

FORENSIC PATHOLOGY

Residents rotating on forensic pathology will participate in forensic examinations performed at the Mississippi State Medical Examiner's Office and the Mississippi State Crime Laboratory. Forensic autopsies may be incorporated into the general autopsy rotation and weekend call at UMC.

Objectives: all skill levels. See previous autopsy objectives, with the following additions:

Patient Care

Learn techniques for the performance of forensic autopsies.
Prepare and/or assist in the preparation of forensic autopsy reports.

Medical Knowledge

1. Understand principles of physical and chemical injury, especially as they pertain to medicolegal death investigation.
2. Become proficient at determining the cause and manner of death for purposes of death certification.
3. Learn basic principles of forensic toxicology, including deaths associated with alcohol and drugs, deaths by poisoning and deaths from overdose of medications.
4. Recognize common patterns of injury as they relate to the cause and manner of death.

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Participate in the Forensic Autopsy CheckPath unknown cases at Consultant's Conference.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Communicate with medical professionals, forensic scientists, coroners, law enforcement personnel, legal professionals and decedent's family members as appropriate.

Systems-Based Practice

Understand the role of the forensic pathologist in medicolegal proceedings.

Required Forensic Pathology Course

Each resident will attend the 4 day, 40 hour forensic training course provided by the State Medical Examiner's Office. This course is offered at least every two years, is attended by coroners and other personnel involved in forensic science, and includes lectures on various topics presented by experts in the field.

Recommended Reading:

A Guide for Manner of Death Classification, 1st Edition, National Association of Medical Examiners, February 2002.

Classical Mistakes in Forensic Pathology, Alan. R. Moritz, The American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology, Vol 2, Num 4, Dec 1981.

Common Errors in Forensic Pediatric Pathology, William Q. Sturmer. The American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology, 19(4); 317-320, 1998.

Barnhart
5/30/2013

Gunshot Wounds. Practical Aspects of Firearms, Ballistics, and Forensic Techniques, 2nd Edition, CRC Press, 1999.