



# NAME *International Newsletter*

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## THE NAME 2016 MEETING

SEPTEMBER 7-13, 2016 IN MINNEAPOLIS

### "THE GOLDEN JUBILEE: CELEBRATING OUR PAST, INSPIRING OUR FUTURE"



Celebrated not only 50 years of NAME's success but also many educational presentations and attendees from across the globe. A record number of 442 attended the meeting! There were 62 platform presentations and 50 poster presentations. Of these excellent presentations, 13 were by international presenters!

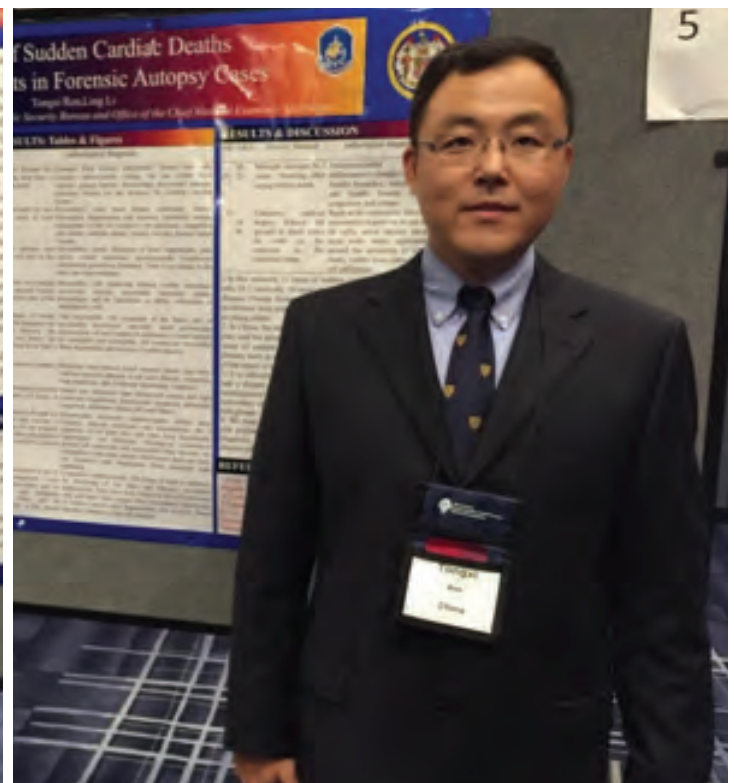
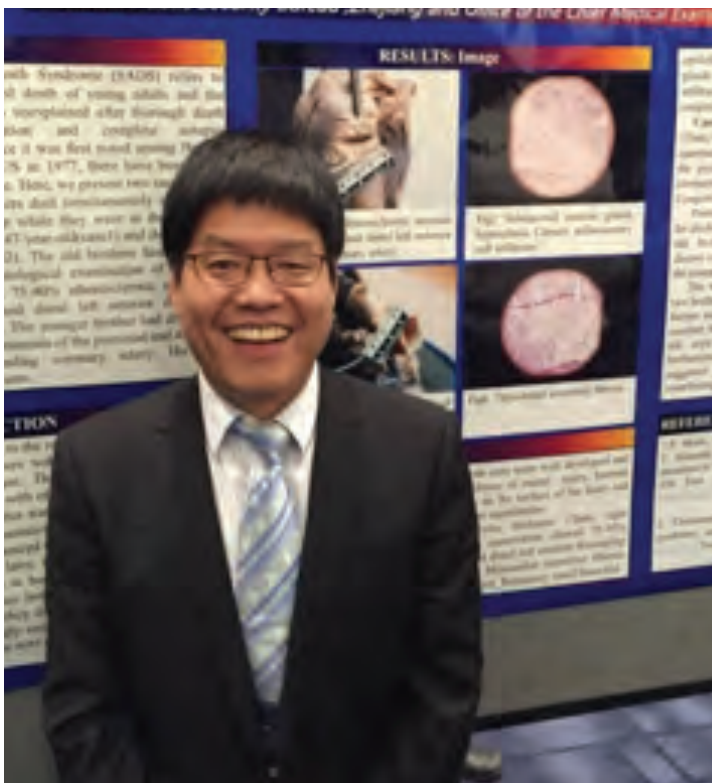
PROGRAM CHAIR -  
DR. DIANNE LITTLE, MBBS, AUSTRALIA



As NAME celebrated 50 years, who better to be two of the speakers than Drs. Greg Schmunk and Tom Noguchi!



