

CONNECTICUT STATE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR (ME)



OCME MISSION:

To provide accurate certification of the cause of death and to identify, document and interpret relevant forensic scientific information for use in criminal and civil legal proceedings necessary in the investigation of violent, suspicious, and sudden unexpected deaths, by properly trained physicians. Providing such information may prevent unnecessary litigation, protect those who may have been falsely accused, and lead to proper adjudication in criminal matters.

Medicolegal investigations also protect the public health: by diagnosing previously unsuspected contagious disease; by identifying hazardous environmental conditions in the workplace, in the home, and elsewhere; by identifying trends such as changes in numbers of homicides, traffic fatalities, and drug and alcohol related deaths; and by identifying new types and forms of drugs appearing in the state, or existing drugs/substances becoming new subjects of abuse.

ABOUT CT OCME:

The Connecticut OCME is a National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) Accredited, free-standing, modern facility that is in historic Farmington Connecticut on the campus of UCONN Health Center. The OCME is a centralized, state-wide medical examiner system that performs approximately 2,900 autopsies per year which includes approximately 150 homicides, 370 suicides, and over 1600 accidents. We have academic relationships with the medical schools of the University of Connecticut, Yale University, and Quinnipiac University and all the state pathology residency programs.

The population served by the OCME is approximately 3.6 million people and includes metropolitan and rural areas. Over 20,000 deaths are reported to the OCME each year. This provides an extremely varied exposure to types of deaths including motor vehicle collisions, long gun injuries, substance abuse, environmental and occupational injuries, and unexpected natural deaths.

Current Openings – Full Time Special Investigator (ME) & PT (24hr) Special Investigator (ME)

DAILY WORK DUTIES:

- Visits scene of death; Reviews medical records; Conducts investigations related to assigned complaints, alleged violations of state laws and regulations or sudden and/or unexplained deaths; Interviews witnesses, complainants, medical and hospital personnel and others to obtain information; Research, collects and evaluates data; Compiles information; Writes reports and answers public inquiries. The

Special Investigators ME will learn accurate, detailed report writing that will document all abnormalities, as well as the absence of abnormalities, which are useful to clinicians, attorneys, and families.

APPLICANTS: ELIGIBILITY, COMPENSATION, AND BENEFITS:

- Applicants must have Five (5) years of investigatory experience in a medicolegal investigative agency, police or military setting involving sudden and/or unexplained deaths.
- College training in forensic science may be substituted for the General Experience based on fifteen (15) semester hours equaling one-half (1/2) year of experience to a maximum of four (4) years for a bachelor's degree. A Master's degree in a closely related field may be substituted for one (1) additional year of the General Experience. Successful completion of a Connecticut Careers Trainee program approved by the Department of Administrative Services may be substituted for the General Experience.
- Salary \$34.85 hourly / \$2787.67 biweekly / \$72,758.00 annually
- For benefit information, please use the link or QR code:
[Department of Administrative Services \(jobapscloud.com\)](http://jobapscloud.com).



STAFFING & FACILITY INFORMATION

- Full-time, experienced investigators work 24/7 to investigate reported deaths and attend scenes.
- Support staff include excellent mortuary technicians, board certified medical examiners, medical records staff, laboratory assistants, and photographers.
- The toxicology laboratory is off-site at NMS Lab, which is located outside of Philadelphia. NMS Laboratories performs most of our toxicology testing with an average turn-around-time of 8-10 weeks.
- The Connecticut Division of Scientific Services perform our DNA and evidence analysis. Digital radiology and histology are completed in-house.
- Reports are transcribed by a contracted service with a turnaround time of 24 hours.
- An electronic case management system, available on your desktop, contains all case information, including all images, radiology, medical records, and reports. It has search and management functions for a complete archive of cases going back over 20 years.
- Consultants are available: Neuropathologist, cardiac pathologist, in-house forensic anthropologist, and forensic odontologist are available.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATORS (ME):

A newly hired Special Investigator (ME) will have a team of 17 investigators to learn from, this includes a supervisor and 2 lead special investigators. In addition, they will be exposed to a wide range of trauma and diseases leading to death, improving their investigative skills and “forensic thinking”. The OCME’s primary goal is to provide exceptional training so by the end of it, they will have the confidence and ability to investigate and certify any type of death. In addition to their duties some staff will throughout the year do educational seminars, lectures and courses to law enforcement, colleges, high schools, and other groups.

- Special Investigators (ME) will get familiar with toxicological evidence procedures and learn the fundamentals of the common methods used to identify drugs, volatiles, and other poisons. Most importantly, the investigator will develop a sense of when to consider poisoning and drug overdose as well as the limitations involved with toxicology. The Crime Lab is at the Connecticut Division of Scientific Services in Meriden, CT. Crime scene experience is received by scene investigations with our 24/7 in-house investigative staff and the State's Central Major Crime Squad.
- The OCME has on staff 2 Medical Examiners that are board certified in FP and NP (one full-time and one part-time ME), we also have a consultant neuropathologist with over 30 years of NP and Forensic

NP experience. We have neuropathology conferences once or twice a month, which allows investigators the opportunity to increase their understanding and interpretation of neurological diseases as they arise in forensic context.

- Cardiac diseases and congenital cardiac anomalies account for many sudden, unexpected natural deaths. The staff will have the opportunity to consult with a recognized cardiac specialist.
- We have a part-time, in-house, board-certified forensic anthropologist.
- Interested investigators may be asked to assist on research projects and publications

Inquiries or Questions:

Jaime Sanz, Human Resources
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QR code to apply

