership roles within the fire and emergency medical services, including lieutenant, training officer, paramedic and fire investigator for the Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan Fire Department. He holds multiple fire and EMS certifications and is currently an adjunct assistant professor for the Mercy College of Health Science EMS program.

Before joining the State Fire Marshal's Office, Mr. Kraemer spent 18 years as Director of Forensic Operations with the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner (IOSME). In that position, he oversaw medicolegal death investigations, provided outreach education and training to Iowa's county medical examiner offices and acted as the IOSME Public Information Officer. He earned his BS degree from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and his Master of Health Sciences degree from Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut. In June of this year, he completed the Certified Public Manager Program at Drake University in Des Moines.

Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH

Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH is an Associate State Medical Examiner at the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner. She is an Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa, a Clinical Instructor with Des Moines University, and an Adjunct Instructor at Des Moines Area Community College. She is board certified in anatomic, clinical, and forensic pathology. She completed a residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, NJ and a fellowship in forensic pathology at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore, MD. 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. Dr. Kruse is also a member of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and a board member of the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners (IACME).

Kip Ladage, MEI

Kip Ladage, MEI has been a Medical Examiner Investigator for Bremer County for nearly 15-years and provides investigative assistance to Fayette and Butler Counties. Kip is a member of the IMORT team.

Kip is the Bremer County Emergency Management Coordinator, serving in that capacity since 2003. When not working as an MEI or EMA coordinator, he is an EMS provider with nearly 40-years of experience. He is currently the director of Tripoli EMS and an associate member for Readlyn and Frederika EMS agencies.

Kip's passion is wildlife/outdoor photography. His photography work has been used around the world in books, magazines and video productions including working with the BBC and Discovery Channel. He has been featured twice on Iowa Public Television's series "Iowa Outdoors." Kip's passion for the outdoors includes leading numerous wilderness backpacking and paddling trips and solo adventures.

Gary Licht

Gary Licht is a Questioned Document Examiner and Criminalist Supervisor with the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) in Ankeny, a position he has held since 1994. He has a BS degree in zoology from Iowa State University and an MS degree in biology from Florida State University in Tallahassee. He has received specialized training in forensic examination of questioned, charred and watersoaked documents, skillfully simulated signatures, digital image layers, fibers and textiles and footwear impressions.

He holds a certification from the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners and is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the Scientific Working Group for Forensic Document Examinations. He has testified over 90 times in courts and depositions in Iowa and Florida. His lecture experience includes basic preservation and evidence collection at crime scenes, crime scene contamination and documentation and forensic science overview and evidence

packaging. He has done numerous presentations to the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and other organizations. These presentations include *Decision Making when Dealing with Blood Soaked Documents*, *Handwritten Documents as the Only Remaining Physical Evidence Linking a Person to Five Homicides* and *Common Chemicals for Common Criminals—Check Washing*.

Lara K. Noldner, PhD

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.

Dr. Noldner earned her BA degree in anthropology from the University of Wyoming. She earned her MS and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in evolutionary anthropology from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Before coming to Iowa, she worked as Curator's Assistant at the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology in New Mexico, as Archaeologist and Field Technician with the University of New Mexico and as Archaeology Lab Analyst with the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Cortez, Colorado. She joined the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist in 2014 and is also an adjunct assistant professor with the UI Anthropology Department.

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.

Gregory A. Schmunk, MD

Gregory A. Schmunk was born in Mansfield, Ohio and grew up in San Diego, CA. He attended college at the University of CA, San Diego where he graduated Magna cum Laude with a major in Biology with concentration areas in Biochemistry and Cell Biology. He attended Jefferson Medical College for two years and then graduated in 1983 from the University of Southern California School of Medicine. He spent a brief time as a pediatrics resident at Children's Hospital, Los Angeles but was then offered a post-doctoral fellowship at UCSD working in molecular genetics, immunology, and gene cloning, where he spent several years. He then completed two years of residency in Anatomic Pathology at the University of Washington, Seattle and then entered the fellowship program in Forensic Pathology at the King County Medical Examiner's Office in Seattle, WA where he spent one year as an Assistant Medical Examiner. Since his fellowship, he has served as a forensic pathologist with Northern California Forensic Pathology, a private medical corporation which provides forensic pathology services to Sacramento County, CA, from 1989-1994. He was then Chief Medical Examiner for Brown and Door Counties in Green Bay, Wisconsin from 1994-1999, Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner for Santa Clara County (San Jose, CA) from 1999-2004, Chief Forensic Pathologist for the Stanislaus Co. (Modesto, CA) Coroner in 2004 and has been Chief Medical Examiner for Polk Co. (Des Moines, IA) since August, 2004.

His fields of interest include wound pattern interpretation, child abuse, and firearm injuries. He is certified by the American Board of Pathology in Anatomic and Forensic Pathology. He sits on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. He was Secretary-Treasurer of NAME for two years and was elected to the position of Vice President in 2012 and President in 2013. He is a Fellow of both NAME and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigation (ABMDI) and currently sits on their Board of Directors.

He has testified over 500 times in the Superior and Municipal Courts of Wisconsin, California, Washington and Iowa and has testified before the CA State Senate Subcommittee on the Judiciary on matters of child homicide. He has performed over 6,200 forensic autopsies, including over 535 homicides, and additionally has performed over 120 hospital autopsies. He has performed private practice consultations for the prosecution, plaintiffs and defendants in multiple criminal and civil cases. He has been a technical advisor to *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* (CBS), *Bones* (FOX) and *Rizzoli & Isles* (TNT), *Lucifer* (FOX), *Rosewood* (FOX) and *The Blacklist* (NBC) and has consulted for *Vanished*, *Killer Instinct*, *Notorius* and *Traveler*.

Greg lives in the Des Moines area with his wife and two daughters. In his off hours he enjoys road bicycling and fine wines. He is also certified as an advanced open water diver and has completed multiple dives in Australia, Hawaii and Aruba.