

# Medical Examiners Commission Meeting

August 12, 2025

Barbara C. Wolf, M.D. • Kenneth T. Jones • Brian Fernandes, J.D. • Charlie Cofer, J.D.  
Robin Giddens Sheppard, L.F.D. • Sheriff Robert “Bob” Johnson  
Joshua Stephany, M.D. • Amira Fox, J.D.

## MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION MEETING

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort and Spa  
1000 PGA Tour Boulevard  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082  
August 12, 2025 10:00 AM EDT

Opening Remarks

Introduction of Commission Members and Staff

Approval of Meeting Agenda and Minutes from previous Commission Meeting of May 14, 2025

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<b><u>ISSUE NUMBER</u></b>	<b><u>PRESENTER</u></b>
1. Informational Items:	
• Status Update: MEC Appointments and Reappointments	Brett Kirkland, Ph.D.
• Status Update: DME Appointments and Reappointments	Brett Kirkland, Ph.D.
• District 8 Medical Examiner Vacancy	Joshua Stephany, M.D.
• 2024 Interim Drugs in Deceased Persons Report	Megan Neel
• 2024 Annual Drugs in Deceased Persons Report	Megan Neel
• 2024 Annual Workload Report	Megan Neel
• 2025 Interim Drugs in Deceased Persons Report	Megan Neel
• 2024 Coverdell Status Update	Ashley Williams
• 2025 Coverdell Status Update	Ashley Williams
2. Disaster Reporting Form and Ready Op	Ashley Bullard
3. FDLE Forensic Update	Leigh Clark
4. FEMORS Update	FEMORS Staff
5. Emerging Drugs	Bruce A. Goldberger, Ph.D.
6. Other Business	Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.
• 2025 FAME Conference	Dan Schebler

The next MEC Meeting will be October 28th at the Embassy Suites in Kissimmee, FL.

**MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION MEETING**  
Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista South  
4955 Kyngs Heath Rd  
Kissimmee, FL 34746  
May 13, 2025, 10:00 AM EDT

Commission Chairman Barbara C. Wolf, M.D., called the meeting of the Medical Examiners Commission to order at **10:00 AM**. She advised those in the audience that the meetings of the Medical Examiners Commission are open to the public and that members of the public will be allowed five minutes to speak. She then welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Commission members, staff, and audience members to introduce themselves.

**Commission members present:**

Barbara C. Wolf, M.D., Districts 5 & 24 Medical Examiner  
Brian Fernandes, J.D., Chief Assistant Statewide Prosecutor, Office of the Attorney General  
Kenneth T. Jones, State Registrar, Department of Health  
Robin Giddens Sheppard, L.F.D., Funeral Director  
Hon. Charlie Cofer, J.D., Public Defender, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
Joshua Stephany, M.D., Districts 9 & 25 Medical Examiner  
Hon. Amira Fox, J.D., State Attorney, 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
Hon. Robert "Bob" Johnson, Santa Rosa County Sheriff

**Commission staff present:**

Brett Kirkland, Ph.D.	Megan Neel
Ashley Bullard	Ashley Williams
Natalie Bielby, J.D.	

**District Medical Examiners present:**

Deanna Oleske, M.D. (District 1)	Sajid S. Qaiser, M.D. (District 18)
Russell S. Vega, M.D. (Districts 12 & 22)	Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D. (District 6)

**Other District personnel present:**

Bill Pellam (District 6 and 8)	Dan Schebler (District 1)
Ricardo Camacho (District 2)	Ralph Saccone (District 15)
Sheri Blanton (District 9/25)	Paul Petrino (District 15)
Cassie Bates (District 15)	

**Guests present:**

Chad Brown, Director of Criminal Justice Professionalism (FDLE)	Gabe Feltner (Othram)
Jonathan Rigsby, Senior Crime Intelligence Analyst II (FDLE)	Heather Hensley (LWVI)
Leigh Clark, Chief of Forensic Services (FDLE)	Shane Lockwood (Florida Department of Health, St. Johns County)
Tinene Alter (DNA Labs International)	Phoebe Stubblefield (UF CAPHIL)
Katelyn Atkins (CorneaGen)	Caitlin Field (UF CAPHIL)
James Rosa (LWVI)	Sheridan Lea (UF CAPHIL)
Karen Schebler (Citizen)	Grace Calhoun (UF CAPHIL)
Bruce Goldberger (Florida Department of Health)	Sherry Groover (Citizen)

**A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2025 MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION MEETING.**

**ISSUE NUMBER 1 & 2: INTRODUCTIONS:**

- New MEC Staff Member: Director Brown introduced new MEC Staff Member, Ashley Bullard to the Commission.
- New MEC Attorney: Dr. Kirkland introduced the new MEC Attorney, Natalie Bielby to the Commission.

**ISSUE NUMBER 3: INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- Status Report: MEC Appointments: Dr. Kirkland informed the Commission that Nick Cox has stepped down from his role as a Commission member as a designee for the Attorney General's Office. Attorney General James Uthmeier has appointed Brian Fernandes as the representative for the Attorney General's Office to the Commission.
- District 8 Medical Examiner Vacancy: Joshua Stephany, M.D., informed the Commission that the District 8 District Medical Examiner's position is still vacant and has no news to report. Dr. Jon Thogmartin will continue to provide coverage. Dr. Thogmartin advised that Alachua County has two critical items to address before advertising the District 8 Medical Examiner position.
- 2024 Interim Drug Report: Ms. Megan Neel informed the Commission that drug data has been completed and just awaiting final approval before publishing. Ms. Neel advised the Commission that it should be published soon.
- 2024 Annual Drug Report: Ms. Megan Neel informed the Commission that drug data has been received, complied and going through the quality assurance committee for review. Ms. Neel advised the Commission that it should be published early summer.
- 2024 Annual Workload Report: Ms. Megan Neel reminded the Commission that due date for the 2024 data is May 31, 2025. Ms. Neel advised if the districts have an issue, to reach out to her. Commission staff is aware there will be some pending cases but that can be resolved later.
- 2024 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program Status Update: Ms. Ashley Williams informed the Commission that funds have been released and the FDLE Grants unit is working on reimbursements. Ms. Williams reminded the districts to make their purchases and get the reimbursement forms submitted.
- 2025 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program Status Update: Ms. Ashley Williams advised that 14 proposals were received for the 2025 Paul Coverdell Grant. Ms. Williams advised that there has been no indication on if the 2025 Paul Coverdell will be issued.
- 2025 Legislative Session Update: FDLE Legal Counsel Natalie Bielby, informed the Commission of bills of interest to the Commission and the medical examiner community. Ms. Bielby informed the Commission that House Bill 231 (Public Records/ Medical Examiners) which establishes a public records exemption for personal identifying and location information of current and former medical examiners, along with their spouses and children has been withdrawn from consideration.

