

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT & CONNECTICUT STATE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER FORENSIC PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP



The Connecticut OCME is a National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) Accredited, free-standing, modern facility that is located in historic Farmington Connecticut on the campus of UCONN Health Center. The OCME is a centralized, state-wide medical examiner system that performs approximately 2,700 autopsies per year which includes approximately 100 homicides, 370 suicides, and over 1500 accidents. We have academic relationships with the medical schools of the University of Connecticut, Yale University, and Quinnipiac University and all of the state pathology residency programs. We are fully staffed with 11 full-time and 2 part-time Medical Examiners.

The population served by the OCME is approximately 3.7 million people and includes metropolitan and rural areas. Over 25,000 deaths are reported to the OCME each year. This provides an extremely varied exposure to types of deaths including motor vehicle collisions, long gun injuries, substance abuse, environmental and occupational injuries, and unexpected natural deaths.

Fellows in our program develop forensic autopsy and investigative skills and “forensic thinking” by exposure to a wide range of trauma and diseases leading to death. Our primary goal is to provide exceptional teaching and broad exposure to our fellows, with graduated autonomy. By the end of the year, the fellows have the confidence and ability to investigate and certify any type of death.

Throughout the year, the fellows work as junior-level medical examiners, performing examinations under the supervision and teaching of eleven experienced board-certified forensic pathologists. The fellows perform autopsies on all causes and manners of death.

Additionally, the fellows experience dedicated rotations in toxicology, forensic science, crime scene unit, anthropology, and scene investigation. The fellows have the opportunity to observe the testimony of others and may testify on their cases. Our teaching facility offers the fellows additional on-site experience in forensic anthropology, neuropathology, cardiovascular pathology, and pediatric pathology.

ERAS opens to apply to programs – July 2026

NRMP Match Opens – February, 2027

Virtual Interviews for 2028 candidates – Jan - Feb 2027

Ranking Opens – March, 2027

Ranking Closes – April, 2027

Match Day – end of April, 2027



portal.ct.gov/ocme/fellowship

APPLICANTS: ELIGIBILITY, COMPENSATION, AND BENEFITS:

Applicants must have a Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy degree (M.D./D.O.) and will successfully complete residency training in anatomic pathology or combined clinical/anatomic pathology in an ACGME-accredited program before the start of fellowship.

Our program has two fellowship positions available with a start date of July 10, 2028, to be filled through the NRMP match. Candidates apply through ERAS. A Connecticut Medical License must be obtained prior to the start of work. State regulations require a physical examination and a background check.

We offer a competitive salary starting at ~\$90,000. The work schedule is Monday through Friday; no scheduled weekends or holidays. If a fellow volunteers to work intermittent weekends (one weekend per month) or holidays (2 per year) for extra credit, those would be compensated with extra pay of up to approx. \$17,000 in earnings.

Eligibility requirements and fellowship selection process are listed here: [UCHC GME Eligibility and Selection](#). For inquiries about the program, please contact Michelle Carroll at mcarroll@ocme.org

LOCATION AND FACILITIES:

Connecticut offers the perfect stepping stone for training, combining top-tier medical education with a prime location nestled between New York City and Boston. It is a place with great shopping, dining, casinos, and maritime fun at your doorstep.

The OCME is housed in a free-standing, modern three-story building with an autopsy space that allows the fellows to work on cases in close proximity to a senior ME, and also absorb pearls from the other cases being examined at the same time. The autopsy facility is fully equipped, and the autopsy workstations are large, well lit, and designed for ease of use with computers and radiography viewing at each station. The two fellows share a large and comfortable office, and each has an assigned desk with a desktop personal computer, microscope, and internet access. There is adequate parking for all staff.

PHILOSOPHY, PURPOSE, AND GOALS:

The mission of the Connecticut OCME is to provide accurate, timely, dignified, compassionate, and professional death investigative services for the citizens of Connecticut, together with education, consultation, and research from the local and national medical, legal, academic, and law enforcement communities. The fellowship program is designed to provide a pathologist exposure and education in fundamental forensic reasoning, skills, and knowledge needed to conduct proper medicolegal death investigations. The fellows will learn that the autopsy is an important tool but is only one part of the investigation. Particular emphasis is placed on the correlation of history and scene observations with autopsy and toxicological findings. The program will enable the graduate to complete investigations with expediency, accuracy, and precision.

COURSE OF STUDY:

The accredited fellowship is 12-months of study. The initial week is orientation to the OCME procedures and staff. Throughout the majority of the year fellows are assigned autopsy duty 2-3 days per week and the other days are for scene investigation, observation of trial testimony, teaching, study, and paperwork. During the year, the fellows will perform no more than 250 autopsies (on all manners of death, including homicides), and conduct scene investigations. Importantly, our fellows are able to fully complete 99% of their death investigations prior to graduation, given our excellent turnaround times for ancillary studies such as toxicology, microbiology, histology and anthropology. This allows the fellows to truly own all of their cases – an important attribute of our training program.

There are dedicated rotations for toxicology, the crime scene unit, scene investigations, anthropology, and the crime lab. A series of lectures and demonstrations occur throughout the year. The medical school library is on our campus, the online medical library is available at your desktop, and we also have a forensic library in-house and the fellows' office has a working library of common forensic textbooks.

