

2020 IACME Death Investigators Webinar

November 6-7, 2020

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES in order of presentations



Angela Leek, CHP (Radiological Safety for Medical Examiners)

Angela Leek is Radiological Health Bureau Chief with the Iowa Department of Public Health, a position she has held since 2013. She is responsible for oversight of staff and development of nuclear and radiological related guidance for industry, responders and the public to protect the public and workers from unnecessary radiation exposure. She coordinates initiatives with federal, state and local partners in various aspects of radiation protection to include transportation, emergency planning and response, dose assessment and medical, environmental monitoring and waste. She has expertise in a wide range of radiation protection topics and over 13 years of experience with governmental radiation programs, regulatory oversight and leading radiation emergency response initiatives. She studied radiologic technology at the University of Iowa and has a bachelor's degree in business management from William Penn University. She has a Master of Science and Radiation Health Physics from Oregon State University.

John Kraemer, MHS, BS, CPM (Investigating Explosion Deaths)



John Kraemer, MHS, BS, CPM is Chief of the Fire Service Training Bureau within the Division of State Fire Marshal, where he is responsible for overseeing Iowa's State Fire Academy and the education, training, and certification of Iowa's firefighters and other emergency responders. Over the past 17 years, Mr. Kraemer has served in many leadership roles within the fire and emergency medical services, including lieutenant, training officer, paramedic and fire investigator for the Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan Fire Department. He holds multiple fire and EMS certifications, including fire investigator, and is currently an adjunct assistant professor for the Mercy College of Health Science EMS program. Before joining the State Fire Marshal's Office, Mr. Kraemer spent 18 years as Director of Forensic Operations with the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner (IOSME). In that position, he conducted many high profile death investigations as an ABMDI board certified medicolegal death investigator, provided outreach education and training to Iowa's county medical examiner offices, and acted as the IOSME Public Information Officer. He earned his BS degree from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and his Master of Health Sciences Degree from Quinnipiac University, in association with Yale University, in New Haven, Connecticut. In June of 2019, he completed the Certified Public Manager Program at Drake University in Des Moines.



Sherri Kacinko, PhD (Toxicology Trends, Best Practices in Forensic Toxicology)

Sherri Kacinko is a toxicologist at NMS Labs in Horsham, PA. She earned her BS in chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh in Johnstown, PA and took graduate classes in forensic science at George Washington University. After spending 3 years working as a crime laboratory analyst in the chemistry section of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Orlando Regional Operations Center, she returned to graduate school and received her PhD in toxicology at the University of Maryland-Baltimore. Dr. Kacinko is also adjunct faculty in the chemistry and forensic science departments at Arcadia University, the Masters of Forensic Toxicology program at Jefferson University and serves as an Instructor at the Center for Forensic Science Research & Education. In this role, Sherri lectures in postmortem forensic toxicology and human performance toxicology courses. Her current research interests include the identification and quantification of novel psychoactive substances including synthetic cannabinoids, stimulants, hallucinogens, opioids and benzodiazepines in biological fluids and their toxicological impact. She is board certified by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT) and is a member of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, the International Association of Forensic Toxicologists and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. She received the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Toxicology Section Irving Sunshine Award in recognition of early career research.



Lisa Roth, (Iowa Violent Death Reporting System)

Lisa Roth is the current Deputy Director of the University of Iowa's Injury Prevention Research Center (UIIPRC). She has a background in Community Health Education and more than 20 years of experience in the field of public health and injury prevention. In her role as Deputy Director at the UIIPRC she oversees outreach activities and community collaborations. She is the project coordinator for the IAVDRS system managing the day to day data abstraction and analysis activities. Lisa is also engaged in dissemination activities with data providers and other interested partners.



