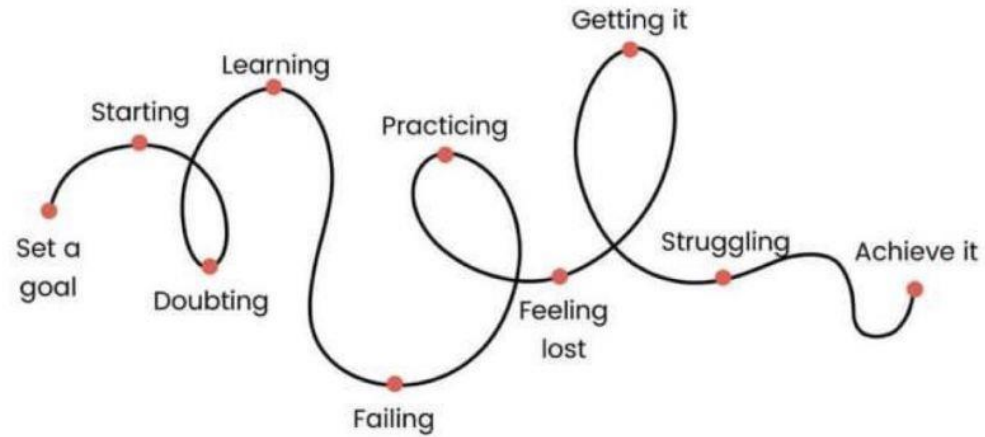




Are you a “real” doctor?

How we want it to be



@mounika.studio



WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE



USA
32

1997

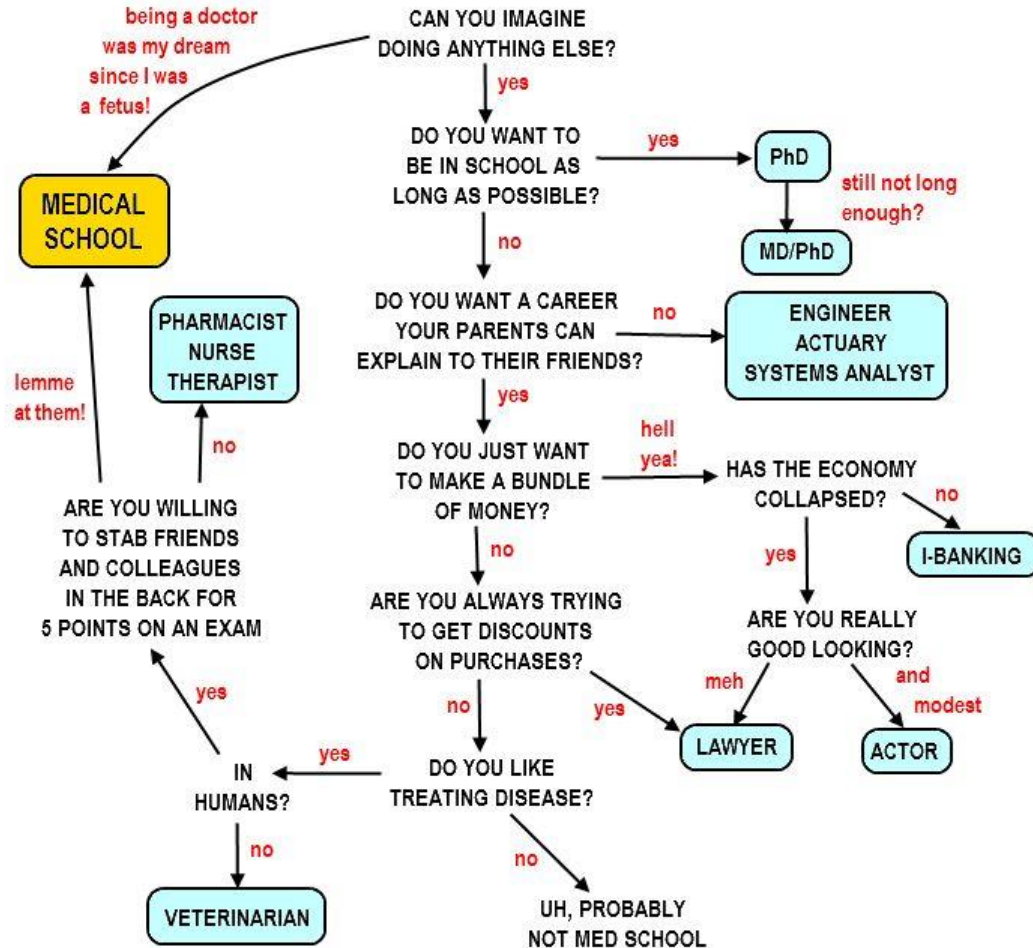
ARMY ★ MARINES ★ NAVY ★ AIR FORCE ★ COAST GUARD



