



Iowa Association of
County Medical Examiners

2026 Fall Meeting & Education Expo

November 6-7, 2026

West Des Moines Marriott



2025 IACME Award Recipients

Dr. Rory Deol, Dr. Anthony Leo & Mark Bethel

Attend in person or online



*“This conference just gets better every year.
Thanks to everyone involved in choosing
such excellent topics and speakers.”*

- IACME Fall Meeting attendee

Fall Meeting Registration



Who should attend?

This conference is held the first weekend in November for Iowa's death investigation professionals. Attendees include Medical Examiners, Medical Examiner Investigators, law enforcement, nurses, EMTs, attorneys, funeral directors and others involved in death investigation.

Register at: <https://iacountyme.org/fall-meeting-2026/>

Friday November 6

7:00 am - 8:00 pm	Exhibitor/ Sponsor Set Up
8:00 am - 9:00 pm	Registration; Exhibit Hall opens
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	ME-101 (Death Investigation Basics) Mark Bethel, F-ABMDI, James Kruse, D-ABMDI
12:00 pm -12:50 pm	Complimentary Luncheon Welcome Lee Fagre, MD, IACME President
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Working with the National Transportation Safety Board Elias Kontanis, PhD
2:00 - 3:00 pm	Defining Authority Jancy Neilson, J.D.
3:00 - 3:15 pm	Break / Exhibit Hall
3:15 - 4:15 pm	Toxicology Trends in Iowa – What Comes After Fentanyl? Daniel Isenschmid, PhD
4:15 - 5:15 pm	IOSME- Field Operations & the County ME System Mark Bethel, F-ABMDI
5:15 - 6:15 pm	Death in Prisons Brian Foster, M.Sc.
6:15 - 7:00 pm	Reception (cash bar)
7:00 pm - 9 pm	Banquet and awards Reflections of 26 years at the IOSME Dennis Klein, MD

None of our Fall Meeting speakers have financial conflicts of interest with any commercial entities.

Saturday November 7

7:00 am	Breakfast / Exhibit Hall opens
7:55 am	Welcome Lee Fagre, MD
8:00 - 9:00 am	Interactive Case Presentations IOSME Staff
9:00 - 10:00 am	Photography Rory Deol, DO
10:00 - 10:15 am	Break / Exhibit Hall
10:15 - 11:15 am	Finding, Excavating & Exhuming Graves Heather Garvin, PhD, D-ABFA
11:15 - 12:15 pm	Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner Update Dennis Klein, MD
12:15 - 12:30 pm	Prize drawing & Closing Lee Fagre, MD

HOW TO REGISTER

Click on the following link to complete the interactive registration form and pay online at <https://iacountyme.org/fall-meeting-2026/>. If you wish to register and pay by mail, print the registration form (page 7 of this brochure) and mail it, with your check, to: IACME, PO Box 3522, Urbandale IA 50323.

Hotel reservations

The West Des Moines Marriott is located at 1250 Jordan Creek Parkway in West Des Moines. A block of rooms has been reserved for the rate of \$139 per night. The deadline to reserve a room at the special rate is Oct. 15.

The hotel reservation link can be found in the email to which this brochure is attached.

Hotel cancellation policy—

Attendees will need to make their reservations by Thursday, October 15th. After the reservation has been made, you will have 48 hours before your scheduled check in to modify or cancel your reservation without penalty.

Accessing speaker handouts

Fall Meeting speaker handouts, meeting schedule, speaker bios and other meeting materials will be posted online one week before the conference. **Please note that HIPAA or other legal considerations may prevent some speakers from posting their full power point presentations.**

A password for the Members Only/Meeting Materials section of www.iacountyme.org will be emailed to registrants a few days before the conference begins.

Wi-Fi is available in the meeting rooms at the West Des Moines Marriott. Attendees will be able to access presentation materials online. All necessary passwords will be available at the IACME registration desk.

Meeting Cancellation Policy

Registrants will receive a **50% refund** if a cancellation is received by October 7th. There will be no refunds for cancellations received after October 7th. **Registrants may easily switch to virtual attendance**

2026 IACME Fall Meeting will be in-person and virtual

You can attend the IACME Fall Meeting in person or virtually. **The virtual conference will involve the same schedule and registration fees as the in-person meeting.** The online and printable registration forms contain an entry which indicates how you plan to attend.

Registration fees

Physician Member—\$275
Physician Non-member—\$425
MEI Member—\$225
MEI Non-member—\$375
Students—\$125
Banquet guest—\$75

The Friday luncheon, Friday evening banquet, Saturday breakfast and break refreshments are included in your registration fee.

TOPICS AND SPEAKERS



ME-101 Death Investigation Basics

For new MEs and MEIs or anyone who wants a death investigation refresher course. Topics covered include: common methods of forensic death investigation, basic death scene procedures and decedent identification. You must be registered for the IACME Fall Meeting to attend ME-101.



Working with NTSB- Managing Complex Transportation Accident Fatality Management Operations

In this presentation, participants will learn about the role of the National Transportation Safety Board and strategies to ensure the success of complex fatality management operations. Dr. Kontanis will detail how the agency integrates with local, state, and federal agencies to investigate transportation accidents and support complex/mass fatality management operations.