**ISSUE NUMBER 4: REAPPOINTMENT NOMINATIONS FOR DISTRICT 8, 10, 12, AND 14 AND ASSESSMENTS FOR DISTRICT 9, 11, 13 AND 25**

The Commission reviewed the constituent surveys for the reappointments of District Medical Examiners in District 8 (Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, and Union Counties), District 10 (Hardee, Highlands, and Polk Counties), District 12 (DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties), and District 14 (Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington Counties).

The Commission also reviewed the survey assessments for District 3 (Dixie County), District 9 (Orange County), District 11 (Miami-Dade County), District 13 (Hillsborough County), and District 25 (Osceola County). District 3 receives medical examiner services through contractual agreement with District 8. Districts 9, 11, 13, and 25 are home rule districts.

With constituents overwhelmingly responding with approval for the district medical examiners in districts 8, 10, 12, and 14, the Commission held a lump vote for the districts up for reappointment.

**WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, MRS. SHEPPARD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF THE INCUMBENT MEDICAL EXAMINERS IN DISTRICTS 8, 10, 12, AND 14. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE REAPPOINTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF DISTRICT 8, 10, 12, AND 14 MEDICAL EXAMINERS BE FORWARDED TO THE GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS OFFICE.**

**ISSUE NUMBER 5: UNIDENTIFIED DECEASED INITIATIVE:**

Ms. Ashley Williams read into record Cold Case Identification from District 13:

On October 15, 1997, the decomposed body of an adult Hispanic/white male was found prone in 1-2 inches of water under a railway track in a canal at 43rd St & 7th Ave in Tampa. The body was found along with personal belongings to include Tampa General Hospital phenobarbital prescription, Resident Alien Card, and Social Security Card. All belongings were labeled as belonging to Rodolfo Barcenias-Guerrero DOB 05/20/1958. The cause and manner of death were ruled undetermined. Partial fingerprints were obtained; however, nothing was on file with Tampa Police Department. In November 1997, the Mexican Consulate was contacted to attempt identification and/or family contact. In January 1998, the Mexican Consulate advised they were unsuccessful at either attempt. Only an mtDNA STR profile was able to be obtained for CODIS and the decedent was buried at Chapel Hill Cemetery Lot Lakeside 67B Space Z as Unidentified. In August 2024, the US Customs and Border Patrol was contacted for further ID attempt with the above information. In September 2024, CBP was able to provide a report with possible sister. The sister was contacted who confirmed that her brother, Rodolfo Barcenias Guerrero, has been missing. Partial ante-mortem prints were received and attempted identification with the partial post-mortem prints. Due to the condition of both sets of prints, no ID was able to be established. The Mexican Consulate was contacted and was able to provide a buccal swab of the sister in Mexico. In April 2025, the buccal swab of the sister and a premolar from the decedent were submitted to the Pinellas County Forensic Lab for direct comparison. On May 1, 2025, the DNA report was received which advised the DNA profiles were consistent with being from full biological siblings.

## **ISSUE NUMBER 6: OTHRAM INFO AND FUNDING OPTIONS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

Sales Director Gabriel Feltner presented the Commission with a presentation on Othram forensic laboratories. Mr. Feltner informed the Commission on the services that are provided by Othram and how they benefit medical examiners, along with how to apply for the services.

Deputy Director Leigh Clark of FDLE's Forensic Services gave an update on the Missing and Unidentified Human Remains (MUHR) Program and the Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy Grant (FIGG) Program. Ms. Clark gave an in-depth presentation on the expanded services that are being offered, the criteria for participation, and the FIGG-specific funding sources. The grant is open to local and state law enforcement agencies, Florida medical examiners offices, perpetrator cases, homicide victims, and unidentified human remains doe cases. Ms. Clark further explained the requirements for the FIGG Program submission process.

## **ISSUE NUMBER 7: EMERGING DRUGS UPDATE**

Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D., provided the Commission with an update on new drug trends. Dr. Goldberger informed the Commission that laboratories are seeing a decrease in fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, cathinones and xylazine. However, there has been a noticeable increase in cocaine only cases and methamphetamine only cases. There is still a small number of carfentanil cases across the state at a constant level. Also, there are two emerging cathinone's, N-Isopropyl Butylone and N,N-Dimethylpentylone. The newest cathinone that has been identified in postmortems is  $\alpha$ -PiHP, mostly seen in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami- Dade counties. There has been an increase in ketamine associated deaths. Ketamine is now available as a prescription drug to treat depression but still available as a club drug particularly in Miami-Dade County.

Furthermore, Dr. Goldberger informed the Commission that the toxicology laboratory directors continue to meet bimonthly to discuss the prevalence and emergence of drugs in the state of Florida. Participants of the meeting include representatives from the MEC, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Florida Department of Health, and the Office of Statewide Intelligence.

## **ISSUE NUMBER 8: OTHER BUSINESS**

Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D., informed the Commission of a new project that the Department of Health has established. The Department of Health recognizes the critical role that Florida's Medical Examiner districts play in collecting and reporting death investigation data which supports health programs, education, and research, and most importantly, helps prevent avoidable deaths. As such, Department of Health is exploring opportunities to make medical examiner's data collection and reporting more efficient for all stakeholders who rely on this information. To establish an understanding of existing medical examiner's district systems, tools, and processes, consulting partners, North Highland and Ruvos, will contact each district to request some documentation and schedule a 90-minute interview to be conducted during June 2025.