A very large crowd during ALL of the educational scientific platform presentations, virtually every chair taken each day!



The poster presentations were excellent and also very well-attended!



## NAME INTERNATIONAL RECEPTION

The 4th NAME International Reception was held Friday evening was a fabulous well-attended reception honoring all of our international attendees. The reception was sponsored by MTF, the Musculoskeletal Tissue Foundation.

NAME also shared the Hyatt Regency Hotel with the “Furry Migration”, an interesting group of nice people. Minneapolis never disappoints!



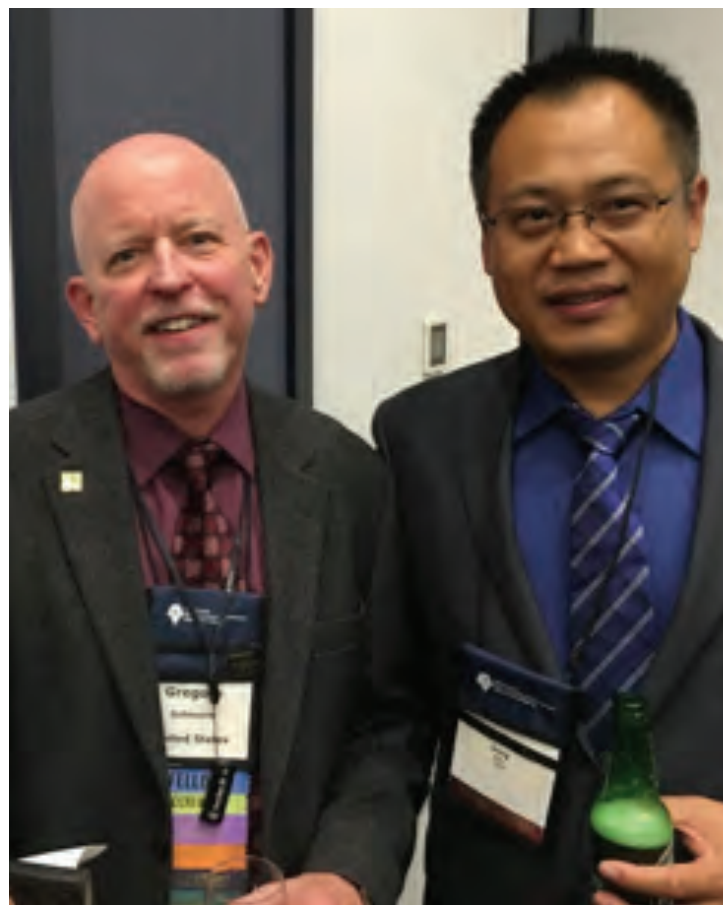
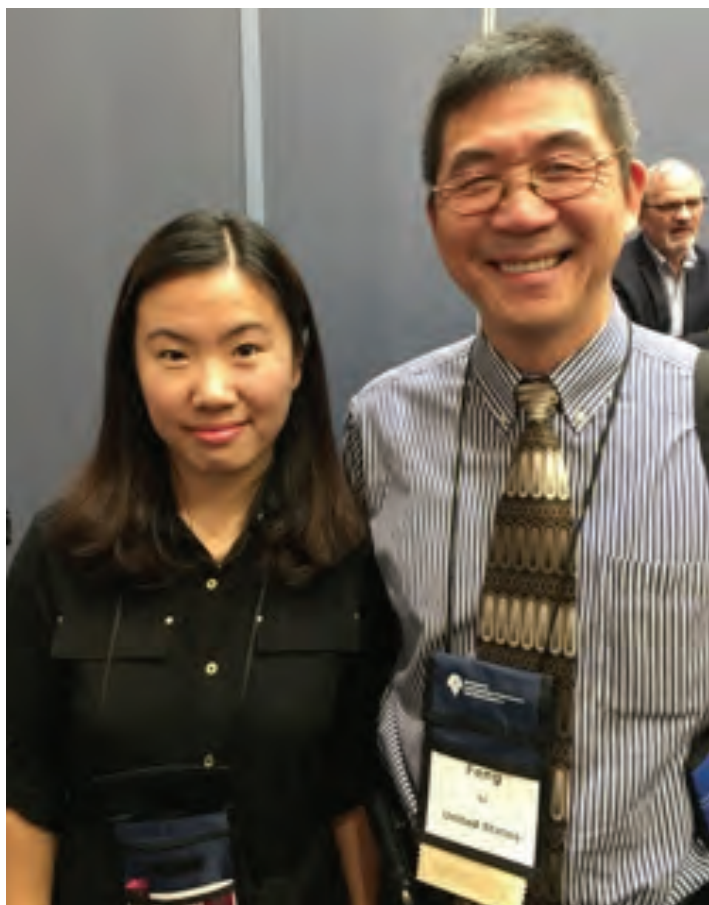
Some of the many attendees at the NAME International Reception barely fit into one picture!

