

About our Speakers

Mark Bethel, F-ABMDI is Head of Field Operations and Chief Investigator with the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. Mark also currently serves as an ME-I for both Story and Marshall Counties.

He is a graduate of Marshalltown Community College and the Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Wheeling, Illinois. Mark has conducted well over 1,500 scene investigations and is a current member of the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners, the Iowa Mortuary Operational Response Team and the International Association of Identification.

Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH is an Associate State Medical Examiner at the IOSME. 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.

Katelyn Bejes, D-ABMDI is a Medicolegal Death Investigator with the IOSME, a position she has held since 2020. She has a bachelor's degree from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana and a master's degree in human anatomy from Des Moines University.

While seeking her master's degree, she was a teaching assistant and peer review instructor with the anatomy laboratory at Des Moines University. She is a member of the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners and the American Association for Anatomy. She is a registered Diplomate with the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators and works as an MDI for Story County on a part time basis.

Marty Mitchell is Funeral Director of the Mitchell Family Funeral Home in Marshalltown. He attended Marshalltown Community College before attending the Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Des Plaines, Illinois. After graduation, he returned to Marshalltown to work at the Estel-Perrin-Avey Funeral Home for the next 14 years. Marty and his late wife Susan established the Mitchell Family Funeral Home in 2005. Marty has served as chair of the Iowa Board of Mortuary Science under three governors. He has also served on the board of Iowa River Hospice, Marshalltown Senior Citizens, the Quakerdale Foundation, Riverside Cemetery, Compassionate Friends and the Central Iowa Fair Board.

Rory Deol, DO is an Iowa native who recently joined the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner. He previously worked as a medical examiner with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of Oklahoma in Tulsa, OK.

He earned his DO at the A.T. Still University School of Medicine in Mesa, AZ. He completed his pathology training at St. Louis University and his forensic fellowship training at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of Oklahoma. His areas of interest in forensics include advanced imaging techniques, 3D modeling and reconstruction, 3D printing and integration of advancing machine learning tools into the field of death investigation.

Mark McCulloch is a Critical Care Paramedic and has accumulated over 23 years experience working in a diverse range of settings and EMS delivery models. He serves the City of West Des Moines as Assistant Chief of EMS Operations. He is the former president of the Iowa EMS Association (IEMSA), and currently serves as the IEMSA Legislative Chair. Mark has an intense interest in measuring quality within the EMS industry; both from an internal perspective and the customer's perspective. He received his paramedic training at the University of Iowa, studied biology at South Dakota State University, and more recently studied administration at Simpson College. Mark enjoys spending time with his family, volunteering, and the great outdoors.

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Dennis Klein, MD is Iowa Chief State Medical Examiner. He is a Clinical Professor with the University of Iowa School of Medicine and an Adjunct Professor of forensic pathology with Des Moines University. 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 is a member of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and serves on the IACME Board of Directors. He is IACME Program Chair.

Sherri Kacinko, PhD is a toxicologist at NMS Labs in Horsham, PA. She earned her BS in chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh and took graduate classes in forensic science at George Washington University. She earned her PhD in toxicology at the University of Maryland-Baltimore. She lectures in postmortem forensic toxicology and human performance toxicology courses. She is board certified by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology and is a member of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, the International Association of Forensic Toxicologists and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. She received the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Toxicology Section Irving Sunshine Award in recognition of career research.

David Peck, DO earned his medical degree at Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific. He is board certified in family practice. Prior to his retirement in 2009, he was staff physician at the Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group Department of Urgent Care in San Diego, CA. Dr. Peck is a nationally-known expert on the Lewis and Clark Expedition of Discovery, and gives speaking engagements to a variety of groups on wilderness medicine in the era of Lewis and Clark and the mysterious death of Meriwether Lewis three years after the expedition. He is the author of ***Or Perish in the Attempt: The Hardship and Medicine of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.***

Jacob Smith, MD is Associate State Medical Examiner with the IOSME, joining the staff in 2021. 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 course coordinator in Medicolegal Death Investigation at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has been a speaker at Forensic Science Seminars and the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME)

Analisa Pearson is Child Death Review Team Coordinator, Child and Adolescent Health Team Lead and Child Care Nurse Consultant with the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. She provides leadership in the redesign of Title V Child and Adolescent Health Program and the Child Death Review Team to align policies and procedures for multiple programs in several bureaus and divisions. Before joining the Child Death Review Team, she was a community health consultant in Scott County, IA and a public health nurse and tobacco prevention specialist in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. She has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Winona State University and a Masters of Nursing from the University of North Dakota.

Jonathan Thompson, MD is Deputy State Medical Examiner with the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner. He was formerly Assistant Medical Examiner with the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's office in Minneapolis. He 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 has given numerous presentations to professional associations, hospital staffs, law enforcement agencies and at the IACME Fall Meeting.