**With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 A.M.**

# MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION

**Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.**  
**Chairman**

District 5/24 Medical Examiner  
809 Pine Street  
Leesburg, Florida 34748  
(352) 326-5961  
E: [barbara.wolf@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:barbara.wolf@marioncountyfl.org)  
First Term: 8/7/2015-7/1/2019  
Second Term: 2/10/2023 - 6/30/2023

**Robin Giddens Sheppard, L.F.D.**

Funeral Director/Vice President  
Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes  
4801 San Jose Boulevard  
Jacksonville, Florida 32207  
(904) 737-7171  
E: [Robin.Sheppard@dignitymemorial.com](mailto:Robin.Sheppard@dignitymemorial.com)  
First Term: 8/15/2013-7/1/2016  
Second Term: 08/29/2018-07/01/2020  
Third Term: 2/10/2023 - 6/30/2024

**Mr. Kenneth T. Jones**

State Registrar  
Florida Department of Health  
Bureau of Vital Statistics  
Post Office Box 210  
Jacksonville, Florida 32231  
(904) 359-6900 ext. 1001  
E: [Ken.Jones@flhealth.gov](mailto:Ken.Jones@flhealth.gov)  
Term: Not Applicable

**Honorable Amira Fox, J.D.**

State Attorney  
20th Judicial Circuit  
PO Box 399  
Fort Myers, Florida 33902  
(239) 533-1100  
email: [afox@sao20.org](mailto:afox@sao20.org)  
First Term: 2/10/2023 - 6/30/2023

**Joshua Stephany, M.D.**

District 9/25 Medical Examiner  
2350 East Michigan Street  
Orlando, Florida 32806  
(407) 836-9400  
email: [joshua.stephany@ocfl.net](mailto:joshua.stephany@ocfl.net)  
First Term: 2/10/2023 - 6/30/2024

**Honorable Charlie Cofer, J.D.**

Public Defender, 4th Judicial Circuit  
407 N. Laura Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202  
(904) 255-4673  
E: [cocofer@pd4.coj.net](mailto:cocofer@pd4.coj.net)  
First Term: 08/29/2018-07/01/2021  
Second Term: 2/10/2023 - 6/30/2025

**Brian Fernandes, J.D.**

Chief Assistant Statewide Prosecutor  
Office of the Attorney General  
107 West Gaines Street, Suite 531  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
850-414-3300  
email: [Brian.Fernandes@myfloridalegal.com](mailto:Brian.Fernandes@myfloridalegal.com)  
Term: Not Applicable

**VACANT**

County Commissioner

**Honorable Robert "Bob" Johnson**

Sheriff  
Santa Rosa County  
5755 East Milton Road  
Milton, Florida 32583  
(850) 983-1100  
email: [rjohnson@srso.net](mailto:rjohnson@srso.net)  
First Term: 2/10/2023 - 6/30/2025

## STAFF

Medical Examiners Commission  
Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
Post Office Box 1489  
Tallahassee, Florida 32302  
(850) 410-8600

Bureau Chief Brett Kirkland, Ph. D.  
(850) 410-8600  
[brettkirkland@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:brettkirkland@fdle.state.fl.us)

Manager II Ashley Bullard  
(850) 410-8639  
[AshleyBullard@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:AshleyBullard@fdle.state.fl.us)

Government Analyst II Megan Neel  
(850) 410-8664  
[meganneel@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:meganneel@fdle.state.fl.us)

Government Analyst II Ashley Williams  
(850) 410-8609  
[ashleywilliams@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:ashleywilliams@fdle.state.fl.us)

Attorney Supervisor Natalie Bielby  
(850) 410-7681  
[NatalieBielby@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:NatalieBielby@fdle.state.fl.us)

# FLORIDA DISTRICT MEDICAL EXAMINERS

## District 1

### Deanna Oleske, M.D.

Interim Medical Examiner  
2114 Airport Blvd. Suite 1450  
Pensacola, Florida 32504  
Director of Operations Dan Schebler  
(850) 332-7300  
FAX: (850) 285-0774  
e-mail: [contactus@d1meo.org](mailto:contactus@d1meo.org)

## District 2

### Thomas M. Coyne, M.D., Ph.D

Interim Medical Examiner  
560 Leonard Gray Way  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304  
Director of Operations Ricardo Camacho  
(850) 606-6600  
FAX: (850) 606-6601  
e-mail: [rcamacho@Dist2ME.org](mailto:rcamacho@Dist2ME.org)

## District 3

Dixie Co.

ME Services Provided by District 3  
Lafayette, Madison & Suwannee Co.

ME Services Provided by District 2  
Columbia & Hamilton Co.

ME Services Provided by District 4

## District 4

### B. Robert Pietak, M.D.

Interim Medical Examiner  
2100 Jefferson Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32206  
Director of Operations Tim Crutchfield  
(904) 255-4000  
FAX: (904) 630-0964  
e-mail: [tcrutchfield@coj.net](mailto:tcrutchfield@coj.net)

## District 5

### Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.

809 Pine Street  
Leesburg, Florida 34748  
Director of Operations Lindsey Bayer  
(352) 326-5961  
FAX: (352) 365-6438  
e-mail: [Lindsey.Bayer@marioncounty.fl.org](mailto:Lindsey.Bayer@marioncounty.fl.org)

## District 6

### Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D.

10900 Ulmerton Road  
Largo, Florida 33778  
Chief Investigator Damon Breton  
(727) 582-6800  
FAX: (727) 582-6820  
e-mail: [dbreton@co.pinellas.fl.us](mailto:dbreton@co.pinellas.fl.us)

## District 7 (Home Rule)

### James W. Fulcher, M.D.

3891 Tiger Bay Road  
Daytona Beach, FL 32124-1001  
Director of Operations Karla Orozco  
(386) 258-4060  
FAX: (386) 258-4061  
e-mail: [korozco@volusia.org](mailto:korozco@volusia.org)

## District 8

### Jon R. Thogmartin

Interim Medical Examiner  
3217 SW 47th Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32608  
(352) 273-9292  
FAX: (352) 273-9288

## District 9 (Home Rule)

### Joshua D. Stephany, M.D.

2350 East Michigan Street  
Orlando, Florida 32806  
Program Manager Sheri Blanton  
(407) 836-9400  
FAX: (407) 836-9450  
e-mail: [Sheri.Blanton@ocfl.net](mailto:Sheri.Blanton@ocfl.net)