MICHIGAN STATE

U N I V E R S I T Y

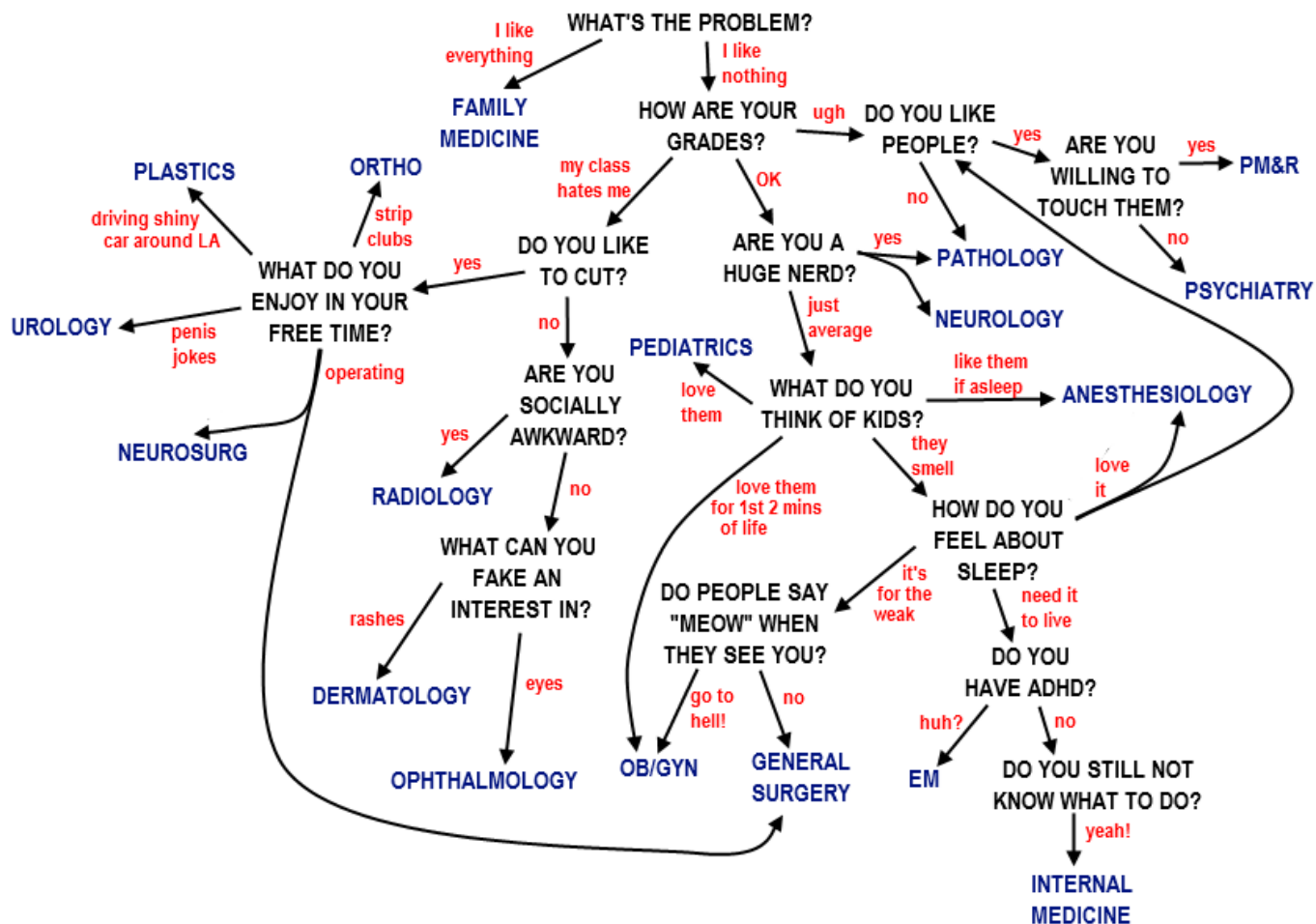
SHOULD YOU GO TO MEDICAL SCHOOL?

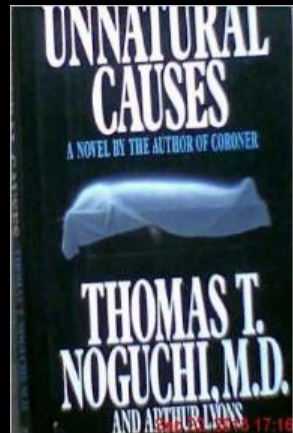
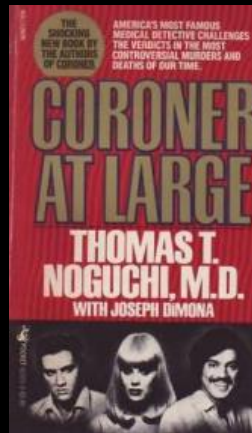
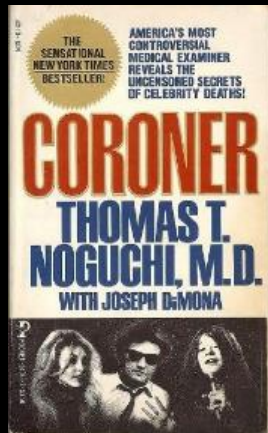




MEDICAL SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

I DON'T KNOW WHAT MEDICAL SPECIALTY TO CHOOSE!