## THE NAME MEMBER HOSTS AND INTERNATIONAL ATTENDEES: “BUDDY PROGRAM”

US NAME members reached out to international nonmember meeting attendees through the “International Relations Committee Buddy Host Program”. Each international nonmember attendee was paired up with a NAME member before the meeting to extend hospitality and assist in any way possible. The NAME member hosts met their international “buddy” attendees, and you can see by the pictures what a fun time everyone had! Later, at the welcoming dinner, Dianne Little (Australia)(Program Chair) provided time for the NAME hosts to introduce their international “buddies” to everyone at the meeting.

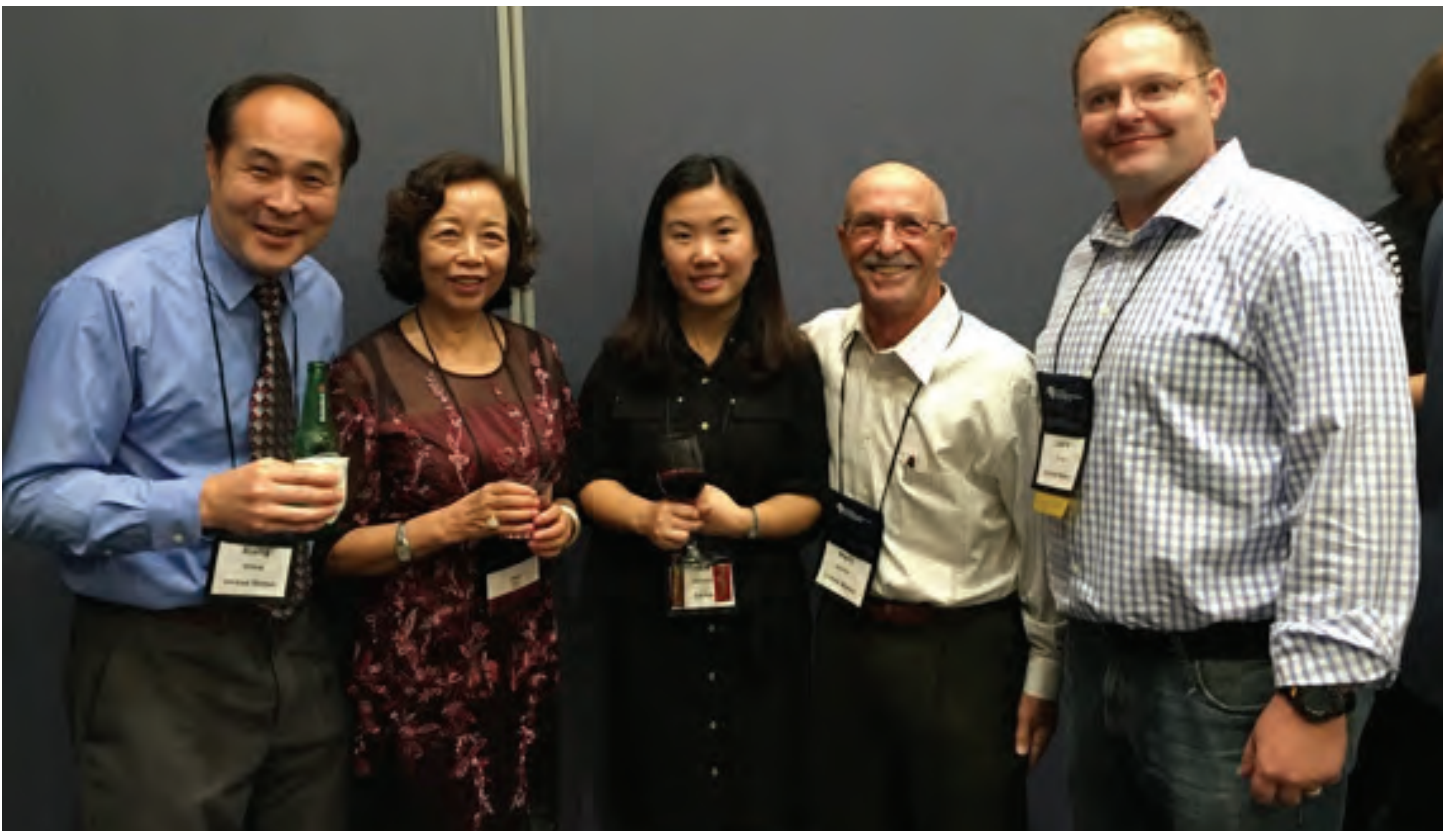








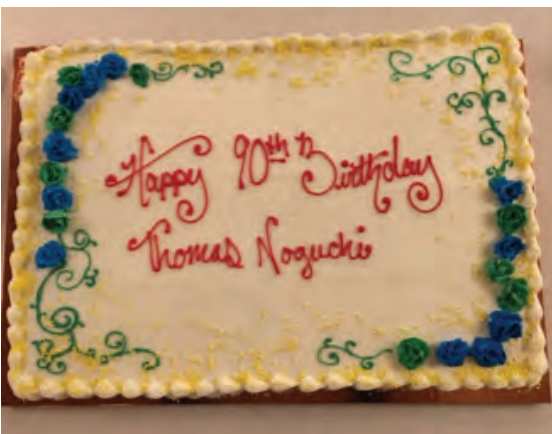
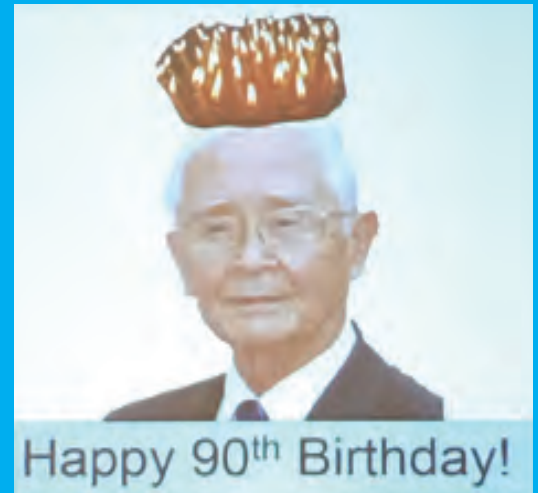




Mark Reiner and Louis Jares (far two on right) represent MTF and sponsored the successful international reception.

# TOM NOGUCHI TURNS 90 AND EVERYONE CELEBRATES!

At the NAME meeting, Tom Noguchi celebrated his 90th birthday! Everyone was invited and many NAME hosts and International attendee “buddies” were still networking and enjoying a great time!