## District 10

### Stephen J. Nelson, M.A., M.D., F.C.A.P.

1021 Jim Keene Boulevard  
Winter Haven, Florida 33880  
Office Manager Sheli Wilson  
(863) 298-4600  
FAX: (863) 298-5264  
e-mail: [StephenNelson@polk-county.net](mailto:StephenNelson@polk-county.net)

## District 11 (Home Rule)

### Kenneth Hutchins, M.D.

Medical Examiner  
Number One on Bob Hope Road  
Miami, Florida 33136-1133  
Director of Operations Sandra Boyd  
(305) 545-2400  
FAX: (305) 545-2412  
e-mail: [sandra.boyd@miamidade.gov](mailto:sandra.boyd@miamidade.gov)

## District 12

### Russell S. Vega, M.D.

4510 Fruitville Road  
Sarasota, Florida 34232  
Director of Operations David Winterhalter  
(941) 361-6909  
FAX: (941) 361-6914  
email: [rvega@fldist12me.com](mailto:rvega@fldist12me.com)

## District 13 (Home Rule)

### Carolina McEnnan, M.D.

11025 North 46th Street  
Tampa, Florida 33617  
Manager of Operations Harrison Cowan  
(813) 914-4500  
FAX: (813) 914-4594  
email: [McEnnanC@hcfi.gov](mailto:McEnnanC@hcfi.gov)

## District 14

### Jay Radtke, M.D.

3737 Frankford Avenue  
Panama City, Florida 32405  
Director of Operations Whit Majors  
(850) 747-5740  
FAX: (850) 747-5745  
e-mail: [wmajors@baycountyfl.gov](mailto:wmajors@baycountyfl.gov)

## District 15 (Home Rule)

### Catherine R. Miller, M.D.

Medical Examiner  
3126 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406  
Forensic Supervisor Ralph Saccone  
(561) 688-4575  
FAX: (561) 688-4588  
e-mail: [rsaccone@pbcgov.org](mailto:rsaccone@pbcgov.org)

## District 16

### Michael Steckbauer, M.D.

Interim Medical Examiner  
56639 Overseas Hwy  
Marathon, Florida 33050  
(305) 743-9011  
FAX: (305) 743-9013  
e-mail: [meo@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:meo@monroecounty-fl.gov)

## District 17 (Home Rule)

### Rebecca MacDougall, M.D.

Medical Examiner  
5301 S.W. 31st Avenue  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33312  
Division Admin Assistant Heather Galvez  
(954) 357-5200  
FAX: (954) 327-6580  
e-mail: [rmacdougall@broward.org](mailto:rmacdougall@broward.org)

## District 18

### Sajid S. Qaiser, M.D.

1750 Cedar Street  
Rockledge, Florida 32955  
Program Manager Michael Szczepanski  
(321) 633-1981  
FAX: (321) 633-1986  
e-mail: [michael.szczepanski@brevardfl.gov](mailto:michael.szczepanski@brevardfl.gov)

## District 19

### Patricia A. Aronica, M.D.

Interim Medical Examiner  
2500 South 35th Street  
Ft. Pierce, Florida 34981  
Operations Manager Kimberly Loucks  
(772) 464-7378  
FAX: (772) 464-2409  
e-mail: [kimberly.loucks@stlucieco.gov](mailto:kimberly.loucks@stlucieco.gov)

## District 20

### Marta U. Coburn, M.D.

3838 Domestic Avenue  
Naples, Florida 34104  
Administrative Coordinator Michelle Correia  
(239) 434-5020  
FAX: (239) 434-5027  
e-mail: [naplesme@d20me.net](mailto:naplesme@d20me.net)

## District 21

### Rebecca A. Hamilton, M.D.

70 South Danley Drive  
Ft. Myers, Florida 33907  
Director of Operations Patti Wheaton  
(239) 533-6339  
FAX: (239) 277-5017  
e-mail: [pwheaton@leegov.com](mailto:pwheaton@leegov.com)

## District 22

### Russell S. Vega, M.D.

Interim Medical Examiner  
18130 Paulson Drive  
Pt. Charlotte, Florida 33954  
Director of Operations Penny Fulton  
(941) 625-1111  
FAX: (941) 627-0995  
e-mail: [pfulton@district22me.com](mailto:pfulton@district22me.com)

## District 23

### Wendolyn Sneed, M.D.

Medical Examiner  
4501 Avenue A  
St. Augustine, Florida 32095  
Forensic Operations Manager Kelly Boulos  
(904) 209-0820  
FAX: (800) 255-8617  
e-mail: [kboulos@sjcfl.us](mailto:kboulos@sjcfl.us)

## District 24

### Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.

ME Services Provided by District 5

## District 25 (Home Rule)

### Joshua D. Stephany, M.D.

ME Services Provided by District 9



## FLORIDA ASSOCIATE MEDICAL EXAMINERS

### **District 1**

Danielle R. Armstrong, D.O.  
Lorraine Lopez-Morell, M.D.  
Michael Pagacz, M.D.  
(Wilson A. Broussard, M.D.)  
(Thomas M. Coyne, M.D., Ph.D.)  
(Jennifer Dierksen, M.D.)  
(Emily R. Duncanson, M.D.)  
(Lisa Flannagan, M.D.)  
(James W. Fulcher, M.D.)  
(Ami Murphy, D.O.)  
(Maneesha Pandey, M.D.)  
(Jay M. Radtke, M.D.)  
(Brandy L. Shattuck, M.D.)

### **District 2**

(Lisa M. Flannagan, M.D.)  
(Jan M. Gorniak, D.O.)  
(Noel R. Agudo, M.D.)  
(Natalia Belova, M.D.)  
(Kailee Imperatore, M.D.)  
(Andrew Koopmeiners, M.D.)  
(Noel A. Palma, M.D.)  
(Heidi Reinhard, M.D.)  
(Sarah C. Thomas, M.D.)  
(Jason R. Van Roo, M.D.)

