



**King County Medical Examiner's Office**

Harborview Medical Center  
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[www.kingcounty.gov/health](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health)

Dear Applicant,

The King County Medical Examiner's Office (KCMEO) is an agency of Public Health – Seattle & King County. The office is responsible for medicolegal death investigation in King County, Washington. The following link to our website will allow you to review our recent Annual Reports so that you can see the types and numbers of cases we encounter:

<https://kingcounty.gov/examiner>

The staff currently consists of seven forensic pathologists (Matthew Lacy, JD/MD, Brian Mazrim, MD, Nicole Yarid, MD, Rhonda Mittenzwei, MD, Timothy Williams MD, Amanda Maskovyak, MD, and Vinnie Tranchida, MD), one forensic anthropologist (Andrew Seidel, PhD.), seventeen medicolegal death investigators, seven full-time autopsy technicians, and additional administrative and clerical personnel headed by our Chief Administrator, Jesse Chipps, Investigations manager Nathan Geerdes, and Zachary Porras-Foye our Fellowship Program Administrator.

We are affiliated with University of Washington Medicine, Department of Pathology Residency and Fellowships Program:

<http://www.pathology.washington.edu/education/academic-programs>

In 2009 KCMEO moved into a newly constructed building located on the campus of Harborview Medical Center (HMC). HMC is the major teaching hospital for the University of Washington School of Medicine and a regional Level 1 Trauma Center.

KCMEO is fully computer networked throughout the office. All case information is contained within a robust information management system, along with digital photographs and radiographs stored on the same file server, making all case information dating back at least two decades available on any workstation in the office.

The Washington State Patrol Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau, located within two miles of KCMEO, provides toxicology and all forensic sciences services. The clinical laboratories of HMC provide microbiology and other laboratory services. Neuropathology and other consultant pathology services are provided by the HMC and UW Pathology Departments.

The office is accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners, and the Forensic Pathology Training Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical

Education. Two fellowship positions are offered every year. UW residents and medical students rotate through KCMEO and our pathologists participate actively in teaching and we have a popular weekly Category I CME-accredited educational conference. Brain cutting sessions, conducted by UW Neuropathologists, are scheduled weekly, and pediatric and cardiac pathologists are available for consultation.

During the training year the fellow is expected to perform at least 200 and no more than 225 autopsies. The number and variety of cases are adequate to provide experience in all types of violent and non-violent deaths encountered in forensic pathology practice. The cases are assigned so that there is a graduated increase in difficulty and complexity. After an initial orientation, the fellow progresses to handling all the types of cases seen in the office, including homicides. Initial close supervision and direction by the senior staff are decreased during the course of the year, corresponding to the increase in expertise, confidence, and independent functioning of the fellow. However, the professional expertise and experience of the senior staff are always available to the fellow during the training period. All microscopic slides, results of toxicology testing, and the typed autopsy reports are initially reviewed independently by the fellow, and thereafter with the supervising pathologists. Case reviews are conducted daily and weekly for teaching and quality assurance, allowing the fellow to learn from all cases, not just the ones in which they participate personally.

The fellow also receives training and experience in a number of other activities related to the practice of forensic pathology. Throughout the year fellows participate in all types of scene investigation. The fellow will also rotate in the weekly on-call schedule with the staff pathologists, taking call approximately one week each month. During call, the fellow will be the primary point of contact for medicolegal death investigators, answering calls regarding matters including whether or not to accept jurisdiction for cases, and granting permission for organ/tissue donation. A staff pathologist is always available for consultation.

The fellow is expected to testify in cases in which they participated, if the opportunity arises. The fellow is also expected to periodically accompany staff pathologists to court in order to observe and gain familiarity with court testimony. A major goal of the program is to prepare the fellow to be comfortable and competent in the courtroom.

As a part of the educational experience, the fellow obtains training in forensic anthropology and odontology and, in addition, gains experience at the Washington State Patrol Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau. Formal exposure during the year consists of rotations in the toxicology and crime lab facilities to observe the operations. Additional contact can be arranged as desired.

The fellow is strongly encouraged to present a publication or presentation at a national meeting. The staff pathologists are eager to initiate or participate in research papers within the office or in collaboration with the University of Washington or the Washington State Patrol Toxicology or Crime Laboratories.

Applications are completed online using [ERAS](#).

You will need to register and create an account, then include the following materials:

- Personal statement outlining your interest in forensic pathology, a description of your training and exposure to the field, and your specific interest in our program
- Curriculum vitae
- Copy of medical school diploma
- USMLE or COMLEX score reports
- Citizenship or visa status
- Photograph (optional)
- At least three letters of reference. One of the reference letters must be from your current residency program director.

KCMEO will be utilizing the NRMP Match. Further information and registration may be found here: [NRMP | National Resident Matching Program](#)

Any questions may be directed to the Program Administrator or Program Director.

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