Thomas Noguchi

Medical Examiner

Born: c. 1926

Birthplace: Japan

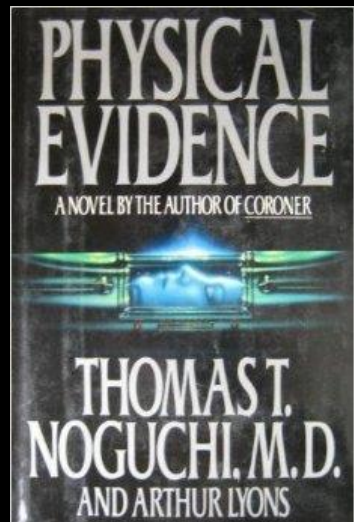
Best known as:

The "Coroner to the Stars"

Thomas Noguchi's 15 years as the chief medical examiner for Los Angeles County earned him the sardonic nickname of "Coroner to the Stars." Noguchi graduated from Nippon Medical School in 1951; he was appointed a deputy coroner for Los Angeles County in 1961 and became the county's chief medical examiner in 1967. As such he performed or oversaw autopsies on celebrities including [Marilyn Monroe](#), [Natalie Wood](#), and [Robert F. Kennedy](#). Noguchi became a celebrity in his own right, and his high profile made him a somewhat controversial figure. He stepped down as chief coroner in 1982 but continued to work with the county, finally retiring in 1999. His 1983 memoir *Coroner* was a best-seller.

Extra credit:

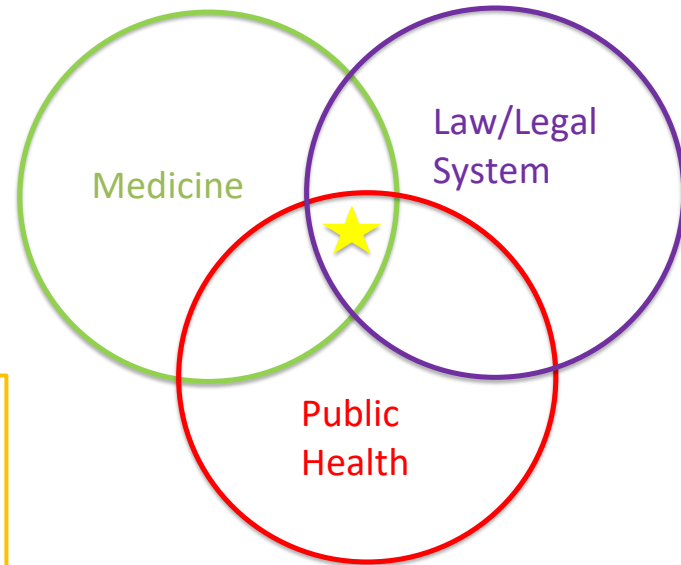
Noguchi was widely considered to be the model for [Jack Klugman](#)'s character in the TV series *Quincy...* Noguchi was president of the National Association of Medical Examiners from 1982-83.



What is a *Forensic Pathologist*?

- Forensic: pertaining to the legal system, courts of law, debate
- Medical doctor trained in Anatomic Pathology and Forensic Pathology whose primary duties include the performance of autopsies to determine the cause and manner of death
 - expertise in the study of the effects of natural disease and injury in tissues
 - expertise in wound ballistics
 - death scene investigations
 - child abuse
- motor vehicle collisions
- injuries, toxic effects of drugs
- identification of deceased
- collection of evidence
- expert testimony
- in-custody deaths

Bachelor's Degree (4 years)
Medical school (4 years)
Pathology Residency (3-4 years)
Pathology Fellowship (1-2 years)



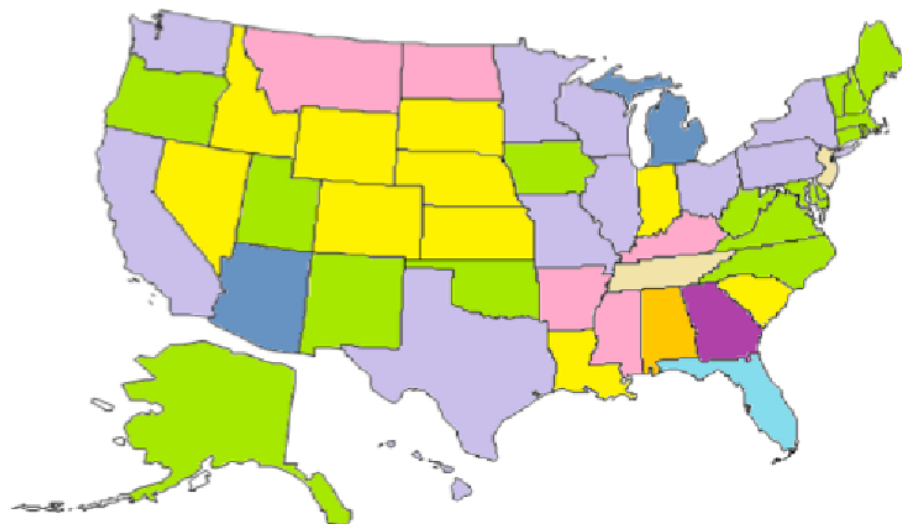
What is a *Medical Examiner* vs *Coroner*?










