

## 2023 IACME Fall Meeting and Education Expo November 3-4, 2023

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES in order of presentations



#### **Mark Bethel, F-ABMDI ME-101: Death Investigation Basics**

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 for Marshall County. 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 23 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.)



#### **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).



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



### **Darren Dake, D-ABMDI**

#### **Conflict Resolution/Dealing with Difficult People**

Darren Dake is a certified instructor and criminal investigator with over 30 years of experience in the field of law enforcement and death investigations. He holds certification as an instructor for the Missouri Department of Public Safety, the Missouri Sheriff's Association, and the Law Enforcement Training Institute – (Missouri University Columbia). He has published several books related to death investigation: *Investigating Suicide and Self-Harm Deaths*; *Interviews and Interrogations—Getting the Information You Want*; and *Autoerotic Fatalities: A Guide to Investigating and Interpreting the Scene*. He currently serves as coroner for Crawford County, Missouri.



### **Amanda Kilgore**

#### **Illegal Drugs Seized in Iowa: A Primer**

Amanda Kilgore has been employed by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation Crime Laboratory in the Drug Identification and Crime Scene Units from 2007-2018. Ms. Kilgore began her career as a forensic chemist at the DEA Special Testing and Research Laboratory in Dulles, Virginia, where she worked in the Heroin Signature Program from 2005-2006, before relocating to her home state of Iowa to join the DCI. Ms. Kilgore has specialized in drug analysis for 18 years. As a crime scene analyst, she has traveled across the state of Iowa working major homicide and suspicious death scenes since 2007. Ms. Kilgore received a bachelor of science degree in chemistry and a bachelor of science degree in forensic science from the University of New Haven in 2004. She is a member of the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists and a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.



### **Mark McCulloch**

#### **Principles of Firearm Ballistics and Evidence Collection**

Mark McCulloch, Critical Care Paramedic, has accumulated over 23 years of EMS experience working in a diverse range of settings and EMS delivery models. He is currently serving the City of West Des Moines as Deputy Chief of EMS, after a brief tour as the interim director of Westcom Emergency Communications. He is the former President of the Iowa EMS Association (IEMSA), and currently serves as the IEMSA Legislative Chair. Mark holds an intense interest in measuring quality within the EMS industry; not only from an internal perspective, but also from the customer's perspective. He received his paramedic training at the University of Iowa, studied Biology at South Dakota State University, and more recently Administration at Simpson College. Mark enjoys spending time with his family, volunteering, and the great outdoors.



**Robert Kruse, MD, MPH, FAFAP**

**Beyond Mortality: The Public Health Impact of Death Investigations**

Robert Kruse serves as the State Medical Director and Division Director of Public Health. Prior to joining the Iowa Dept. of Health and Human Services, Dr. Kruse served as the Medical Director of Occupational Health at MercyOne in Des Moines. Dr. Kruse is board certified in Family Medicine and completed his residency training program at Rutgers University. He has a Master of Public Health with a concentration in Environmental and

Occupational Health and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He has held a teaching appointment as Assistant Professor at Rutgers University's Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health in Central New Jersey.



**Terrance Ledbetter**

**Responding to a Mass Fatality Event (Banquet presentation)**

Terrance Ledbetter retired after 40 years of experience in forensic death investigation. For 30 years he was the Chief Investigator at the St. Louis County Medical Examiner's Office, overseeing supervision and case management of the forensic investigation unit. Ledbetter also facilitated the medical examiner's office response to mass fatality incidents. He is a Board-Certified medicolegal death investigator with the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. Ledbetter is a State of Missouri POST Certified police officer and has been affiliated with

municipal law enforcement for over 40 years. Ledbetter also provides training to area law enforcement academies relating to the role of law enforcement with the medical examiner-coroner. That training also includes, forensic death scene evidence and substance and psychosis induced excited delirium deaths. Additionally, the training includes major case crime scene investigation involving civil unrest – Ferguson 2014.



**Braxton Morrison, MEI**

**Critical Incident Stress Management for Death Investigators**

Braxton Morrison is a PhD candidate, at Walden University studying human services, specializing in crisis intervention. Braxton's background is in emergency services as a police officer, paramedic and death investigator, as well as crisis intervention. Through his doctoral research and personal experience, Braxton has witnessed the alienation death investigator personnel experience and how it contributes to the stigmatization of mental health. Braxton currently leads a critical

incident stress management team, works as a death investigator and police officer, and recently founded a suicide prevention coalition.



**Matthew Burns, Special Agent, Division of Criminal Investigation**  
**Mark Bethel, F-ABMDI (for bio, see page 1)**

### **Dual Investigations — Working with Law Enforcement**

Matthew Burns has been a special agent with the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation for over 17 years. He graduated from Luther College with a B.A. in biology in 2005 and in 2006 became a special agent with the DCI's Gaming Bureau (now the Special Enforcement Operations Bureau), which investigates and regulates the state's casinos. In 2014, Special Agent Burns was promoted to the DCI's Major Crimes Unit, which assists city and county law enforcement agencies with high-level investigations, including suspicious deaths. He is trained in crime scene processing, interview and interrogation, case management, homicide and cold case investigations. He is certified in conducting and analyzing forensic extractions of cell phones and other mobile communications devices. Burns has been assigned to the Spencer, Iowa field office since 2014. He has been lead investigator on 24 suspicious death investigations, including 10 homicides. He has assisted on another 16 suspicious death investigations, including seven homicides. Special Agent Burns has presented at the Midwest Death Investigators Conference and to numerous northwest Iowa high school classes and clubs on crime scene investigation.



**Jonathan Davis, PhD**

### **Iowa Violent Death Reporting System — Medical Examiner Data**

Jon Davis is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of Iowa. He received his PhD in epidemiology from the University of Iowa College of Public Health. He is affiliated with the University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center and Healthier Workforce Center of the Midwest and the data analyst for the Iowa Violent Death Reporting System. His research includes various injury related topics such as motor vehicle collisions, injurious falls, and work-related suicides.



**Dennis Klein, MD, Iowa Chief State Medical Examiner**

### **Iowa's State Medical Examiner System: Annual Update, Future Outlook**

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.