Defining Authority- The Legal Relationship Between State and Local Medical Examiner Offices

This presentation will give participants a clearer understanding of the key statutes and authorities governing both state and local medical examiner offices, as well as other key roles local ME's and investigators can play in death investigation including with vital records, and dependent adult or child abuse cases. Participants will also walk away with updates from recent administrative rule changes at the state level.



Toxicology Trends in Iowa - What Comes after Fentanyl?

This presentation will teach participants about the current findings from toxicology testing in Iowa. It will emphasize newer synthetic drugs of misuse such as novel synthetic opioids, Kratom and associated Kratom alkaloids.

Presenters

Mark Bethel, F-ABMDI, Head of Field Operations and Chief Investigator at IOSME

James Kruse, D-ABMDI, Medical Examiner Investigator Liaison Officer at IOSME

Presenter

Elias Kontanis, PhD, Chief, Transportation Disaster Assistance Division - National Transportation Safety Board

Presenter

Jancy Nielson, J.D., Legal Counsel, Division of Compliance and Administration- Iowa HHS

Presenter

Daniel S. Isenschmid, Ph.D., F-ABFT, Forensic Toxicologist at NMS Labs

TOPICS AND SPEAKERS, continued



IOSME- Field Operations & the County ME System

Upon completion of this presentation the participants will be able to understand the IOSME outreach resources available to all Iowa counties, training at IOSME, details on the annual MDIC conference in addition to budget planning & county medical examiner team building.

Presenter

Mark Bethel, F-ABMDI, Head of Field Operations and Chief Investigator at IOSME



Death in Prisons

Death investigations in correctional facilities present unique operational, legal, and administrative challenges that require specialized knowledge and a thorough understanding of established policies and procedures. This presentation will help attendees understand the processes and procedures when a death occurs in a prison setting.

Presenter

Brian Foster, Warden, Anamosa State Penitentiary



Photography

This presentation focuses on the importance of photography in death investigation. Dr. Deol aims to increase proficiency in operating photographic equipment in addition to teaching participants how to approach documenting a scene.

Presenter

Rory Deol, DO, Associate Medical Examiner, IOSME



Banquet presentation — Reflections of 26 years at the IOSME

Presenter: Dennis Klein, MD- Chief State Medical Examiner of Iowa

This presentation will provide attendees with insight into the positive changes and modernization to the Iowa State Medical Examiner System over the past 25 years. Additionally, participants will be prepared for expectations and changes in Iowa System in the next 5-10 years.

TOPICS AND SPEAKERS, continued



Finding, Excavating & Exhuming Graves

Recent Iowa medicolegal casework has involved disinterments and buried bodies. This presentation discusses the roles of various medicolegal personnel in the search and processing of buried body cases. It will also describe the potential benefits and limitations of body disinterment in medicolegal cold cases.

Presenter

Heather Garvin, PhD, D-ABFA, Forensic Anthropologist,
Professor of Anatomy, Des Moines University



Interactive Case Presentations

IOSME staff members are back with a Fall Meeting favorite. While examining cases, this presentation will equip participants with the skills to initiate a death scene investigation including standard questions to ask. Participants will also appreciate the importance of scene photography and the qualities that comprise a high quality scene photo.

Presenters

Dennis Klein, MD, Chief Medical Examiner, IOSME
Rory Deol, DO, Associate Medical Examiner, IOSME
James Kruse, D-ABMDI, MDI, IOSME
Abigail Sutton, CCSI, MDI, IOSME



Iowa's State Medical Examiner System: Annual Update

In this presentation, Dr. Klein will provide our attendees with updates on processes at the State Medical Examiner's Office. He will also highlight any new laws, rules and procedures affecting medical examiner investigations in addition to presenting upcoming changes in the preliminary death investigation form.

Presenter

Dennis Klein, MD, Chief Medical Examiner, IOSME

Video or audio recording of any portion of IACME Fall Meeting presentations is strictly prohibited.

MAIL-IN REGISTRATION FORM

IACME Fall Meeting — Friday-Saturday, November 6-7, 2026 West Des Moines Marriott

Name _____ Professional title _____

Phone number _____ Email address _____

Office/clinic _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I will attend the 2025 IACME Fall Meeting _____ In person _____ Virtually _____

Do you plan to attend the Friday morning ME-101 class? (death investigation basics) _____ Yes _____ No _____

If you wish to earn EMS credit, please provide your EMS Certification number here _____

Physicians Only Do you plan to apply for CME Credit? _____ Yes _____ No _____

Friday Lunch

Will you attend the Friday luncheon at 12pm? _____ Yes _____ No _____

Friday Evening Banquet

The IACME Banquet is free for registrants. The cost for a guest is \$75.

Will you attend the Friday evening banquet? _____ Yes _____ No _____

Number of guests _____

Number of vegetarian meals for you and/or guests _____

Total Registration Fee

TOTAL (Registration fee + \$75 for each banquet guest) _____

Registration Fees (Choose one)

Physician member \$275 _____

Physician non-member \$425 _____

MEI or Associate member \$225 _____

MEI/Associate non-member \$375 _____

Student or resident \$125 _____

Complete this form and mail it, with your check to: IACME, PO Box 3522, Urbandale, IA 50323