### **District 3**

Dixie Co.  
ME Services Provided by District 8  
Lafayette, Madison, & Suwannee Co.  
ME Services Provided by District 2  
Columbia & Hamilton Co.  
ME Services Provided by District 4

### **District 4**

Robert Buchsbaum, M.D., J.D.  
Peter Gillespie, M.D.  
Brittany L. Glad, D.O.  
Sherry L. Jilinski, M.D.  
Aurelian Nicolaescu, M.D.  
Robert R. Pfalzgraf, M.D.  
Jason R. Van Roo, M.D.  
(Noel R. Agudo, M.D.)  
(Danielle R. Armstrong, D.O.)  
(Michael Bell, M.D.)  
(Leszek Chrostowski, M.D.)  
(Iana Lesnikova, M.D.)  
(Brandon M. Maveal, M.D.)  
(Deanna A. Oleske, M.D.)  
(Valerie J. Rao, M.D.)  
(Sandra A. Siller, M.D.)  
(Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)

### **District 5**

Tracey S. Corey, M.D.  
Joy Edgebe, M.D.  
Rachel A. Lange, M.D.  
Chantel Nijwaji, M.D.  
Tracey L. Shipe, D.O.  
(Noel R. Agudo, M.D.)  
(Michael Bell, M.D.)  
(Thomas M. Coyne, M.D., Ph.D.)  
(James W. Fulcher, M.D.)  
(Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.)  
(Kailee Imperatore, M.D.)  
(Wayne D. Kurz, M.D.)  
(Andrew Koopmeiners, M.D.)  
(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)  
(Aurelian Nicolaescu, M.D.)  
(Noel A. Palma, M.D.)  
(Joshua D. Stephany, M.D.)  
(Jon Thogmartin, M.D.)  
(Jason R. Van Roo, M.D.)

### **District 6**

Noel R. Agudo, M.D.  
Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.  
Kailee Imperatore, M.D.  
Wayne D. Kurz, M.D.  
Andrew Koopmeiners, M.D.  
Noel A. Palma, M.D.  
Jason R. Van Roo, M.D.  
(Wilson A. Broussard, M.D.)  
(Marcela Chiste, M.D.)  
(Tracey S. Corey, M.D.)  
(Thomas M. Coyne, M.D., Ph.D.)  
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(Rachel A. Lange, M.D.)  
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(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)  
(Chantel Nijwaji, M.D.)  
(Shanedelle S. Norford, M.D.)  
(Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)  
(Phouthasone Thirakul, M.D.)  
(Suzanne R. Utley-Bobak, M.D.)  
(Russell S. Vega, M.D.)  
(Vera V. Volnikh, M.D.)  
(Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)

### **District 7**

Ruth Kohlmeier, M.D.  
Mary G. Ripple, M.D.  
(Noel R. Agudo, M.D.)  
(Marcela Chiste, M.D.)  
(Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.)  
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(Rebecca MacDougall, M.D.)  
(Shanedelle S. Norford, M.D.)  
(Noel A. Palma, M.D.)  
(Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D.)  
(Lee Tormos, M.D.)

### **District 8**

(Noel Agudo, M.D.)  
(Michael Bell, M.D.)  
(Natalia Belova, M.D.)  
(Alexander Blank, M.D.)  
(Thomas M. Coyne, M.D., Ph.D.)  
(Lisa Flanagan, M.D.)  
(Alexis Jelinek, M.D.)  
(Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.)  
(Kailee Imperatore, M.D.)  
(Andrew Koopmeiners, M.D.)  
(Wayne D. Kurz, M.D.)  
(Wendy Lavezzi, M.D.)  
(Rebecca MacDougall, M.D.)  
(Chantel Nijwaji, M.D.)  
(Shanedelle S. Norford, M.D.)  
(Noel Palma, M.D.)  
(Heidi Reinhard, M.D.)  
(Mark Shuman, M.D.)  
(Jason Van Roo, M.D.)  
(Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)

### **District 9**

Brooke Blake, M.D.  
Joy Edgebe, M.D.  
Marie H. Hansen, M.D.  
Soren L. Jensen, D.O.  
Jenaye L. Mack, M.D.  
Sandra A. Siller, M.D.  
Sara H. Zydowicz, D.O.  
(Tracey S. Corey, M.D.)  
(James Fulcher, M.D.)  
(D. Fintan Garavan, M.D., Ph.D.)  
(Julia V. Hegert, M.D.)  
(Ruth Kohlmeier, M.D.)  
(Rachel A. Lange, M.D.)  
(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)  
(Chantel Nijwaji, M.D.)  
(Mary G. Ripple, M.D.)  
(Tracey L. Shipe, D.O.)  
(Sajid S. Qaiser, M.D.)  
(Vera V. Volnikh, M.D.)  
(Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)

### **District 10**

D. Fintan Garavan, M.D., Ph.D.  
Vera V. Volnikh, M.D.  
(Kelly G. Devers, M.D.)  
(Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.)  
(Wayne D. Kurz, M.D.)  
(Wendy Lavezzi, M.D.)  
(Ryan D. McCormick, M.D.)  
(Daisy C. McEnnan, M.D.)  
(Noel A. Palma, M.D.)  
(Ashley R. Perkins, D.O.)  
(Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D.)  
(Milad Webb, M.D.)  
(Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)

### **District 11**

Nicholas Barna, M.D.  
Jonathan Kanakaraj, M.D.  
Katherine Kenerson, M.D.  
Benjamin Mathis, M.D.  
Attila Molnar, M.D.  
Jusmita Saifullan, M.D.  
Tiffany Sheganoski, D.O.  
Tyson Sutherland, M.D.  
Tuyet Tran, D.O.  
(Michael D. Bell, M.D.)  
(Iouri G. Boiko, M.D., Ph.D.)  
(Manfred Borges, M.D.)  
(Marcela Chiste, M.D.)  
(Marta Coburn, M.D.)  
(Gertrude M. Juste, M.D.)  
(Rebecca MacDougall, M.D.)  
(Craig Mallak, M.D.)  
(Linda R. O'Neil, M.D.)  
(Marion S. Osbourne, M.D.)  
(Stephen Robinson, M.D.)  
(Stacey A. Simons, M.D.)  
(Terrill Tops, M.D.)  
(Lee Marie Tormos, M.D.)

