Forensic Pathology Fellowship

Within the Department of Pathology, we offer a one-year ACGME-approved fellowship in forensic pathology, providing training in a state-of-the-art facility accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME). This fellowship program is designed for physicians seeking training in forensic pathology after completing a residency in anatomic or anatomic and clinical pathology. The Medical Examiner’s Office within the Department of Pathology at Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMed) serves as the Medical Examiner for multiple counties throughout western Michigan and also provides consultant forensic services for several other surrounding counties. Our in-house faculty consists of board-certified forensic pathologists, including a board-certified neuropathologist, anthropologists, a toxicologist, and an odontologist. Together, our in-house faculty, team of medicolegal death investigators and autopsy assistants, and partner specialists in forensic entomology, cardiovascular pathology, and forensic biology are able to perform high-quality investigations and examinations of a high volume of diverse deaths. Our fellows will receive the training and opportunities to become leaders in the field of forensic pathology and the communities they serve throughout their careers.

CURRICULUM
Block rotations will include a high volume of autopsy service days, as well as dedicated research time and ancillary teaching, which includes one-week training in toxicology, criminalistics, anthropology/odontology, and legal, each. Fellows will also accompany our medicolegal death investigators to at least 25 death scene investigations throughout their fellowship year. As fellows progress through their training, they will be given graduated responsibility in assisting with teaching WMed students and visiting medical trainees. Our fellows are encouraged and provided financial support to attend and present at two annual national forensic conferences and the Michigan Association of Medical Examiners (MAME) annual meeting.

APPLICATION PROCESS
Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Interested candidates should submit the following documents to fpfellowship@med.wmich.edu:
- Curriculum vitae
- One letter from the applicant’s residency program director
- Two additional letters of recommendation
- Personal statement or letter of interest
- USMLE or COMLEX scores

Facilities
Our office is located on the W.E. Upjohn M.D. Campus of WMed. The 330,000 square foot facility houses our state-of-the-art examination suite on the seventh floor overlooking downtown Kalamazoo. We currently have four autopsy stations that may be utilized simultaneously, with observation seating for law enforcement agencies. We have two large walk-in refrigeration units (including frozen storage) that can house over 125 decedents. Our department and facility have an in-house Forensic Anthropology Laboratory, a Research Histology Laboratory and the Division of Neuropathology. With the addition of a full-body digital x-ray imaging device in 2017, we are now able to complete a full radiographic skeletal survey in approximately 13 seconds.

Fellowship Director
Theodore Brown, MD, is the forensic pathology fellowship director, a board-certified forensic pathologist and an assistant professor of Pathology at WMed. Dr. Brown is the Medical Director of Clinical Services for the Department of Pathology and serves as a deputy medical examiner for multiple counties throughout Michigan.

Pathology Faculty
Joyce deJong, DO, Medical Examiner; Professor and Founding Chair, Department of Pathology
Joseph Prahlow, MD, Deputy Medical Examiner; Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Pathology
Elizabeth Douglas, MD, Deputy Medical Examiner; Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology
Amanda Fisher-Hubbard, MD, Deputy Medical Examiner; Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology; Associate Program Director, Forensic Pathology Fellowship; Division Chief, Division of Neuropathology
Brandy Shattuck, MD, Deputy Medical Examiner; Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology
Jered Cornelison, PhD, Forensic Anthropologist; Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology
Prentiss Jones, PhD, Forensic Toxicologist; Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences
Derek Draft, DDS, Forensic Odontologist; Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology
About Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMed)

WMed is a collaboration of Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo’s two teaching health systems, Ascension Borgess and Bronson Healthcare. The medical school is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation supported by private gifts, clinical revenues, research activities, tuition, and endowment income. WMed is fully accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and also by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The inaugural medical student class graduated in 2018 after completing an innovative, patient-centered four-year curriculum that prepares them to be exceptional clinicians, leaders, educators, advocates, and researchers of tomorrow. There are more than 200 residents and fellows in ten residencies and three fellowships accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). WMed has Joint Accreditation for interprofessional continuing education, which incorporates accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). The WMed medical practices are housed in a modern 60,000 square foot clinical building on the Oakland Drive Campus and are accredited by The Joint Commission with recognition by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) as a Patient-Centered Medical Home. The 350,000 square foot educational building on the W.E. Upjohn M.D. Campus located in downtown Kalamazoo underwent a $78 million renovation and expansion project including two laboratory research floors and a state-of-the-art Simulation Center that is accredited by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare. The Innovation Center on the Parkview Campus is a life science, technology, and engineering incubator serving the earliest startups to maturing companies with laboratory, office and conference space, access to core scientific equipment and expertise, and a wide range of support services.

WMed is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer. The medical school complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination with respect to students, faculty, and employees in the administration and operation of its policies and programs, activities, facilities, financial aid (loans and scholarships), and admissions. The medical school is committed to equal opportunity for all persons. All actions and decisions made by the medical school with respect to students, faculty, and employees are on the basis of individual merit, qualifications, experiences, attributes, talent, abilities, skills, background, life experiences, and other relevant criteria and without discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity/national origin, creed, color, religion, gender, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, veteran status, genetic or family medical information, height, weight, marital status, familial status, or any other status protected by applicable law or local ordinance.

Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the associate dean for Administration and Finance, 1000 Oakland Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-8010, 269.337.4504.

QUESTIONS? Please contact us at fpfellowship@med.wmich.edu or call us at 269.337.6173.

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