



2014

National Association of Medical Examiners

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Welcome!

Welcome to the second issue of the NAME Foundation Newsletter. In this issue, the founder of the NAME Foundation, Dr. Thomas Noguchi, is featured. Tom remains very active in the National Association of Medical Examiners and the Foundation. The accompanying article about Tom provides a great deal of information about Tom, as well as the origins of the NAME Foundation. The Foundation relies on the support of all of its members. Thank you for your continued support. For those who have not yet joined, please refer to the membership criteria listed elsewhere in this Newsletter. As always, all issues of the Newsletter are available on the NAME Foundation webpage, which exists on the NAME website (www.thename.org).

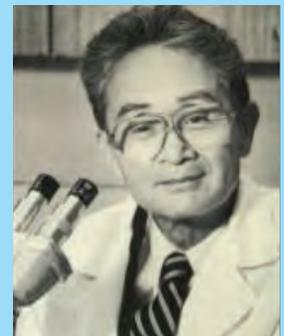
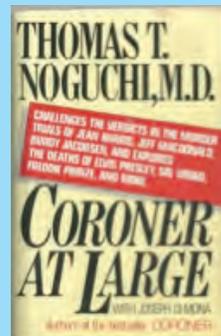
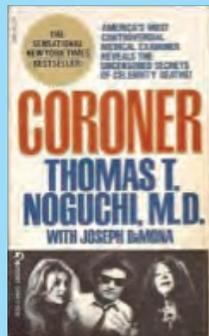
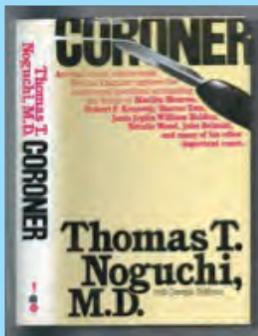
Focus on Thomas T. Noguchi, M.D.



Thomas T. Noguchi (Tom) was born in 1927, in Fukuoka City, Japan. He graduated from Nippon Medical School, Tokyo, in 1951. After completing a rotating internship at the Tokyo University Hospital in 1952, Tom did another internship year at the Orange County General Hospital (now known as the University of

California-Irvine). He completed his pathology residency at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine/White Memorial Medical Center in 1960 and then stayed on faculty as an Assistant Professor of Pathology in charge of the Autopsy service. He is Board-certified by the American Board of Pathology in Anatomic Pathology (1960), Clinical Pathology (1962), and Forensic Pathology (1963). In 1961, he began to serve as Deputy Medical Examiner at the Los Angeles County Department of Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office, and in 1967 was appointed as the Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner, a position which he held until 1982.

Following his tenure as Chief, Tom continued his forensic pathology career as the Attending Physician at the Department of Pathology, Los Angeles County & University of Southern California (USC) Medical Center. During his distinguished career, Dr. Noguchi has been (and continues to be) actively involved in teaching, including roles at many institutions of higher learning, such as USC, UCLA, and Loma Linda University. He became Professor of Pathology in 1987, and since 1999, has been Professor Emeritus of Forensic Pathology at USC's Keck School of Medicine. During his teaching tenure, he has been the recipient of many teaching



honors, including an honorary doctorate degree and several international visiting professorships. A quick check of Medline shows Dr. Noguchi's acumen for research and publishing; he is listed as having authored well over 50 scientific manuscripts within the medical literature. Regarding Tom's publications, he is probably best-known for his popular non-fiction New York Times Best-seller *Coroner* (Simon & Schuster, 1983), and its sequel, *Coroner-at-Large* (Simon & Schuster, 1985).