### **District 12**

Omar Ansari, M.D.  
Wilson A. Broussard, M.D.  
Phouthasone Thirakul, M.D.  
Suzanne R. Utley-Bobak, M.D.  
(Leszek Chrostowski, M.D.)  
(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)  
(Robert R. Pfalzgraf, M.D.)  
(Valerie J. Rao, M.D.)  
(Wendolyn Sneed, M.D.)

### **District 13**

Omar Ansari, M.D.  
Kelly G. Devers, M.D.  
Ryan D. McCormick, M.D.  
Ashley R. Perkins, D.O.  
Noah D. Reilly, D.O.  
Milad Webb, M.D.  
(Leszek Chrostowski, M.D.)  
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(Noel R. Agudo, M.D.)  
(Michael D. Bell, M.D.)  
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(Katherine L. Kenerson, M.D.)  
(Andrea N. Minyard, M.D.)  
(Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)  
(Phouthasone Thirakul, M.D.)

### **District 15**

Natalia Belova, M.D.  
Marcela Chiste, M.D.  
Eric A. Eason, M.D.  
Marlon S. Osbourne, M.D.  
Heidi Reinhard, M.D.  
Terrill Tops, M.D.  
Lee Marie Tormos, M.D.  
Anthony Vinson, DO  
(Michael Bell, M.D.)  
(Kenneth D. Hutchins, M.D.)  
(Alexis Jelinek, M.D.)  
(Stacey A. Simons, M.D.)  
(Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)  
(Michael Steckbauer, M.D.)  
(Jon Thogmartin, M.D.)

### **District 16**

(Iouri G. Boiko, M.D. Ph.D.)  
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(Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)

### **District 17**

Iouri G. Boiko, M.D., Ph.D.  
Alexander Blank, M.D.  
Yanel De Los Santos, M.D.  
Erin Ely, M.D.  
Alexis Jelinek, M.D.  
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Stephen Robinson, M.D.  
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(Kenneth Hutchins, M.D.)  
(Benjamin Mathis, M.D.)  
(Heidi L. Reinhard, M.D.)  
(Tuyet Tran, D.O.)

### **District 18**

John S. Daniel, M.D.  
Matrina J. Schmidt, M.D.  
(Patricia A. Aronica, M.D.)  
(May Jennifer Amolat-Apiado, M.D.)  
(Raman Baldzizhar, M.D.)  
(Jacqueline A. Benjamin, M.D.)  
(Barbara Bollinger, M.D.)  
(Thomas M. Coyne, M.D.)  
(Brandon Maveal, M.D.)  
(Aaron J. Rosen, M.D.)  
(Adrienne Sauder, M.D.)

### **District 19**

Raman Baldzizhar, M.D.  
Barbara Bollinger, M.D.  
Stefanie J. Grewe, M.D.  
Adrienne Sauder, M.D.  
(Michael D. Bell, M.D.)  
(Joseph M. Curran, M.D.)  
(Marie H. Hansen, M.D.)  
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### **District 20**

Andrea N. Minyard, M.D.  
(Michael D. Bell, M.D.)  
(Rebecca A. Hamilton, M.D.)  
(Emma O. Lew, M.D.)

### **District 21**

Colin D. Appleford, D.O.  
Noelia Alemar Hernandez, M.D.  
Sarah C. Thomas, M.D.  
(Michael D. Bell, M.D.)  
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(Wilson A. Broussard, Jr., M.D.)  
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(Suzanne R. Utley-Bobak, M.D.)

### **District 23**

Iana Lesnikova, M.D.  
(James W. Fulcher, M.D.)  
(Ruth Kohlmeier, M.D.)

### **District 24**

ME Services Provided by District 5

### **District 25**

ME Services Provided by District 9

# Coverage Map

## Florida Medical Examiner Districts

### District 1

Escambia  
Okaloosa  
Santa Rosa  
Walton

### District 2

Franklin  
Gadsden  
Jefferson  
Leon  
Liberty  
Taylor  
Wakulla

### District 3 \*Covered by

Columbia \*4  
Dixie \*8  
Hamilton \*4  
Lafayette \*2  
Madison \*2  
Suwannee \*2