Medical Examiner

- ✓ Appointed
- ✓ Is a medical doctor
- ✓ Usually a pathologist
- ✓ Often a forensic pathologist

Coroner

- ✓ Appointed or elected official
- ✓ Not necessarily a medical doctor
- ✓ May employ forensic pathologist to perform autopsies
- ✓ *Exceptions...*



-  Some counties have a medical examiner and many or most have a coroner.
-  State Medical Examiner with coroners in each county
-  State Medical Examiner with various types of non-coroner regional or local assistance
-  State Medical Examiner assisting coroners in most counties, at least one autonomous county medical examiner
-  District Medical Examiners (FL).  Mostly state-funded district offices assisting coroners in most counties (AL).
-  Medical Examiner (physician) in each county.
-  Coroner in each county
-  Regional offices administratively (but not operationally) overseen by person with title of State Medical Examiner (NJ, TN)

Types of Deaths Reportable to the Medical Examiner

- ✓ Violent deaths (strangulation, gunshot, stabbing, poisoning, etc.)
- ✓ Accidental deaths (falls, drowning, motor vehicle collisions, burns, overdose, etc.)
- ✓ Death of a prisoner (deaths in any county or city jail or during any interaction with law enforcement)
- ✓ Suspicious Circumstances (Unidentified Bodies or events surrounding death)
- ✓ Sudden and Unexpected deaths (including all deaths during a surgical procedure, in recovery, anesthesia-related, occupational-related deaths)
- ✓ Without medical attendance within 48 hours of death
- ✓ Death of a mother due to an abortion
- ✓ Unexpected infant or pediatric deaths

University of Michigan Department of Pathology

Autopsy and Forensic Services

```
graph TD; A[Autopsy and Forensic Services] --> B[MM Hospital Autopsy]; A --> C[Washtenaw County MEO]
```

MM Hospital
Autopsy

Washtenaw
County MEO

My Team

2025

Autopsy and Forensic Services
Michigan Medicine
University of Michigan Department of Pathology
Washtenaw County Medical Examiner



Allecia M. Wilson, MD
Chief Medical Examiner



Randy Tashjian, MD
Deputy Medical Examiner



Catherine Morris, MD
Deputy Medical Examiner



Thomas Herb, MD
Forensic Fellow



Christine Rigney
Director of Operations



Lisa Neal, CRA, OCT-C
BioMedical Forensic Photographer
Laboratory Manager



Kris LaMaire
Administrative Assistant



Amanda Howard
Administrative Assistant



Alexis Snyder, PA (ASCP)
Pathologists' Assistant



Monique Micallef, D-ABMDI
Medicolegal Investigator



Eric Lapres, D-ABMDI
Medicolegal Investigator



Troy Murrish, D-ABMDI
Medicolegal Investigator



Lindsay Crater, D-ABMDI
Medicolegal Investigator



Ed Farrugia, D-ABMDI
Medicolegal Investigator



Jessica Hagan, D-ABMDI
Medicolegal Investigator



Latresa Wiley, LMSW
Office of Decedent Affairs



Lisbeth Harcourt, LMSW
Office of Decedent Affairs

- Forensic Pathologists (3)
- Forensic Pathology Fellow (1)
- Pathologists' Assistants (1)
- Medicolegal Death Investigators/Autopsy Assistants (8)
- Photographer (1)
- Administrative Staff (2)
- Managerial Staff (2)
- Office of Decedent Affairs (2)

<https://www.washtenaw.org/1860/Medical-Examiner>

Dispatch
To Report a Case:
(734) 615-5455

General Questions
(734) 232-1127

[Medical Examiner Program](#)

[Request an Autopsy Report](#)

[Home](#) > [Your Government](#) > [Departments A-H](#) > [Health Department](#) > [About Us](#) > [Medical Examiner](#)

Medical Examiner

The Medical Examiner investigates sudden, violent, unexpected or suspicious deaths that occur in Washtenaw County.

Medical Examiner Annual Reports

[View current and archived annual reports.](#)

Overview of the Washtenaw County Medical Examiner

The Medical Examiner provides 24-hour on-call service and investigates any sudden, violent, unexpected or suspicious deaths that occur in Washtenaw County. All autopsies are performed at the University of Michigan's morgue. The staff includes medical doctors specializing in forensic pathology, medical investigators, autopsy assistants and support persons.