Dr. Noguchi has served the forensic science and law enforcement communities through many channels during his career, including membership on a number of Boards of Editors for forensic journals, and membership and leadership within many national and international professional organizations. Most notably, Tom is a Past President of the National Association of

Medical Examiners (1982), a Past President of the California State Coroners Association (1974), a past member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Legal Medicine, and is currently the President of the World Association for Medical Law. He serves many organizations via his active participation on various committees. Particularly of note is his dedicated work for international relations within both the NAME and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. He has received numerous awards and citations from law enforcement agencies and medical societies, including a Police Medal of Outstanding Contribution to Police and Forensic Medicine by the Japanese National Police Agency (1999), the Imperial Medal of Sacred Treasure by the Emperor of Japan (1999), the NAME Milton Helpert Laureate Award (2005), and the AAFS Distinguished Fellow Award (2007).



Dr. Noguchi's interest in forensic pathology actually began at a relatively young age. His father was an otolaryngologist in Japan. One day, as a 12 or 13 year old boy, Tom walked into his father's clinic, and he saw his father performing CPR on a patient. Apparently, his father had been performing an iodine throat swabbing (prior to the days of antibiotics) on the patient, who had a severe sore throat, when the patient collapsed, experiencing an anaphylactic-type reaction. The patient died. The district attorney suspected that something mechanical had gone wrong with the



swabbing procedure, suggesting that cotton from the swabs had somehow occluded the airway. A subsequent autopsy performed on the unfortunate patient revealed that there was, in fact, no cotton occluding the airway, and Tom's father was exonerated. It was at this point that young Tom began to have an interest in legal medicine. Tom went on to become a physician, and eventually, in the early 1960s, as the specialty of forensic pathology was in its infancy, studied pathology, with a focused emphasis on autopsy and forensic medicine. Asked about the most important mentors that

he has had during his career, Tom provides the following names: for basic autopsy training, Abraham Lu at Loma Linda University-White Memorial Hospital; for forensic pathology, Dr. Theodore J. Curphey; for international forensic scientists, Dr. Kazuo Suzuki of Tokyo Dental College, a pioneer in the field of forensic odontology in Japan. Dr. Noguchi was also asked about some of the “giants” within FP. Specifically with regards to which of them younger FPs should learn more about and attempt to emulate, Tom mentioned Milton Helpert, Leslie Lukash, Joe Davis from the United States, as well as Keith Simpson (UK), Frederic Thomas (Belgium), and Klaus Pueschel (Germany).

Although many of us know about much of Tom’s professional achievements, there’s also a more personal side to this esteemed gentleman. For many years, NAME members have observed the love and dedication Tom has for his wife, Hisako, who accompanies her husband to many, if not most NAME and AAFS meetings. The two of them met in 1953. Hisako attended UCLA, but as a freshman there in 1941, and despite the fact that she was born in Los Angeles, she was



interred at an American “concentration camp” for the Japanese during World War II. Despite this tragic set-back, she went on to earn a Ph.D. in biochemistry and was a well-established researcher and teacher at UCLA and USC, among other institutions. As an electron microscopist, she was also instrumental in pushing the incorporation of EM into the LA County Medical Examiner’s Office new (in 1972)

Forensic Science Center. She retired in 1986 to care for ailing family members. Although Tom and Hisako were not blessed with children of their own, they did have two visiting students who lived with them during high school/college in the 1970s, whom they consider their “children.” Each has a family of their own today, one in Los Angeles, the other, an ENT, in Urawa, Japan.



Tom and Hisako with one of their “children,” Masako Easton, who lived with them during college.

Throughout his career, Dr. Noguchi has envisioned what was eventually to become the NAME Foundation. From the earliest days of the NAME organization, Tom has been attending its annual meetings. In fact, he is one of the few active NAME members remaining who attended NAME’s first meeting. Through the years, Dr. Noguchi has witnessed tremendous success and progress within the NAME organization. Despite this, he has also noted, on far too many occasions, a continuous “financial struggle.” Over time, Tom came to envision a day when NAME would become financially stable and sufficiently endowed to support research and education within forensic pathology. His initial idea of establishing something along the lines of the NAME Foundation actually occurred in 1982. At that time, Dr. Noguchi was the NAME Vice President, as well as the Program Chair for the annual meeting in Newport Beach, CA. It just so happened that several high-profile cases, including Natalie Wood, were investigated by the LA Coroners Office in late 1981. The ensuing media frenzy and all-out attack on the office by the Hollywood entertainment