### District 4

Clay  
Duval  
Nassau

### District 5

Citrus  
Hernando  
Lake  
Marion  
Sumter

### District 6

Pasco  
Pinellas

### District 7

Volusia

### District 8

Alachua  
Baker  
Bradford  
Gilchrist  
Levy  
Union

### District 9

Orange

### District 10

Hardee  
Highlands  
Polk

### District 11

Miami-Dade

### District 12

DeSoto  
Manatee  
Sarasota

### District 13

Hillsborough

### District 14

Bay  
Calhoun  
Gulf  
Holmes  
Jackson  
Washington

### District 15

Palm Beach

### District 16

Monroe

### District 17

Broward

### District 18

Brevard

### District 19

Indian River  
Martin  
Okeechobee  
St. Lucie

### District 20

Collier

### District 21

Glades  
Hendry  
Lee

### District 22

Charlotte

### District 23

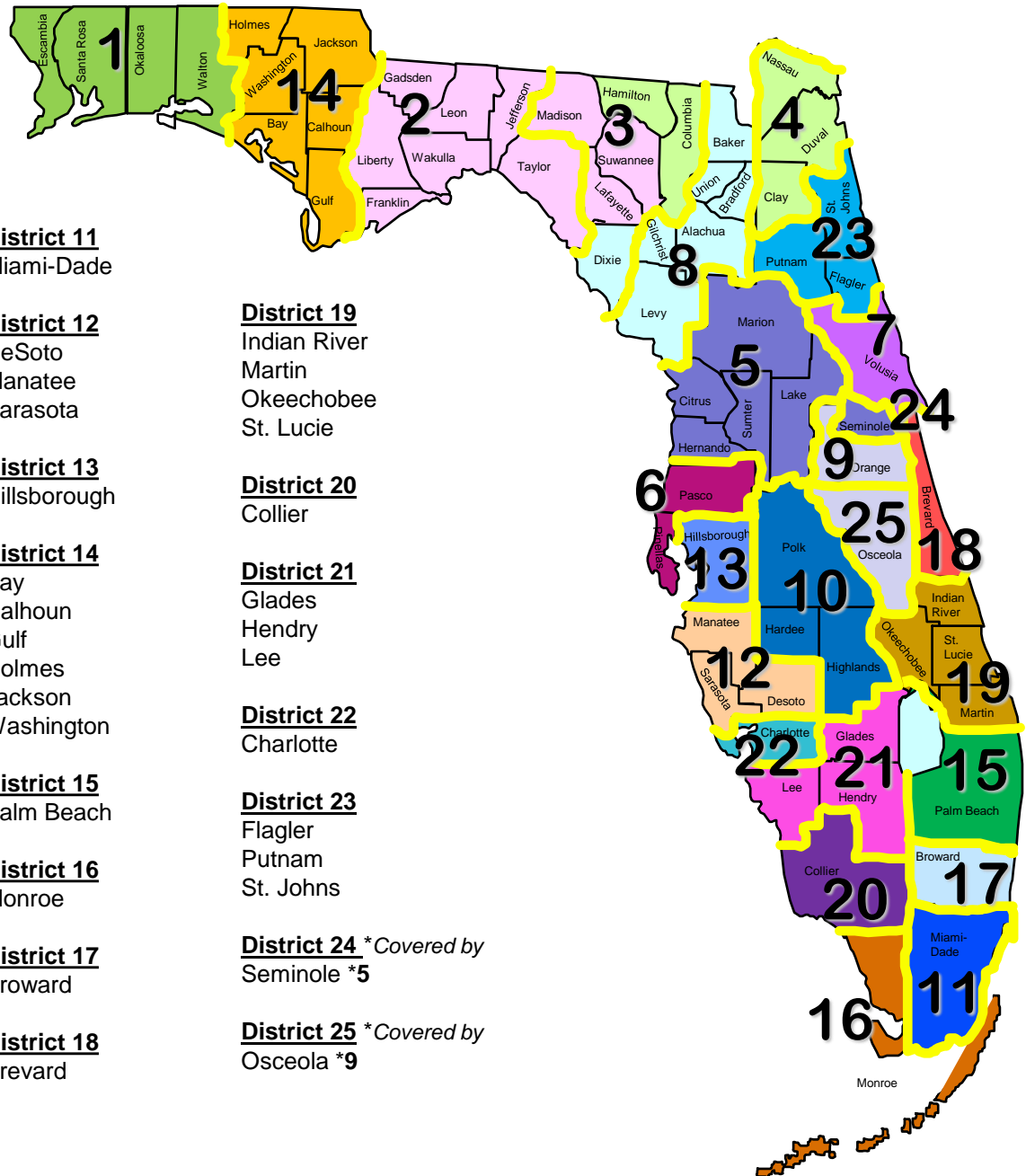
Flagler  
Putnam  
St. Johns

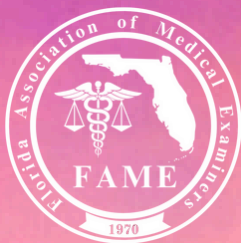
### District 24 \*Covered by

Seminole \*5

### District 25 \*Covered by

Osceola \*9





# FAME

Florida Association of Medical Examiners

# 51st Annual Educational Conference PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER  
**10TH-12TH**  
**2025**

*18.00 AMA PRA  
Category 1 credit(s)<sup>TM</sup>*

**DESTIN - FORT WALTON BEACH  
CONVENTION CENTER**

**FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA**

Hosted by:



District 1  
Medical Examiner's  
Office

**Registration Info:**  
[thefameonline.org](http://thefameonline.org)



# FAME 2025 Info & Credits



## Course Description:

The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Florida Association of Medical Examiners Educational Conference is a vital forum for forensic pathologists, medical examiner personnel, law enforcement, and students looking to expand their knowledge of up-to-date research, best practices, and the latest developments in forensic science and technology.

## Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this conference, participants will be able to implement current techniques and concepts for a more standardized and thorough death investigation.

## When & Where:

September 10, 11, 12, 2025

**Destin-Fort Walton Beach  
Convention Center**  
1250 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

## Registration & Hotel Info:

[www.thefameonline.org](http://www.thefameonline.org)



## Hosted By:



Escambia Santa Rosa Okaloosa Walton

**District[1] MEDICAL EXAMINER**

Deanna A. Oleske, M.D.  
Chief Medical Examiner

## Accreditation and CME Credit:

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the **Florida Medical Association (FMA)** and the **Florida Association of Medical Examiners**. The **Florida Medical Association** is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The FMA designates this live activity for a maximum of **18.00 AMA PRA Category 1 credit(s)<sup>TM</sup>**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## Planner and Faculty Disclosure:

None of the planners or faculty for this educational activity have relevant financial relationships to disclose with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

Law Enforcement agencies may use this course to satisfy Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Criminal Justice Standards and Training mandatory retraining hours. Retain the certificate from this course (or a copy) for your agency for their records for mandatory training hours for each four-year cycle.



Florida Medical Association

# FAME 2025 Program

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th



## Welcome!

- 08:30 AM - 10:00 AM      **FAME Business Meeting** (*members only, non - CME*)
- 09:30 AM - 10:00 AM      **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- 10:15 AM - 12:00 PM      **Session 1: Scene Investigation & Photography**
- 1.1 **Deadly Products and Saving Lives: Medicolegal Death Investigations of the Scene and Reporting to the Consumer Product and Safety Commission**  
- Chrissy Nieten, F-ABMDI, Chief Investigator, District 1 Medical Examiner, Pensacola, FL
  - 1.2 **Practical Scene Photography: Troubleshooting Difficult Situations**  
- Kelly Root, BFA, Forensic Photographer, District 1 Medical Examiner, Pensacola, FL
  - 1.3. **Traffic Homicide Investigations by FHP - Interesting Cases (Not the usual MBFI-A)** - THI Constance Knowles, Florida Highway Patrol, Troop A, Pensacola, FL
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM      **Lunch** - *Provided in Exhibit Hall (non-CME)*
- 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM      **Session 2: Identification and Cold Cases**
- 2.1 **Finding Suzanne: Autopsy, Investigation, Identification and the Prosecution of Keith Jespersen (The Happy Face Killer)** - Lorraine Lopez-Morell, MD, Associate Medical Examiner, District 1, Pensacola, FL, Senior Investigator Kelly Henderson, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, and Assistant State Attorney, Michelle Sandler, JD, First Judicial Circuit, Shalimar, FL
- 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM      **Coffee Break** - *Exhibit Hall (non-CME)*
- 2:45 PM - 3:15 PM      **Session 2 Cont.: Identification and Cold Cases**
- 2.2 **Naming the Nameless: Unidentified Bodies Discovered in the Panhandle**  
Koren G. Daniels, MS, Bay County Sheriff's Office, Teaching Faculty, Florida State University, Panama City, FL
- 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM      **FAME Breakout Session** (*members only - non-CME*)
- 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM      **RECEPTION - Open MIKE Night** (*non-CME*)  
*Karaoke, Drinks and Tapas on the Veranda*