The Chief Medical Examiner is a physician certified in forensic pathology, authorized by Washtenaw County, Michigan, to investigate sudden unexpected, violent, suspicious, or unnatural deaths. The laws of the State of Michigan assign the responsibility for determining the cause and manner of unexpected deaths in each county to the Medical Examiner. In Washtenaw County, the Chief Medical Examiner is Dr. Allecia Wilson. Dr. Wilson accepts this responsibility with full commitment to a consistent high quality service, which is recognized as a model throughout the State.

[Investigations](#)

CONTACT US



Allecia Wilson, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

Kristin LaMaire
Administrative Assistant
[Email](#)
Phone: [734-232-1127](tel:734-232-1127)

Medical Examiner
Physical Address
2800 Plymouth Rd, Building 35
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

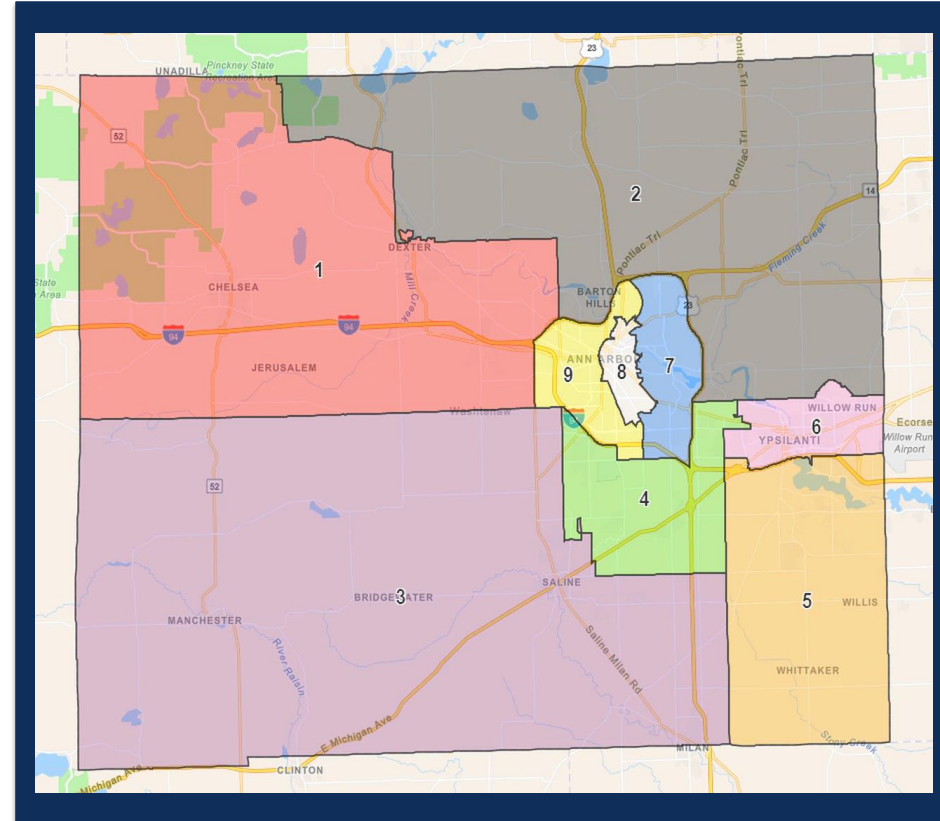
Phone: [734-232-1127](tel:734-232-1127)
Fax: 734-615-8811

[Request an Autopsy Report](#)

Jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner's Office (MEO)

Services under the MEO jurisdiction

- ✓ Investigations of deaths in accordance with Public Act 181 of 1953
- ✓ Scene investigations
- ✓ Identification of decedents
- ✓ Performance of autopsies
- ✓ Determination of cause and manner of death
- ✓ Completion of death certificates
- ✓ Approval of cremation permits
- ✓ Court testimony
- ✓ Child Death Review
- ✓ Data collection



