



FORENSIC SCIENCE SEMINAR

“Advancing Forensic Pathology: The Power of Consultation and Collaboration”

OCTOBER 28-29, 2026
Zoofari Conference Center

HOSTED BY:
Milwaukee County Medical Examiner’s Office
in partnership with Medical College of
Wisconsin Continuing Education



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

TOPIC	PRESENTER
Electronic Storage Detection Canines	SA Tamara Lepianka, DOJ-DCI
Cardiac Genetic Testing	Dr. Brian Linert, MCMEO
Michigan Child Abuse Case	Dr. Wieslawa Tlomak, MCMEO
Sade Robinson Case	Dr. Lauren Decker, MCMEO Ian Vance-Curzan, MKE County DA Det. Jo Donner, MCSO Dr. Jordan Karsten, Forensic Anthropologist Chris Johnson, WI State Crime Lab
Santosh Yoga Stress Management & Anxiety	Guruji Bryant, MBA, ERYT, CYT
VR-PHAST and OD-PHAST	Dr. Constance Kostelac, MCW
Tox or Not	Dr. Jessica Lelinski, MCMEO
Cocktails & Elephants	Adventure Africa Loft

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

TOPIC	PRESENTER
Mother’s Day Fire	Lt. Jeffrey Freitag, MFD Dr. Wieslawa Tlomak, MCMEO & Dr. Brian Linert, MCMEO SA Ricky Hankins, ATF
Peace River Search Team (Splash Team)	Michael Hadsell, Founder & President
Washington D.C.	Dr. Kristinza W. Giese, OCME D.C.
Overdose Death Initiative	SA Mark Wagner, DOJ-DCI SA Luke Hepp, DOJ-DCI
Cold Case Identification Unit	Michael Simley, D-ABMDI, MCMEO Dr. Jordan Karsten, Forensic Anthropologist PO Jamie Stromalla, MPD Melissa Marchant, DOJ-DCI
New Forensic Science Center Tour	On-Site Experience

Welcome and Opening Remarks led by MC: Megan Lee - Former Milwaukee TMJ4 Reporter and Current WXYZ Detroit Reporter

COURSE PLANNING COMMITTEE
Wieslawa Tlomak, M.D. - Course Director
Haley Hassett
Dan Isaacson
P. Douglas Kelley, M.D.
Brian Linert, M.D.
Timothy Schabo - Course Coordinator
Michael Simley, D-ABMDI

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS
This seminar has been approved by the Medical College of Wisconsin for AMA Continuing Education Credits. Final determination of credits will be made when program is finalized. We plan to also support, Continuing Legal Education Credits, Funeral Director Credits, Allied Health Care Professionals Credits and ABMDI Credits.

WELCOME

Welcome to the 31st Annual Forensic Science Seminar hosted by the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner’s Office.

On behalf of our entire office, I would like to thank you for joining us for two days of education, collaboration, and professional engagement. This seminar brings together forensic pathologists, medicolegal death investigators, law enforcement professionals, forensic scientists, public health professionals, attorneys, students, and allied partners from across Wisconsin and beyond.

This year’s theme, *“Advancing Forensic Pathology: The Power of Consultation and Collaboration,”* reflects the increasingly multidisciplinary nature of modern medicolegal death investigation. No single discipline works in isolation. The strongest investigations and the greatest advancements in forensic science occur when experts across specialties come together to share knowledge, challenge assumptions, and work collaboratively toward the truth.

Throughout this seminar, attendees will explore complex case studies, emerging forensic trends, advances in toxicology and anthropology, public health collaborations, disaster response, investigative technologies, and the importance of wellness and resilience within our profession.

We are proud to host this year’s seminar at the Zoofari Conference Center and hope this event not only provides valuable educational opportunities but also strengthens professional relationships and inspires continued collaboration across our fields.

Thank you again for being part of this year’s seminar and for the important work you do each day in service to your communities.

Dr. Wieslawa Tlomak

Chief Medical Examiner
Milwaukee County ME Office

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

This year's program features an outstanding lineup focused on cross-disciplinary coordination. Over two days, top experts will reveal strategic methodologies behind high-profile casework.

SPECIAL FEATURE: THE SPLASH TEAM

Michael Handsell introduces the Peace River Search Team and **Splash**, the nationally recognized human remains detection otter solving underwater mysteries.



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Medical Examiners & Coroners
- Forensic Pathologists & Pathology Residents
- Crime Scene & Lab Investigators
- Toxicologists
- Funeral Directors
- Law Enforcement
- Criminal & Civil Litigation Attorneys

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Identify & Apply:** Implement current best practices in medicolegal death investigation.
- **Enhance Competence:** Improve accuracy in death certification through evidence-based standards.
- **Utilize Resources:** Leverage county, state, and federal assets effectively.

REGISTRATION FEES

Full Seminar Early Bird:

\$350

Received by October 26, 2026

One-Day Pre-Registration: \$175

On-Site Late Registration: \$200 / day

CANCELLATION POLICY

A 75% refund will be issued for cancellations received by October 26, 2026. No refunds will be granted after this date. Substitutions are highly encouraged in lieu of cancellation.

**REGISTER NOW
BELOW**



county.milwaukee.gov/Forensics2026

ACCOMMODATIONS

SpringHill Suites by Marriott offers a preferred group rate of **\$140 per night** for seminar attendees.

**Reservation Deadline:
September 27, 2026**

SpringHill Suites Milwaukee West
10411 W Watertown Plank Rd.
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
Phone: 414-257-3424

Book via our registration site link or directly with the hotel.