# FAME 2025 Program

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th



7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

**Breakfast** - *Provided in Exhibit Hall (non-CME)*

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

**Session 3: Using Death Investigation Data for Public Health**

- 3.1 **Florida's Maternal Mortality Review Committee and the Role of the Medical Examiner** - *Dr. Cole Greves, MD, Chair of Florida's Maternal Mortality Review Committee, Orlando, FL*
- 3.2 **Forensic Epidemiology: D1MEO and Okaloosa DOH Collaborative**  
- *Mandy Bricker, MPH, Okaloosa Department of Health and District 1 Medical Examiner's Office, Epidemiologist, Pensacola, FL*
- 3.3 **CDR/CFRP/the SUID and SDY Case Registry: Funding and Updates**  
- *Abby Collier, Director at National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention at the Michigan Public Health Institute*

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM

**Break** (*non-CME*)

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM

**Session 4: Pathology - Technology and Interesting Cases**

- 4.1 **Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a Scribe for Autopsy Reports: Enhancing Efficiency While Maintaining Accuracy - Work Smarter, Not Harder** - *Iana Lesnikova, MD, PhD, Associate Medical Examiner, District 23, St. Augustine, FL*
- 4.2 **What Comes First? Hypoxia Vs. Hypothermia in Airplane Stowaway Deaths**  
- *Erin Ely, MD, Associate Medical Examiner, District 17, Fort Lauderdale, FL*

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

**Lunch** - *Provided in Exhibit Hall ((non-CME)*

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

**Session 5: Pathology - Historical Impacts and Current Practice**

- 5.1 **Cognitive Bias in Forensic Pathology: Types, Errors, and Mitigation**  
- *Paul Uribe, MD, Deputy Medical Examiner, Fort Bend County Medical Examiner's Office, Rosenberg, TX*
- 5.2 **Excited Delirium: Cocaine Sex Deaths of Miami in the 1980's**  
- *Deanna A. Oleske, MD, Chief Medical Examiner, District 1, Pensacola, FL*

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

**Break** (*non-CME*)

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

**Session 6 : Mass Disaster and Victim Identification**

- 6.1 **The Collapse of Surfside: A Multifaceted Approach to Disaster Victim Identification** - *Heather Walsh-Haney, PhD, Gulf Coast University and Katherine Kenerson, MD, Associate Medical Examiner, District 11, Miami, FL*

5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

**Forensic Trivia Night** (*non-CME*)

**Buffet, Cocktails, Cutthroat Competition, and Prizes!**

- *Hosted by James Fulcher, MD, Chief Medical Examiner, District 7 and Karla Orozco, MS, F-ABMDI, DOO, District 7, Daytona Beach, FL*

# FAME 2025 Program

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th



7:00 AM - 8:00 AM **Breakfast (non-CME)**

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM **Session 7: Expert Consultants in Forensic Pathology**

- 7.1 **Neuropathology: Practical Approach to Pediatric Head Trauma Cases**  
- Glenn Sandberg, MD, Neuropathologist at Forensic Neuropathology Consultants, LLC, Spearfish, SD
- 7.2 **Cardiovascular Pathology: Cardiomyopathies and Demystifying the Conduction System** - Emily Duncanson, MD, Cardiovascular and Forensic Pathologist at Jesse E. Edwards Registry of Cardiovascular Disease, St. Paul, MN
- 7.3 **Forensic Radiology: Approach to Plain Films, More Than Just Trauma and Retained Bullets** - Jamie Elifritz, MD, Radiologist, Partner and Chief Medical Officer at Forensic Radiology Group, Destin, FL

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM **Break (non-CME)**

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM **Session 8: Pathology - You Don't Know What You Don't Know**

- 8.1 **Second Autopsies and Exhumations - How to Approach Them, Expectations, and What Can Be Gained** - Jay Radtke, MD, Chief Medical Examiner, District 14, Panama City, FL
- 8.2 **SCUBA Diver Fatalities in the Panhandle** - Michael Pagacz, MD, Associate Medical Examiner, District 1, Pensacola, FL with Diver Alert Network

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM **Lunch - (non-CME) - with Speaker Joe Zarzaur**

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM **Session 9: Testify! Becoming a Better Witness**

- 9.1 **Civil Medical Investigation of Wrongful Deaths** - Evan P. Malone, MD
- 9.2 **Asserting your Knowledge as an Expert Witness and Medical Doctor in Criminal Testimony: Because Lawyers Always Think They Are So Smart**  
- Michelle Sandler, JD, Assistant State Attorney, Circuit 1, Shalimar, FL

3:00 PM - 3:15 PM **Break (non-CME)**

3:15 PM - 5:45 PM **Session 9 Cont.: Expert Witness - Special Topics**

- 9.3 **You Shot Me, Dog! A Review of Accidental Gunshot Fatalities**  
- Brandy Shattuck, MD
- 9.4. **Training Tomorrow's Expert Witnesses: Inside GBI's Innovative Legal Curriculum for Forensic Pathology Fellows** - Rachel Geller, M.D., Associate Medical Examiner, Forensic Pathology Fellowship Program Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Atlanta, GA

5:45 PM - 6:00 PM **Closing Remarks (non-CME)**

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM **Beach Luau - Dinner, Music, and Cocktails (non-CME)**  
***The Island Resort at Fort Walton Beach, 1500 Miracle Strip Pkwy***