China had a large contingency of 12 attendees led by Ling Li, 5th from right (Maryland)! IRC Chair, Kim Collins, 5th from left.

## NAME WELCOMES ITS NEWEST INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDING MEMBER: RYAN BLUMENTHAL, SOUTH AFRICA



Dr. Ryan Blumenthal, Forensic Pathologist

NAME is honored to have Dr. Ryan Blumenthal as its newest International Corresponding Member! Ryan has been very active in the practice of forensic pathology and in NAME. He has also been asked to serve on the International Relations Committee for 2017!

Ryan Blumenthal MBChB (Pret), MMed (Med Forens) Pret, FC For Path (SA) Dip For Med (SA) PhD (Wits) is senior specialist forensic pathologist at the University of Pretoria's Department of Forensic Medicine. He has been involved in the publication of numerous articles and textbooks on lightning and electrothermal injuries and has helped generate international standard operating procedures and guidelines for lightning strike fatality and electrocution victims. He has also published in the fields of suicide and other areas involving the pathology of trauma.

His hobby is sleight-of-hand magic and he has been performing semi-professionally since 2001. He has an interest in 'Puzzles' – How to approach them? How many resources to throw at them? Are they all solvable? And specifically, when do you give up?

Ryan Blumenthal's areas of expertise and research include: trauma, forensic sciences, veterinary science



and veterinary forensic pathology, occupational and environmental health, lightning electrothermal injuries, suicide, and explosive effects. He is currently NRF C2 rated which is awarded to established researchers with a sustained record of productivity in their respective fields and who are recognised by their peers as having produced a body of quality work, the core of which has coherence and attests to ongoing engagement with the field. These researchers should also have demonstrated the ability to conceptualise problems and apply research methods to investigating them, which Ryan has done outstandingly. Blumenthal was one of the first winners of the Mail and Guardian's 'Science Voices'. One of his papers influenced the development of lightning protection guidelines of critically-endangered species in zoos and nature reserves and is now playing a key role in developing and advancing the field of forensic veterinary pathology in South Africa. Welcome to NAME, Dr. Blumenthal!



## SPECIAL NAME FEATURE: ORGAN AND TISSUE PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE BY SAMANTHA WETZLER, CHAIR



The idea of organ and tissue transplantation has roots in early art and literature. World War II, and the returning disabled veterans gave modern medicine the first real push to develop the science. The U.S. Navy established the first tissue bank in 1949, where they stored and processed bone. By the 1980's there were over 300 nonprofit bone banks. Today, tissue donation has expanded to include skin, nerves, cornea, heart valves, vascular tissues, cartilage, and many different forms of bone. Solid Organ transplantation in medicine began slowly in the 1960's but with continued advances in vascular anastomoses, improved immunosuppressive management, and new storage and preservation solutions transplantation is now only limited by the shortage of suitable donor organs. There were over 30,000 solid organ transplants and 1,000,000 tissue transplantations

in the U.S. alone in 2015. These numbers are truly fantastic, except when one considers the 123,000 people currently on the waiting list for an organ. There are also crossover tissue/ organ transplants which are vascularized whole limbs, or even a face. Medical science has truly caught up with the previously only fictional possibilities.

Modern transplantation successes are both miraculous, and commonplace. More so than in any other facet of medicine, human factors come into play making the stories of transplantation tragic, selfless, hopeful, and incredibly moving, much like our own forensic cases. It is no surprise that there is huge overlap in the prematurely ended lives of a previously healthy person (who becomes a medical examiner's case) and an ideal organ and tissue donor. It has been said that up to 70 % of donors are also medical examiner cases. There is no wonder, that as transplantation science evolved and improved so did the demand for healthy donors, and hence the ever increasing involvement of the medical examiner's (caseload) patients.