industry resulted in a response by politicians that resulted in the removal of Dr. Noguchi from his position. Despite these work-place hardships, the NAME leadership, particularly Joe Davis, remained totally supportive of Tom, and he was unanimously elected to become the next NAME President at the 1982 annual meeting. Tom was so touched by the support and encouragement of the NAME leadership and membership that he made a pledge at that moment, that as long as he lived, he would support NAME and work toward its future success. Ultimately, according to Tom, it was his wife, Hisako, to whom he gives credit for encouraging him to form the NAME Foundation. So, in 1999, as a direct result of Tom's initiative and under the oversight of the Past Presidents Committee, the "NAME Endowment Fund" was established. The official title for the entity evolved to become the "NAME Foundation," and, in 2006, the Foundation was officially incorporated as a nonprofit charitable 501(c)(3) corporation. At the time of incorporation, and according to the by-laws, a Board of Trustees (BoT) was elected by the membership (donors) of the Foundation. A Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary,

and Treasurer were then elected by the BoT. In keeping with Tom's character, humility, and sense of inclusiveness, he politely and humbly declined to serve as Chair of the Foundation, preferring to serve as a Board member. As the number of years that a BoT may serve is limited by the by-laws, it recently became evident to the BoT that Tom's activity as a Board member might have to cease, as a result of term limits. Consequently, at the last meeting of the NAME Foundation BoT, and at the recommendation of the Officers, the Board unanimously agreed to create a new Officer position, entitled "Founding Director." Dr. Noguchi was therefore named the first (and only) Founding Director of the NAME Foundation, and will serve in that position as long as he is able to do so. Moving forward, Tom hopes to remain active within the NAME Foundation, working with the BoT and members to significantly increase the fund, with the ultimate goals of supporting education, research, and the archiving of history within forensic pathology and death investigation. As discussed elsewhere in this edition of the NAME Foundation Newsletter, the Foundation is actively pursuing these goals

along with our Founding Director. Please join the NAME Foundation Officers, BoT, and members in thanking Dr. Tom Noguchi, for his vision in establishing the NAME Foundation. In the years ahead, may his vision continue, expand, and come to fruition through the ongoing work of the NAME Foundation.

NAME Foundation Membership and Leadership Structure

The NAME Foundation was officially established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable corporation in 2006. The overall goals of the Foundation are to advocate for the profession of Forensic Pathology, particularly via maintaining its history and promoting education and research. NAME members (regular and affiliate) are able to join the NAME Foundation by making a minimum annual contribution (\$50 for NAME members; \$25 for affiliates). An annual meeting of the Foundation membership occurs in conjunction with the NAME Annual Meeting. The leadership of the Foundation consists of a Board of Trustees (BoT), elected by the Foundation membership, who serve 3-year terms, with a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. The BoT annually elects a Chair, a Vice

Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who serve as the Officers of the corporation. At the last meeting of the BoT, a new position, "Founding Director," was added to the officer positions of the Foundation. Dr. Thomas Noguchi, founder of the NAME Foundation, has graciously accepted this position, and will remain in the position for as long as he is able. Please refer to the accompanying information "box" for an up-to-date list of current BoTs and Officers. The BoT meet face-to-face in conjunction with both the Annual and Interim NAME meetings. In addition, the BoT have monthly conference calls, in order to attend to the business of the corporation. We on the BoT welcome ideas and input from all NAME Foundation members.

Goals of the NAME Foundation

As indicated above, the goals of the Foundation have to do with the promotion of and advocacy for forensic pathology, specifically through education/teaching, research, and archiving history. In the past several months, the Foundation has been working toward the realization of these goals via several strategies. Strategies currently under active develop-

ment and implementation include increased recruitment of members, expanding membership to include corporate membership, expanding fundraising efforts, investigating options for creating a museum exhibit,

and investigating the possibility of partnering with a philanthropist in order to assist in the continued development and success of the NAME Foundation. Please stay-tuned for exciting updates.