Fellow evaluations are conducted by the Attending physicians, Unit Supervisors and the Program Director at regular intervals and on an individual basis.

DAILY WORK SCHEDULE:

The fellows are assigned to two to three autopsy days per week, alternating with paperwork days and on-call days. The fellows may volunteer for extra credit to perform autopsies on one weekend per month with a senior ME. Following the morning triage meeting, the cases are assigned, and autopsies start. After autopsy, there is ample time in the afternoon for attending didactics, dictation of reports and the case review conference.

Autopsies are capped at 3 per day for MEs and fellows. Fellows are always assigned to a senior ME for each autopsy day and on-call day. As the year progresses, the fellows are gradually integrated into on-call assignments. During on-call duties and scene investigations, fellows learn how to triage cases, issue death certificates for deaths that are not autopsies, and how to respond to organ/tissue donation requests.

SUPPORT STAFF:

Full-time, experienced medicolegal death investigators work 24/7 to investigate reported deaths and attend scenes. The work of the office is supported by excellent mortuary technicians, laboratory assistants, photographers and medical records staff. Our office has our own dedicated IT department on-site and business office for full support of our operational needs. Toxicology testing is performed by an outside contracted laboratory (NMS) with excellent turnaround times (average 12 days). Microbiology testing is performed by the UCONN Health and CT Public Health labs. The Connecticut Division of Scientific Services perform our DNA and evidence analysis. Digital radiology and histology are completed in-house. Reports are transcribed by a contracted service with a turnaround time of 24 hours. An electronic case management system, available on your desktop, contains all case information, including all images, radiology, medical records, and reports. It has search and management functions for a complete archive of cases going back over 20 years. We consistently meet NAME's requirements of 90% of reports finalized within 60 days. Remote access is available.

MEETINGS, CONSULTATIONS, DIDACTICS, AND REVIEWS:

A case triage conference is held at the beginning of each weekday and a case review conference on each weekday afternoon. Problem cases, cases of interest, and pending cases are presented. Consultants are available: Neuropathologist, cardiac pathologist, in-house forensic anthropologist, and forensic odontologist are available (see below). There is a 2pm didactic lecture series taught by the senior Medical Examiners on the most important forensic topics, as well as some unique and less common topics. Visiting students also attend these didactics. The fellows teach these sessions in the second half of the year. Specialized guest lectures occur intermittently throughout the year, on various topics of interest to the medical examiners and also put on by other professional organizations and other collaborative learning opportunities.

Each fellow selects one National Forensic meeting (fully funded) to attend. The meeting is an excellent opportunity to learn and integrate into the bigger forensic pathology community.

The fellows are invited to attend mortality review conferences with senior medical examiners. These reviews include infant deaths, pediatric deaths, trauma deaths, overdose deaths, maternal deaths and others. These opportunities show the fellows the way the work of the Medical Examiner makes a broader difference to public health and public safety.

TOXICOLOGY/CRIME LAB/CRIME SCENE/INVESTIGATIONS:

The toxicology laboratory rotation is a one-week off-site rotation at NMS Lab, which is located outside of Philadelphia. Travel and lodging are provided by the agency. The fellows become familiar with toxicological evidence procedures and learn the fundamentals of the common methods used to identify drugs, volatiles, and other poisons. Most importantly, the fellows develop a sense of when to consider poisoning and drug overdose as well as the limitations involved with toxicology. The two-week Crime Lab rotation is at the Connecticut Division of Scientific Services in Meriden, CT. Crime scene experience is received by scene investigations with our 24/7 in-house investigative staff and the State's Central Major Crime Squad.

NEUROPATHOLOGY:

One of our part-time MEs is board certified in FP and NP and we also have a consultant neuropathologist with over 30 years of NP and Forensic NP experience. We have neuropathology gross conferences once or twice a month, which allows the fellows the opportunity to increase their understanding and interpretation of neurological diseases as they arise in forensic context.

Through our Neuropathologist and ME staff, the fellows receive direct, detailed training in the proper handling and processing of adult and pediatric neuropathology specimens. This additional neuropathology education assists the fellows in acquiring confidence and competence in approaching and handling neurological specimens and acquire the skills to examine and dissect the complete central nervous system in a systematic manner. The fellows learn accurate, detailed report writing that will document all abnormalities, as well as the absence of abnormalities, which are useful to clinicians, attorneys, and families.

CARDIAC PATHOLOGY:

Cardiac diseases and congenital cardiac anomalies account for the vast majority of sudden, unexpected natural deaths. The fellows have the opportunity to consult with a recognized cardiac pathology specialist. The fellows receive direct training in the proper handling and processing of cardiac specimens, both pediatric and adult. The fellows learn accurate, detailed report writing, specific to the cardiovascular system as well.

ANTHROPOLOGY:

We have a part-time, in-house, board-certified forensic anthropologist. Fellows rotate in the anthropology laboratory and receive didactic sessions with hands-on examination of a variety of human and non-human specimens.

RESEARCH:

Fellows are not required to conduct research projects, and are not required to publish papers, although these activities are encouraged. The medical examiner staff are eager collaborators if the fellows are interested in research and publication.

Interested 2028 candidates
may apply via ERAS
July 2026 - February 2027

Inquiries or Questions:
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<https://health.uconn.edu/graduate-medical-education/forensic-pathology-fellowship-welcome-program-director/forensic-pathology-fellowship/>

