

Hennepin County Medical Examiner

Forensic Pathology Fellowship Program

Requirements

To apply, you must have successfully completed AP-CP training or AP only training at the start of the program.

Compensation

Hennepin County offers a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits, including:

- Health insurance
- Life insurance
- Professional indemnification
- Deferred compensation
- Free parking

Up to 25 days paid vacation with the approval of the GME Program Director, plus an additional 5 days at the end of the program.

In addition, disability, vision and dental insurance may be purchased at a reduced group rate, and the fellow will be sent — all expenses paid — to the American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting in February.

Please contact us for the salary rate for the upcoming academic year.

About us

The Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office is the medicolegal death investigation entity serving Hennepin, Dakota and Scott counties — a mixed urban, suburban and rural service area that includes Minneapolis and numerous other towns and cities. Our service area has a population of more than 1.7 million and comprises a geographic area of more than 1,500 square miles.

Training in Forensic Pathology will be on a tutorial system under the direction of Graduate Medical Education (GME) Program Director Rebecca Wilcoxon, M.D., and associates.



Hennepin County Medical Examiner

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www.hennepin.us/me

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A year's work includes:

Scene investigation

The fellow will make visits to all homicide and many non-homicide scenes as directed by the GME Program Director and/or Chief Medical Examiner. Scene investigation is initially performed under the direction of more experienced staff. Over time the fellow will work independently.

Case analysis

Experience in case analysis and problem solving is gained in the daily "morning rounds" each weekday morning, when investigative and autopsy data gathered during the prior workday are reviewed. The majority of cases are certified at this time, and the forensic fellow has primary responsibility to moderate the meeting and certify the cases.

Autopsies on medical examiner's cases

The fellow will have primary case responsibility on the majority of the homicide deaths during the training year, as well as responsibility for many deaths falling under other classifications. Special emphasis will be placed on autopsy technique, photographic documentation, proper evidence collection and handling, and the written protocols used to document the autopsy.



Conference presentations

The fellow will participate in intradepartmental conferences and weekly laboratory rounds. He or she will be expected to give occasional talks on subjects of forensic interest in laboratory rounds, along with hospital residents who are taking training in anatomic and clinical pathology. He or she also is expected to make a presentation on a topic of current forensic interest at the annual fall meeting of the Minnesota Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association.

Courtroom testimony

The forensic fellow is expected to deliver testimony relative to the medical examiner's responsibilities in grand jury and district court proceedings.

Toxicology

Instrumentation and basic laboratory aspects of toxicology are addressed in a specific rotation in the Toxicology Laboratory of the Hennepin County Medical Center. This rotation is designed to complement practical interpretive skills learned through the fellowship and through the fellow's responsibility for organizing and moderating weekly "Toxicology Rounds." This conference is devoted to analysis of toxicology findings in current cases, and to a systematic review of selected topics in clinical and laboratory toxicology.

Forensic laboratory subjects

Training is arranged at the ASCLD-certified Hennepin County Sheriff's Crime Laboratory to survey forensic topics, including serology, hair and fiber analysis, DNA, latent fingerprints, ballistics, etc.



Forensic anthropology

Tutelage under the direction of the office's consulting forensic anthropologist and/or attendance at a forensic anthropology conference will be arranged.

Forensic odontology tutorial

A special tutorial in forensic odontology is provided, as well as the opportunity to work with odontology consultants on relevant cases.

Weekly didactic series

Staff forensic pathologists run a series for the fellow designed to cover all areas within forensic pathology.

Special assignment

Arrangements can be made for a week (or more) of work at the Jesse E. Edwards Registry of Cardiovascular Disease in St. Paul, Minnesota.

For more information please contact:

GME Program Director Rebecca Wilcoxon, MD
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