Washtenaw County MEO Operations

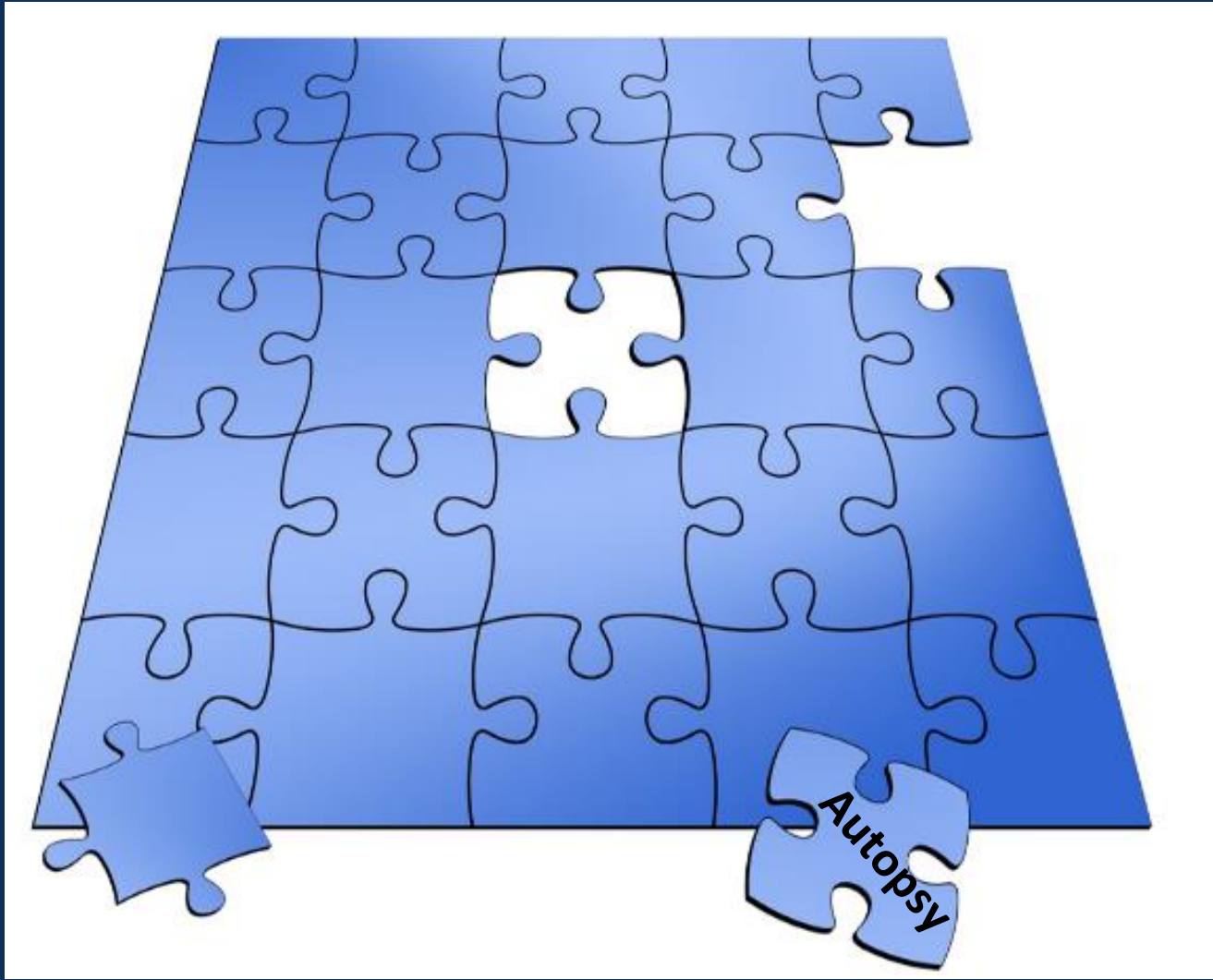
- ✓ Initial call to dispatch
- ✓ Notification of 24-hour on call Medicolegal Death Investigator (MDI)
- ✓ MDI gathers information and determines if scene visit is warranted
 - ✓ No scene visit → case released
 - ✓ Scene visit → MDI responds to the scene, investigates medical aspects with law enforcement, documents finding, photographs the scene, examines the decedent, determines, with Forensic Pathologist (FP) as required, if the decedent can be released to a funeral home or needs to be transported to the Michigan Medicine morgue via professional transportation company
- ✓ Within 24 hours, the FP reviews the case and determines if an autopsy is warranted
- ✓ Autopsy performed within 24-72 hours and the decedent is released to the family's chosen funeral home
- ✓ MDI also serves as an Autopsy Assistant during the autopsy
- ✓ MDI conducts follow-up interview, gathers medical records, aids in identification of the decedent, etc



What is an autopsy?

Why else do we do them?

- ✓ Medical procedure - **“to see for oneself”** - examination of the body for cause of death determination and to characterize the extent of disease/injury
- ✓ To learn and understand medicine
- ✓ To answer questions
- ✓ To provide new knowledge
- ✓ To monitor health trends
- ✓ To confirm disease/injury
- ✓ To enforce justice
- ✓ etc., etc., etc.



What are Cause, Mechanism and Manner of Death?