The NAME organ and tissue procurement committee is a long standing ad hoc committee that was established in some form, but by a different name in 1992 to address the increasingly more common intersection of postmortem anatomical donations and medical examiner cases. The first iteration was chaired by Dr. Tom Hegert, who continued to chair the committee and its changing names until Dr. Wetli became chair of the Ad Hoc committee: developing guidelines for the relationship between tissue procurement agencies and medical examiners/ coroners in 2002. It finally became known by its present title, The Ad Hoc Organ and Tissue Procurement Committee in 2009. Early minutes of the committee meeting (Nashville 2004) suggest basic office and workflow procedures for interactions between organ and tissue procurement agencies and death investigations. The minutes also discussed the plans for the sentinel Organ and Tissue donation position paper which paved the way for the successes of ME/ Coroners facilitation of donation and transplantation we currently celebrate.

The charge of the committee remains much the same today – to discuss best practices, brainstorm solutions to difficulties encountered, and spread awareness of the cooperative possibilities between the agencies and to facilitate relations. The committee meeting

itself is a forum for lively discussions and education as it is attended by many NAME members, as well as, being open to guests who mostly represent organ, eye, and tissue banks, or their associated national representatives. Many of the difficulties medical examiners/ coroners encounter with donor cases stem from misunderstandings, and miscommunication regarding the timing, goals, and needs of the ME to adequately complete their death investigation. So having all parties around a friendly table, hearing all sides of the issue from several different viewpoints and working together to find a solution is one of the best features of the committee. Sparked from these discussions came the platform and open discussion presentation Sustaining and Saving Life – Understanding Organ and Tissue recovery (NAME Portland 2014.) Additionally, several committee members worked to update the Medical Examiner Release of Organs and Tissues for Transplantation position paper published in 2014.

Even more fun, and educational are the newly established Sunday evening informal presentations at the very popular “Bring your own stories” event during the NAME annual meetings. Through the work of Dr. Dan Schultz and myself we have arranged for the American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB), and the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO) to fund the venue and light fare for these very frank discussions of complications, difficulties, complaints, and occasionally highlighting the rarely seen benefits of our involvement in these donation cases.



“Bring Your Own Stories” 2015 hosted by Dan Schultz and Samantha Wetzler.

Last year we had a donor mother speak about the incredible comfort her family took in the knowledge that her son’s fetal tissue donation has had wide reaching impacts on medical research and preventative health treatments for so many people they will never meet. It is a story we do not often hear, and a thanks we rarely get. Too often death investigation teams do not get thanked for the vital role they play in saving lives, or contributing to the basic understanding of medical knowledge with vast preventative health implications. Allowing access to previously consented organs or tissues for donation, transplantation or research is essential to the public health aspect of our calling.



The Organ and Tissue Procurement Committee “Bring your Own Stories” 2014







All were welcome! A great deal of questions were asked and answered, stories told, information shared, and progress made in the area of organ and tissue procurement in forensic cases.

Everyday people, as well as the lawmakers representing them, have embraced the altruistic ideal of donation, as recent legislation favoring (or lamentably requiring) donation despite medical examiners protests have demonstrated. In fact, more than half the United States adult population is registered to be an organ or tissue donor. While the US averages 26 donors per million people, other countries are more successful, namely Spain (35.3 donors per million population) Croatia, and

Portugal. Many of these countries have the “opt out of being a donor” system, which assumes a person wants to be a donor unless they actively opt out of being one. Regardless of donor status most countries still seek family agreement as well. There are similar organ and tissue banks in Europe and around the world to combat similar diseases and conditions. There are over 56,000 people on the organ waiting list in the EU. But not everything is the same, Iran has nearly eliminated its waiting lists for kidneys by making it legal to sell one. Much of the rest of the developed world has donation and transplant programs, similar to the US practices, but many also import tissues from the U.S. All countries have laws to regulate the practices, (ethically and financially) and to monitor safety, but so far we have not had any international visitors come to the committee meetings to share their perspective. Hopefully that will change with this open invitation!



“Bring Your Own Stories” this year in Minneapolis, 2016. Samantha Wetzler and Dan Schultz at the podium.