OBITUARY:

We are saddened by the news that John E. Pless, MD, past President of the National Association of Medical Examiners, and past Chair of the NAME Foundation, died in Indianapolis, IN on March 17, 2014. Our prayers and thoughts are with Lois and his family.



***Don't miss
the last two pages
of the newsletter***

ACROSS:

- 1 Author of "Coroner"
- 4 Forensic entomologist concern
- 7 Rectus, transversus, & the obliques
- 10 Afternoon ____
- 13 Ovarian contents
- 14 Full of vim & vigor
- 16 Shell component
- 17 Exam used for ID help
- 19 Multiple of the most common CEW
- 21 Workshop tool
- 23 What new Christians consider themselves
- 24 Repeated (orally)
- 26 What a trial attorney does prior to resting
- 27 Unknown John
- 28 Famous Texan Hogg
- 29 One source of NaCl
- 32 One accepted method for evidence shipping
- 35 Windy City bigwig
- 36 FP text author, with Evan and Emma
- 37 A type of decision
- 38 Houston diamond boy
- 39 Ulna counterparts
- 40 First on the to-do list at trial after presenting one's case
- 41 "Being a good pathologist _____ to being a good FP"
- 43 Home to Mirchandan, Land, and Wecht
- 44 Stallone's nickname
- 45 Hwy
- 47 Vince, to Dominick
- 48 Wear
- 50 An event involving a CEW (EMD)

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	55							56		57				58
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62				63		64				65			66	
67				68						69			70	

- 35 Windy City bigwig
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- 48 Wear
- 50 An event involving a CEW (EMD)

- 52 Expressed feeling
- 55 What an attorney might do to a witness
- 57 Basketball/hockey places
- 59 Arid land
- 60 Type of football play
- 62 Consume
- 63 6-shooter
- 66 They sang "Eldorado"
- 67 Fruity drink
- 68 Type of poem
- 69 Apply or operate
- 70 Soviet carbine
- 5 A type of gas
- 6 Maker of CT scanner
- 7 Jeopardy initials
- 8 Object of odontologist exam, perhaps
- 9 Older abrasions
- 10 Pipsqueak
- 11 Garner
- 12 Webpage "extras"
- 15 "____ electrophoresis"
- 18 Weds kin
- 20 "____ du jour"
- 22 River
- 23 Jamaica specialty
- 25 Type of hand injury
- 26 John Hancock
- 29 Remote injuries?
- 30 Former King Co. ME
- 31 Anxious
- 32 Opposite of 2-down
- 33 Topic for trace examiners
- 34 Backbone
- 37 Tree "juice"
- 41 Commanded
- 42 Workers
- 46 Sex assault
- 49 Repair
- 50 Gonad
- 51 Don Diego de la Vega
- 53 Uptight
- 54 Taunts
- 55 Necrotic
- 56 Famous Delaware Doc
- 58 Pout
- 59 Govt agency
- 61 Numbers
- 64 "____ day"
- 65 Europe grp

DOWN

- 1 When PMI begins
- 2 "____ and out"
- 3 Country estate
- 4 "____ me"

Answers to Crossword
Puzzle:



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

NAME Foundation Board of Trustees

Chair – Joseph A. Prahlow, MD

Vice Chair – Margaret S. Greenwald, MD

Secretary – Marcus B. Nashelsky, MD

Treasurer – Michael Graham, MD

Founding Director – Thomas Noguchi, MD

Trustees: Randy Hanzlick, MD, James Luke, MD, Michael F. Rieders, PhD; Ex-Officio: Gregory G. Davis, MD, Gregory A. Schmunk, MD

NAME Foundation Membership Criteria

The NAME Foundation is proud to offer membership to any member of the National Association of Medical Examiners who makes an annual contribution to the NAME Foundation. The following minimal annual contribution qualifies membership in the NAME Foundation:

NAME Members: \$50.00

NAME Affiliates: \$20.00