



2017

National Association of Medical Examiners

AUGUST, 2017 - VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2 • www.thename.org

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Greetings from the NAME Foundation. As we look forward to the Fall and the upcoming Annual Meeting in Arizona, we plan to highlight some of the events that are being planned for the meeting in this issue of the Newsletter. As always, past issues of this newsletter are available on the NAME Foundation webpage, which exists on the NAME website (www.thename.org). Thank you for your support, and please continue to support the NAME Foundation.

NAME Annual Meeting – Scottsdale, AZ



The 51st Annual Meeting of the National Association of Medical Examiners will take place at the Double Tree Resort by Hilton Paradise Valley, in Scottsdale, AZ, from October 13 through 17, 2017. The theme for the meeting is “But it’s a dry heat! What’s hot in Forensic Pathology.” The Program Chair, Kathy Pinneri, has put together what

promises to be another tremendous educational program, with nearly 150 papers currently on the schedule for oral/platform or poster presentation. Of those papers accepted for presentation, a sizeable number represent submissions from students and residents. The NAME Foundation plans to continue to offer financial assistance for those

who meet the criteria of registering for the meeting, attending the meeting, successfully presenting their paper at the meeting, and submitting a complete written manuscript of their paper by the submission deadline, which is approximately 1 week prior to the meeting.



NAME Foundation Events at the 2017 Annual Meeting

As usual, the NAME Foundation will have a strong presence at the Annual Meeting. Favorites such as the Silent Auction and morning Yoga Sessions will be ongoing throughout most of the meeting. Already, the Silent Auction/Meeting Committee has reported that they have received some outstanding donated items for the Silent Auction. Anyone interested in donating something should contact Dee McNally as soon as possible. It's not too late to make a donation. For those attending the meeting, please be sure to stop-by the Silent Auction booth and bid on your favorite items. As always, the funds raised by this and other NAME Foundation events go toward the NAME Foundation and are used to promote research, education, and preservation of history within the world of death investigation and forensic pathology.

Last year, the inaugural Saturday evening NAME Foundation Fundraising event, featuring our very own Foundation Advocate, Dr. Jan Garavaglia, proved to be a resounding success. Not only was the event extremely popular amongst members of the public who attended, but Jan's presentation was also extremely well-received by her colleagues within the ranks of the NAME membership. We are truly blessed to have such a down-to-earth, knowledgeable, and kind TV star within our midst

who is willing to serve our community as the Foundation Advocate. Jan really set the bar high for future fundraising events. This year, Jan will serve as the moderator and introduce our featured speakers. As with last year, the event will involve a minimum monetary donation for admission, it will be advertised to the local medical and medical education communities, and it also be open to the general public. As such, NAME members are advised to obtain tickets as soon as possible via the website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/name-foundation-fundraiser-high-profile-cases-featuring-the-medical-investigation-of-the-death-of-tickets-36271336544>

This year's program is entitled, "High Profile Cases – the Medicolegal Investigation of the Death of Michael Jackson," and will be presented by Drs. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, Christopher Rogers, and Steven Shafer, on Saturday evening,





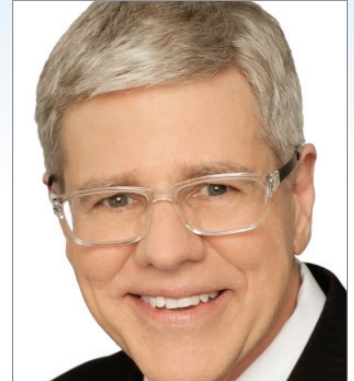
Dr. G,



Dr. Lakshmanan



Dr. Rogers



Dr. Steven Shafer

October 14, 2017, from 8-10 pm. The presentation will cover the role of the ME in determining cause and manner of death, the ME's role in deaths occurring during medical and surgical care, understanding the importance of the ME Office public information officer, the importance of scene investigation, the need for security measures related to the investigation of high-profile cases, autopsy findings in the Michael Jackson case, the challenges faced by the ME during testimony, and the role of the "anesthesia consultant" at the ME office and at the trial. Please plan to attend this presentation, which promises to be entertaining and educational.



NAME Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting

The NAME Board of Trustees has face-to-face meetings twice a year, in conjunction with the Annual and Interim meetings of the National Association of Medical Examiners Meetings. During the other months, the BoT conducts regular conference call meetings. As usual, the BoT will be having their face-to-face meeting at the Annual Meeting in Arizona, immediately prior to the NAME Board of Directors meeting, in the same room. As has been mentioned numerous times, the business of the Foundation is primarily accomplished via committee work. Committees are primarily composed of members of the BoT. The standing committees (and Chair) include the following: Membership/Nominations (John Butts), Bylaws/Policies (Greg Schmunk), Finance/Investment (Mike Graham), Fundraising (Peggy Greenwald), Advocacy (Michael Rieders), Newsletter (Joe Prahlow), Silent Auction/Meeting (Amy Martin), Education (Mary Case), Research (Joe Felo), History (Greg Schmunk), and Long-Range Planning (Tom Noguchi).

Message from the NAME President



Brian L. Peterson, M.D.
NAME President

“I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo. “So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

So began last edition’s letter – and the question is, have things gotten any better since? If your office is like mine, the answer is a resounding “no!”

Case numbers continue to rise at an alarming rate – so high, in fact, that many offices are facing challenges to accreditation status, or have simply abandoned the pursuit of accreditation entirely. Along those same lines, any energy devoted to ISO accreditation seems to have dissipated, given that “desirable” is so much less pressing than “necessary.” Case complexity is rising simultaneously depending on your local drug demographics – in

Milwaukee, we have already seen half a dozen “Frankenfentanyl” and the pace of drug design seems to be picking up as those in the trade attempt to stay ahead of legislation and enforcement. The third ingredient in this toxic brew is the clear crisis in forensic pathology staffing. At this point, an office might be granted funding for additional hires, but candidates are nowhere to be found – in fact – they already have jobs, and the process of poaching is well underway (and understandable). On top of this critical shortage, forensic pathology is a relatively “gray” subspecialty; as Baby Boomers continue to retire, the pinch will only become harsher.

While our main issue is survival, we must also consider the opportunities at hand. With our assistance, politicians at every level can perhaps understand that our work is crucial; benign neglect will no longer suffice, and the time for recognition, support, and real funding is at hand. Creative solutions must be proposed and advanced, from student loan forgiveness for those entering forensics to the pooling of scarce resources AKA regional forensic science centers. Simultaneously, we must not give up ground already “captured” – we must continue to stress the importance of full accreditation and a workload (the 250/325 standard) that allows us to minimize burnout and excessive mistakes.

The NAME Foundation has a clear role to play here, centered on encouraging bright students to enter the field, and supporting medical students, residents, and

fellows as they advance. A long-term solution, to be sure, but just as critical as survival during this present crisis. The Foundation “special event” in Scottsdale

will be superb, the topic timely, and the funds raised necessary. I hope to see you there!

**Do you have an idea,
question or concern?**

name@thename.org

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

NAME Foundation Board of Trustees

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NAME Foundation Membership Criteria

The NAME Foundation is proud to offer membership to any member of the National Association of Medical Examiners who makes an annual contribution to the NAME Foundation. The following minimal annual contribution qualifies membership in the NAME Foundation:

NAME Members:	\$50.00
NAME Affiliates:	\$20.00
Non-NAME Individual:	\$50.00
Corporate/Institution:	\$250, 500, 1000



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