Cause of Death:

Disease or Injury that sets into motion the chain of events that lead to death

- ✓ Coronary atherosclerosis
- ✓ Hypertension
- ✓ Cancer
- ✓ Gunshot Wound of the Chest

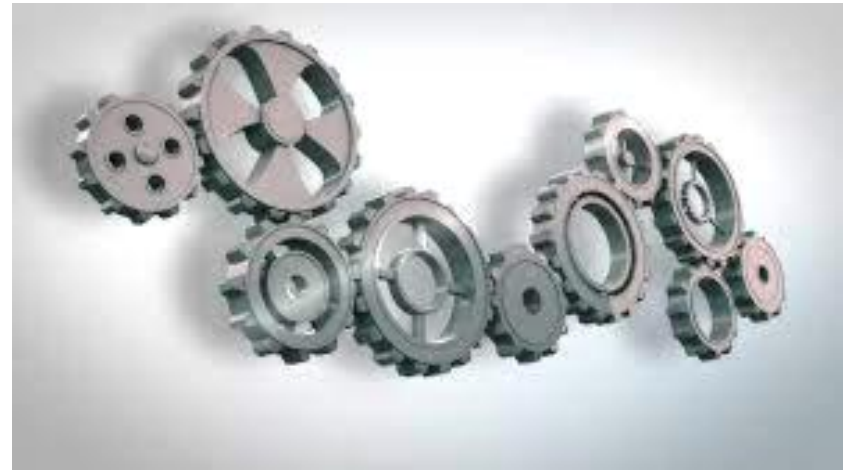


What are Cause, Mechanism and Manner of Death?

Mechanism of Death:

Biological process that lead to death

- ✓ Coronary atherosclerosis
 - MI, CHF, arrhythmia
- ✓ Hypertension
 - ESRD, CHF, stroke, dissection
- ✓ Cancer
 - Infection, metabolic derangements
- ✓ Gunshot Wound of the Chest
 - Hemorrhage, arrhythmia, loss of function



What are Cause, Mechanism and Manner of Death?

Manner of Death:

Circumstances in which the death occurred

- ✓ Natural
- ✓ Suicide
- ✓ Accident
- ✓ Homicide
- ✓ Indeterminate

*Medical designation only



Deaths share similar features that allow them to be grouped into categories

Typical Month

Duties of Medical Examiner in Mass Fatalities

✓ Morgue operations

- Assess and acquire additional resources
- Ensure adequate storage space for body/body parts
- Set up temporary morgue
- Determine the type of examination
- Identify remains (fingerprints, dental, DNA)
- Collect evidence
- Maintain chain of custody
- Document injuries
- Determine the cause and manner of death
- Coordination of release of decedent's
- Complete Death Certificates
- *Maintain normal operations*



MICHIGAN MORTUARY RESPONSE TEAM. (MI-MORT)

Michigan Mortuary Response Team (MI-MORT) is a Mass Fatality Response Team made up of different professions all with the common goal of assisting county Medical Examiners, Emergency Management and Public Health with Mass Fatality Management.



Catching a serial killer: How they got Elias Abuelazam



By David Harris | dharris@mlive.com

on May 25, 2012 at 1:57 PM, updated June 01, 2012 at 9:09 AM

Print

GENESEE COUNTY, MI — It was nearing 10 p.m. on Aug. 11, 2010, and time was running out.

Their prime suspect -- accused of 14 Flint area stabbings, five of them deadly, part of a spree of attacks that spread to Ohio and Virginia that captivated the nation -- was sitting in Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport set to board a plane to leave the country at 10:15.



Elias Abuelazam is taken to the Genesee County Jail on Aug. 26, 2010. He was captured in Atlanta after a nine-day manhunt for the Flint serial killer.

Tension inside the Michigan State Police post on Corunna Road was at a fever pitch.

"Literally, at the state police post people were running up and down in the hall," said MSP Detective Allan Ogg, who headed up the multi-jurisdictional task force investigating. "We knew it was going to be close."

Local police were in constant communication with law enforcement at the Atlanta airport, where a name and a photo were hurriedly sent.

The message: This man cannot get on that plane.

Doomsday questions were circulating at the post. What if they missed their man?

"There was a question, 'Can we ground that plane and get it turned around?' " said Flint Police Lt. J. Leigh Tidball, the lead investigator in many of the attacks in Flint. "We were worried that he was going to get into Israel. These were very tense moments

MLive
Your M
Travel deals and sto
CLICK HERE

James Ear



Famous actor
Manistee Co
community


Childhood friends: 'I
In search of Jones'
Hear his memories

Get the latest

George Floyd Press Conference



Ok, but... Aren't you the type of doctors who does not like (or can't) to talk to people? Lack social skills? Don't like patients?



The Purpose of Grief: The Impact of Processing Loss After Autopsies

By Lotte Mulder, PhD and Alecia M. Wilson, MD



Dr. Mulder



Dr. Wilson

Bereavement Support

- ✓ Facilitates in-person viewing of the decedent, when appropriate
- ✓ Assists families with bereavement support
- ✓ Bereavement Outreach with emphasis on stigmatized deaths such as deaths by overdose and suicide
- ✓ Available to partner with death investigator in the field (infant death reenactment)
- ✓ Assists in memory/legacy making items, such as photos, fingerprints, locks of hair, hand/finger mold, forget me not seed packets, etc.



