

Physicians are involved in death investigation in several ways. Usually, physicians are involved as Coroners, Medical Examiners, or Autopsy Pathologists who work with medical examiners and coroners. There are several organizations of physicians that have direct interest in death investigation issues. Below is a brief description of each organization and a link to its website.

National Association of Medical Examiners (N.A.M.E) . Based in Atlanta, Georgia, NAME consists mainly of physicians who work in the profession of death investigation as medical examiners or coroners. Most members are pathologists but some other types of physicians are also members. The organization also has affiliate members consisting of death investigators and administrators. You are currently within NAME's website, which hosts NODIA. NAME's major emphasis is on the fostering of medical examiner system development, management, and administration. Further information on NAME can be found at <http://www.TheNAME.org> . Phone (404)730-4781 or mail to 430 Pryor Street SW, Atlanta, GA 30312.

American Board of Pathology (ABP). Based in Tampa, Florida, the APB is the certifying body for pathologists. It offers examinations that pathologists may take after obtaining specific types of required training in pathology. The ABP offers examinations regarding many types of pathology such a Neuropathology and Pediatric Pathology. The two most important to death investigation are the examinations in Anatomic Pathology (which includes autopsy pathology) and Forensic Pathology (which has to do with death investigation). Pathologists who are eligible to take these examinations are considered to be board "qualified" while those who have passed the examinations are referred to as being "Board Certified." Further information about the ABP may be found at <http://www.abpath.org> . Phone (813)286-2444 or mail to PO BOX 25915, Tampa, Florida 33622-5915.

Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The ACGME, through its Residency Review Committees, establishes requirements that training programs in various fields of medicine must meet in order to become an accredited training program. Most Boards, such as the American Board of Pathology, require that training be obtained in an accredited training program in order to be eligible to sit for a certification examination. The ACGME establishes essential elements for accredited training programs and inspects programs to ensure compliance with accreditation requirements. In regard to training physicians about death investigation, the most important aspect of the ACGME is its review and accreditation of Forensic Pathology Residency Programs for pathologists. Further information on ACGME may be found at <http://www.acgme.org> .

College of American Pathologists (CAP). Based in Northfield, Illinois (near Chicago), CAP membership includes mainly pathologists. CAP has many committees, but the two most relevant to death investigation are the Autopsy Committee and the Forensic Pathology Committee. These committees deal with autopsy and death investigation issues and also prepare continuing education materials for pathologists. One of CAP's major efforts is directed at ensuring the professional practice of pathology in compliance with practice guidelines and standards. Further information about CAP can be found at <http://www.CAP.org> or by phone (800)323-4040 or mail to 325 Waukegan Road, Northfield, Illinois 60093-2750.

American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS). Based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, the AAFS consists of 10 sections representing all aspects of forensic science, including Toxicology, Physical Anthropology, Questioned Documents, Criminalistics, Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, Odontology, General Members, Pathology/Biology, Jurisprudence, and Engineering Sciences. The Pathology/Biology Section consists largely of physicians who serve as medical examiners, coroners, or autopsy pathologists, as well as other doctors such as PhDs in fields such as entomology. The major emphasis of AAFS is on the scientific aspects of the various forensic disciplines. Further information about AAFS can be found at <http://www.AAFS.org> . Phone (719)636-1100 or mail to PO BOX 669, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901-0669.

American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) . This organization includes many pathologists and medical technologists in various types of medical laboratory practice. The organization has a Forensic Pathology Council that produces educational materials (check samples) having to do with death investigation, and seminars on death investigation topics are sometimes offered at ASCP annual meetings. Further information about ASCP may be found at <http://www.ascp.org>.