Joshua Akers, MD (Pediatric Abuse)

Joshua Akers, MD has served as Polk County Chief Medical Examiner since early 2020 and was formerly assistant Polk County Medical Examiner. He has a BS degree in biology from Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. He earned his MD from American University of the Caribbean and completed a residency in anatomic and clinical pathology with the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Neb. He completed a fellowship in forensic pathology with the Cook County Office of the Medical Examiner in Chicago, Ill. He is a member of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and serves on the NAME Ad hoc

Bioterrorism and Infectious Disease Committee and Ad hoc Organ and Tissue Procurement Committee. He created a Pathology Interest Group for Des Moines University with the goal of introducing medical students to topics in pathology and forensic pathology.



Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH (Motor Vehicle and Pedestrian Fatalities; ME-101)

Kelly Kruse, MD, MPH is an Associate State Medical Examiner at the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner. She is an Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa, a Clinical Instructor with Des Moines University, and an Adjunct Instructor at Des Moines Area Community College. She is board certified in anatomic, clinical, and forensic pathology. She completed a residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, NJ and a fellowship in forensic pathology at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore, MD. She earned her MD and master of public health degrees from Saint George's University in Grenada, West Indies, and a BS in anthropology from Tulane University in New Orleans, LA. Dr. Kruse is also a member of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and a board member of the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners (IACME).



Marcus Nashelsky, MD, COVID-19 Death Certification

Marcus Nashelsky, MD is a Clinical Professor of Pathology with University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, and has been an Assistant State Medical Examiner since 2003. He served as Johnson County Medical Examiner between 2014-2019 and was Director of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Autopsy Service/Decedent Care Center between 2003-2019. Dr. Nashelsky earned his medical degree from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine and completed a residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He also completed a fellowship in forensic pathology at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is certified in anatomic and clinical pathology and forensic pathology by the American Board of Pathology. He served as President of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) in 2015 and is a past board member with the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners. He is a member of the Advisory Council for the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner.



Robert Anderson, PhD, (COVID-19 Death Certification)

Robert Anderson, PhD is Chief Statistician, Mortality Statistics Branch, Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a post he has held since 2004. He holds a BS degree in sociology from Brigham Young University, and a MS degree in Sociology from Texas A & M University. He earned his PhD in

Demography and Sociology with a Statistics minor from The Pennsylvania State University in 1996. He has published articles in numerous peer-reviewed scientific journals and is a frequent presenter at professional meetings, workshops and seminars in America and internationally. In 2015-2017, he received awards from the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries in recognition of services and contributions as an NAACCR Committee Member. In 2016, he received the CDC and ATSDR Honor Award-Health Equity Award for exemplary leadership in promoting the health of Hispanics and Latinos in America. In 2007, he received the Charles C. Shepherd Science Award for his paper "Recent National Trends in Sudden, Unexpected Infant Deaths: More Evidence Supporting a Change in Classification or Reporting." He has served on the CDC Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Influenza Surveillance Steering Committee as co-chair of the Influenza Mortality Surveillance Workgroup, and as a member of the World Health Organization Mortality Reference Group and Joint Taskforce on ICD-11 for Mortality and Morbidity Statistics. He has also served on the National Violent Death Reporting System Implementation Workgroup.



Dennis Klein, MD, Iowa Chief State Medical Examiner (IOSME Update)

Dennis Klein, MD is Iowa Chief State Medical Examiner and formerly served as Deputy Chief State Medical Examiner. He is an Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor with the University of Iowa School of Medicine and Adjunct Associate Professor of Forensic Pathology with Des Moines University in Des Moines. He is a diplomate for the American Board of Pathology in anatomic, clinical and forensic pathology. He received his MD degree from the University of Vermont College of Medicine. He completed a residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston and fellowships in forensic pathology at state medical examiner offices in Massachusetts and New Mexico. Dr. Klein is a member of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and serves on the IACME Board of Directors. He is IACME Program Chair.



Mark Bethel, F-ABMDI , (ME-101)

Mark Bethel, F-ABMDI has been Marshall County Medical Examiner Investigator since 2000 and Story County MEI since 2020. He serves on the staff of the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner. Mark is a graduate of Marshalltown Community College and the Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Wheeling, Illinois. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators, a member of the Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners, (IACME) and the Iowa Mortuary Operational Response Team, (IMORT).