

2021 IACME Fall Meeting and Education Expo November 5-6, 2021, West Des Moines Marriott

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES (alphabetical order)

Mark Bethel, FD, F-ABMDI , (ME-101)

Mark Bethel, FD, F-ABMDI is a Medical Examiner Investigator Liaison Officer with the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators and serves as a County Medical Examiner Investigator. He is a graduate of Marshalltown Community College and the Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Wheeling, Illinois. He grew up in Marshall County, Iowa, where he has served as an ME-I for the past 21 years and has conducted well over 1,500 scene investigations. He is a member of the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners (IACME) and the Iowa Mortuary Operational Response Team (IMORT.)

Abby Collier, MS (Sleep-related Deaths in Infants)

Abby Collier is Director at the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention (National Center), a program of the Michigan Public Health Institute. In this role, Ms. Collier leads National Center in providing technical assistance and supporting to local and state child death review (CDR) and fetal infant mortality review (FIMR) programs throughout the United States. One of her focus areas is building collaboration between CDR and FIMR. Ms. Collier provides training on a variety of topics including improving death scene investigations, best practices for CDR and FIMR reviews, self-care and vicarious trauma, writing prevention recommendations, implementing evidence-based recommendations, advocacy, and engaging partners.

Prior to joining the staff at the National Center, Ms. Collier worked in Wisconsin's fetal, infant and child death review program. During the eight years she worked in the program it grew from a handful of CDR teams to a robust statewide system. Additionally, Wisconsin was one of the first states to focus on enhancing collaboration between CDR and FIMR. Ms. Collier worked on a number of policy and legislative issues during her time in Wisconsin. Ms. Collier has a master's degree in counseling with an emphasis in working with minority populations. Before joining the public health workforce, Ms. Collier worked in the Wisconsin prison system providing substance abuse and mental health counseling and referrals.

Jonathan Davis, PhD (Iowa Violent Death Reporting System Update/Homicide Data)

Jonathan Davis is Research Assistant Professor with the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of Iowa. He has a BS in chemistry from the University of Michigan, an MS in occupational and environment health science from Wayne State University in Detroit and a PhD in epidemiology From the University of Iowa College of Public Health. As part of his postdoctoral appointment, he has helped develop methods for student research and projects associated with the Injury Prevention Research Center and mentored student research projects. He has been a guest lecturer on injury prevention, injury epidemiology, occupational health and agriculture safety and health. He has co-authored articles in numerous professional journals on pediatric fall-related injuries, work-related suicides, in-hospital falls and other topics.

Joan Hanlon (Special DNA Class; 23 & MEs How an Iowa Family's DNA Solved a Colorado Murder)

Joan Hanlon is a licensed private detective and Investigative Genetic Genealogist for United Data Connect, a Denver company founded by former Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey. In addition to Investigative Genetic Genealogy, the company also provides familial DNA searching, a valuable investigative tool used in criminal investigations or situations that involve national security. Joan is also a volunteer with the DNADoeProject.org, an organization dedicated to identifying John and Jane Does using genetic genealogy. Her passion for DNA began in the early days of consumer DNA testing. The love of data and relationships drew her to database programming as a career. The stories behind the data led her to study genealogy at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. In the past several years, she has been involved in numerous high profile cold cases solved using Investigative Genetic Genealogy.

Three years ago, the DNA Doe Project reached out to her for assistance with a John Doe who matched a great-nephew whose DNA file she managed. Assisting in that research proved to be just the focus she needed after the death of her son in 2006 from an undetermined cause. She obtained her Private Investigator license in Colorado and joined former Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey at United Data Connect, to solve crimes using DNA and genealogy. Since then she has helped solve murders, sexual assaults, baby abandonment cases across the country, and identified a 1993 Colorado Jane Doe. Her skills with Investigative Genetic Genealogy led to the identification of the murderer in a 1963 cold case. She still assists the DNA Doe Project on a volunteer basis.

Stephen Holmes, PhD (Suicides: Theory, Practice and Investigation)

Dr. Stephen Holmes is Associate Professor in the College of Health and Public Affairs at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, a post he has held since 1997. He has a BS degree in Justice Administration and an MA degree in sociology, both from the University of Louisville. He has a PhD in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati. He has authored or co-authored a number of textbooks including **Introduction to Data Analysis for Criminal Justice** (2021), **The Hidden World of the Sex Offender** (2018), **Fatal Violence: Case Studies and Analysis of Emerging Forms** (2010), **Serial Murder** (2009), **Profiling Violent Crimes** (2008) and **Practical Suicide Investigations** (2005).

Dr. Holmes has given presentations to the American Society of Criminology in Washington, DC; the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Conference in New Orleans; the International Conference of the Korean National Police Academy in Seoul, South Korea; the National Institute of Justice in Washington, DC and numerous other national and international organizations. Dr. Holmes is a reviewer for a number of professional journals including the *Journal of Classical Sociology*, the *American Journal of Police*, the *American Journal of Criminal Justice* and the *International Journal of Police Practice and Management*. At the University of Central Florida, he has taught classes in the Criminal Justice System, the History and Philosophy of Criminal Justice, Policing in the Twentieth Century, and Police and Society. He is a member of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the American Society of Criminology, the Southern Criminal Justice Association and the Italian Investigative Psychology Association.

Jessica Jessen, FD, F-ABMDI (ME-101)

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 (IOSME Update)

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. 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.

Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH (ME-101)

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, after completing 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 doctor of medicine and master of public health degrees from Saint George's University in Grenada, West Indies, and a bachelor of science in anthropology from Tulane University in New Orleans, LA. Dr. Kruse is also a fellow of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and a board member of the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners (IACME).

Natalie Oakes (ME-101)

Natalie has worked at Iowa Donor Network (IDN) for seven years. She began her career at IDN as a Recovery Specialist working to facilitate the recovery process to honor the gift of donation. Currently as a Professional Outreach Coordinator, she covers 27 counties and 25 hospitals, providing education and resources to hospitals and out of hospital agencies about organ, tissue and eye donation. Natalie is a big advocate for tissue and organ donation as she has an uncle that received a Kidney Transplant 2 years ago and lost a very good friend in a motor vehicle accident that was able to be a tissue donor. Natalie is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, where she received a BA in exercise science and biology. After graduation, Natalie began her career at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics working on the oncology floor and later working in kidney dialysis. From there, she made a change in her career and began working for TITLE Boxing Club as the business manager. During her time there, Natalie took on the ownership role, managing and growing the business.

Caitlin Pedati, MD (State Epidemiology: Lessons Learned and Future Applications)

Caitlin Pedati is the Medical Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, where she serves as a medical advisor to the department, medical professionals and the public. Dr. Pedati is also the state epidemiologist. Dr. Pedati grew up in the Northern Virginia area and attended Georgetown University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Sciences and a Certificate in Population Health. She earned her medical doctorate and a master's degree in public health with a focus on epidemiology through a dual degree program at The George Washington University. Dr. Pedati is a board-certified pediatrician and completed a residency with a certificate in Global Child Health at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. After seeing common health problems among her patients, and driven by a desire to have a broader impact, she joined the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service which, for the first time in her life, took her west of the Mississippi River to Nebraska. She served as a medical epidemiologist for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services prior to joining the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Wendy Ringgenberg, PhD, MPH (Iowa Violent Death Reporting System Update/Homicide Data)

Wendy joined the University of Iowa in May 2021 as Iowa's Health Records Abstractor for the Violent Death Reporting System. Previously she worked as a certified industrial hygienist for a private company keeping people safe at work. She holds an MS in occupational and environmental health from the University of Iowa, a master's in public health from the University of Massachusetts and a PhD in educational leadership and policy studies from Iowa State University. Wendy has been a member of the Homicide Research Working Group since 2014 and chaired the Richard Block Award for outstanding student research for the past two years. She is a member and past president of the Iowa Public Health Association. She has been a member of the International Homicide Investigators Association as a student of criminal justice.

Jacob Smith, MD (Things Aren't Always as They Appear—When a Suicide Becomes a Homicide)

Jacob Smith, MD is Associate State Medical Examiner with the IOSME, joining the staff July 1. Dr. Smith earned his BS degree from Brigham Young University in Provo, UT and his MD from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. He completed a residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin and a forensic pathology fellowship at the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office. He served as Assistant Medical Examiner at the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office from 2015-2021. From 2015-2020, he served as instructor and court coordinator in Medicolegal Death Investigation at the University of Wisconsin. He has been a speaker at Forensic Science Seminars and the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) Annual Meeting.

Jonathan Thompson, MD, Deputy State Medical Examiner (Environmental-Related Deaths)

Jonathan Thompson, MD joined the staff of the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner in 2008 and serves as Deputy State Medical Examiner. He came to IOSME from the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's office in Minneapolis, where he worked as Assistant Medical Examiner. Dr. Thompson earned his medical degree at the University of Iowa School of Medicine and completed a pathology residency at the University of Minnesota Medical Center. He completed a forensic pathology fellowship with the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office. He is board certified in anatomy pathology, clinical pathology and forensic pathology. He is an associate professor of pathology at the University of Iowa and an adjunct professor of forensic pathology with Des Moines University. He is a member of the College of American Pathology Autopsy Committee, the American Society of Clinical Pathology, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the National Association of Medical Examiners. He has given numerous presentations to professional associations, hospital staffs and law enforcement agencies.

Alisha Weber, CCP, ME-1 (Homicide and Suicide Scene Investigations)

Alisha Weber graduated from Indian Hills Community College in 2001 with her paramedic certification. She worked in Davis, Wapello and Keokuk counties before becoming a flight medic in Cedar Rapids. Alisha started working with the Linn County Medical Examiner's Office in 2001. Since then, she has become lead Medical Examiner Investigator. She is part of the Child Death Review Team and helped establish the Safe Sleep Coalition in the county. Alisha is a daily resource for funeral directors and members of the community.

Kevin Winker (Response to Opioid Abuse)

Kevin joined Midwest HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) as the Drug Intelligence Officer for Iowa in February 2021 after retiring from the Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS). He served with DPS for over 32 years starting as a State Trooper and retiring as the Director of Investigative Operations. As an agent he worked in both the Division of Narcotics Enforcement and the Division of Criminal Investigation and as a supervisor served in Narcotics Enforcement, Criminal Investigations and the Division of Intelligence and Fusion Center. He has a history of working with and supporting local law enforcement and promoted effective information sharing within the Iowa law enforcement community, as well as other state, local and non-governmental partners. He has served on a number of state, regional and national committees and boards that have taken him all over the country but takes pride in calling Iowa "home".