Response in COVID-19 Pandemic



- Dispatch
- EMS
- Law Enforcement
- Scene Investigations
- Body Transportation
- Morgue Storage/Overflow
- Families
- Funeral Directors
- Public Health Dept/
Surveillance

Response during COVID-19 Pandemic



- Rapid procurement of 2 refrigerated trucks to increase storage capacity
- Implemented safety plan and protocols for scene investigations
- Secured additional equipment to allow for performance of autopsies
- Implemented COVID-19 testing on all decedent's prior to autopsy
- Health department notification of COVID-19 positive deaths that occur outside of medical facility
- Reporting of COVID-19 positive deaths to the Medical Examiner

Washtenaw County MEO as Essential Workers



The Essentials

Ann Arborites working through the shutdown
*by Ken Garber, Trilby MacDonald, Cynthia Furlong
Reynolds, Jan Schlain*

The Covid-19 pandemic divided Ann Arbor between those with too little to do, and those with too much. While the economic shutdown triggered a record surge in unemployment, people in "essential occupations" are busier than ever.

They're healing the sick and studying the infection--but also feeding the hungry, fixing plugged sinks, and learning lessons that only the dead can teach.

Scientific Discovery



Allecia M Wilson, MD and Monique Micallef, D-ABMDI

- Facility environmental controls (negative pressure)
- Availability of PPE
 - Double surgical gloves interposed with a layer of cut-proof synthetic mesh gloves.
 - Fluid-resistant or impermeable isolation gown.
 - Waterproof apron.
 - Goggles or face shield.
 - NIOSH-approved disposable N95 or higher respirator.
- Oscillating saw vacuum
- Postmortem specimen collection for testing:
 - Nasopharyngeal Swab (NP swab)
 - Lung swabs
 - Formalin-fixed autopsy tissues

Postmortem Lung Findings in a Patient With Asthma and Coronavirus Disease 2019

Kristine E Konopka, Allecia M Wilson, Jeffrey L Myers

Chest. 2020 Apr;158(3):e99-e101. doi: 10.1016/j.chest.2020.04.032.



A 37-year-old man with a medial history of asthma treated with ipratropium bromide and albuterol inhaler, and type 2 diabetes, treated with Sitagliptin who presented with a 1-day history of fever, nonproductive cough, and myalgias. He was admitted for medical treatment of presumptive COVID-19. He later tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.



Figure 1 – Heavy lungs with consolidation, hemorrhage and mucus plugs.

Figure 2 – Diffuse alveolar damage characterized by epithelial and endothelial injury, resulting in the formation of hyaline membranes that outline distal alveolar airspaces

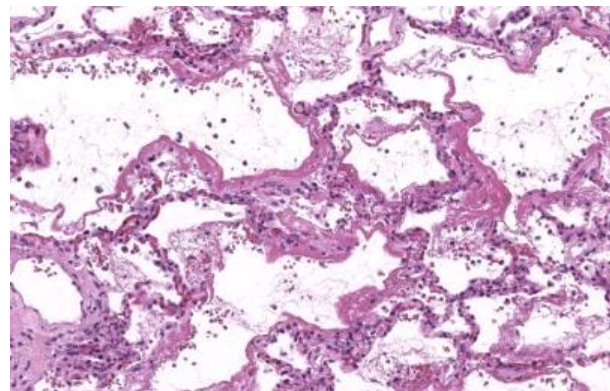
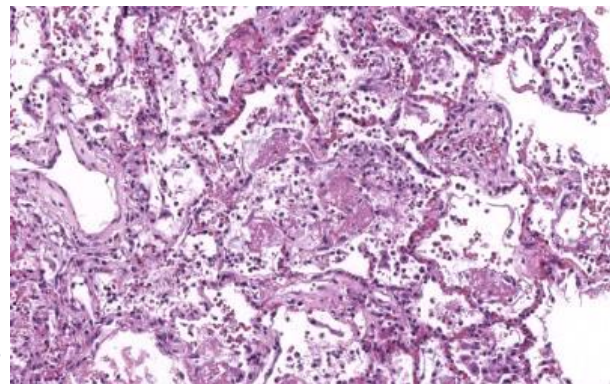


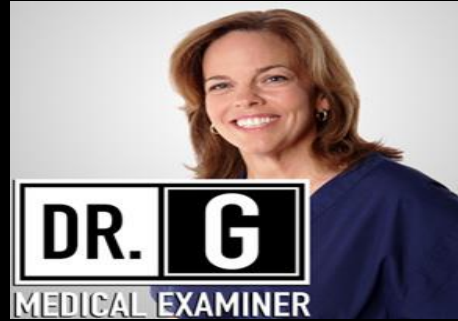
Figure 3 – Distal alveolar spaces focally filled with a fibrinous exudate and an inflammatory infiltrate, composed mainly of mononuclear inflammatory cells



Why it Matters



Forensic Pathologists...



Questions and Discussion