## ME/C/Forensic Offices Willing to Accept International Visitors and/or Trainees

- 1 Mark Fajardo, CME/C County of Los Angeles
- 2 Mario Rascon, CME El Paso County, TX
- 3 Roger Mitchell, OME in DC
- 4 Lubi Dragovic, Oakland County, Michigan
- 5 Feng Li, Nashville, TN
- 6 Richard Harruff, CME King County, Seattle, Washington
- 7 Steve Cohle, CME Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 8 Wendy Gunther, OME Norfolk VA
- 9 John Lott, RN, Knox County Regional Forensic Center, Knox County, TN
- 10 Randy Frost, OCME Bexar County, TX
- 11 Mike Kobayashi, Department of the ME, Honolulu, HI
- 12 Dave Fowler, OCME Baltimore, MD
- 13 Kurt Nolte, New Mexico OMI
- 14 Judy Melinek, Alameda County, California

## FUTURE MEETINGS Of Affiliated National Associations and Collaborating Organizations

### NAME 2017 Interim Meeting

**February 14, 2017**

Law Enforcement Deaths  
Hyatt Regency, New Orleans  
New Orleans, LA

### NAME 2017 Annual Meeting

**October 13-17, 2017**

DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Paradise Valley - Scottsdale  
Scottsdale, AZ

### NAME 2018 Interim Meeting

**February 20, 2018**

Emerging infections, new diagnostic methods  
in microbiology, microbiology and the autopsy  
WA State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA

### NAME 2019 Interim Meeting

**February 19, 2019**

Forensic radiology, MRI and CT reading refreshers,  
hosting MRI/CT equipment in the office  
Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD

### American Academy of Forensic Sciences 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting

**February 13-18, 2017**

Our Future Reflects Our Past: The Evolution of Forensic  
Science  
Hyatt Regency New Orleans  
601 Loyola Ave  
New Orleans, LA, US 70113  
<http://www.aafs.org/meetings/aafs-69th-annual-scientific-meeting-new-orleans-louisiana-2017/>

### African Society of Forensic Medicine (ASFM)

**March 6-10, 2017**

Conflicts in Africa: The role of Forensic Medicine and Science  
towards Better Public Health  
Bloemfontein, South Africa  
[www.asfm2017.com](http://www.asfm2017.com)

### World Association for Medical Law 23<sup>rd</sup> WAML World Congress

**February 19, 2019 July 10 - 13, 2017**

3 Major Sub-Themes:

- Medical Law and Bioethics Education - 11 July
- Bioethics, Religion and Multiculturalism - 12 July
- Challenges of Medical Law and Legal Medicine in XXI Century - 13 July

Baku, Azerbaijan

<http://wafml.memberlodge.org/23rd-World-Congress-for-Medical-Law-Baku-Azerbaijan>



**21<sup>st</sup> Triennial Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences**

**August 21-25, 2017**

Inter-Professional Collaboration in Forensic Science

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

<http://iafstoronto2017.com/>

**10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium Advances in Legal Medicine (ISALM) combined with the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference German Society of Legal Medicine**

**September 11-15, 2017**

Düsseldorf/Cologne, Germany

Website: <http://www.isalm2017.de>

Do you have  
an idea,  
comment or  
Suggestion?

Please contact **Kim A. Collins**  
[kimcollinsmd@gmail.com](mailto:kimcollinsmd@gmail.com)

## Languages that NAME members speak other than English

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Bengali      | 14. Malayalam        |
| 2. Bulgarian    | 15. Mandarin Chinese |
| 3. Chinese      | 16. Marathi          |
| 4. Dutch        | 17. Polish           |
| 5. French       | 18. Portuguese       |
| 6. German       | 19. Punjabi          |
| 7. Gulla/Geeche | 20. Russian          |
| 8. Hindi        | 21. Sinhala          |
| 9. Irish Gaelic | 22. Spanish          |
| 10. Italian     | 23. Tamil            |
| 11. Japanese    | 24. Urdu             |
| 12. Kannada     |                      |
| 13. Korean      |                      |

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