



National Association of Medical Examiners

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Welcome to the second issue of the NAME Foundation Newsletter for the year 2016. This issue should be considered a preview to the NAME Annual Meeting, which happens to coincide with the 50th anniversary of NAME as an organization. As you will see, the meeting in Minneapolis promises to be a wonderful event, with the usual high-quality educational program, as well as many special celebrations. The NAME Foundation will be contributing to the festivities. As a special focus (see below), we are encouraging all NAME members to consider joining the Foundation as a show of support of our profession while we celebrate NAME's 50th year.

NAME 50th Anniversary Celebration

In conjunction with the NAME Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN, September 7-13, 2016, the National Association of Medical Examiners will be commemorating its 50th year. In addition to the usual excellent educational and social events, the meeting will include many special events and commemorative items. Of special interest are the following:

- Tom Noguchi's 90th Birthday Celebration

- NAME Foundation Outreach Fundraiser, featuring Dr. G
- NAME 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin



Tom Noguchi's 90th Birthday

On Saturday evening (Sept. 10), from 6:30-7:30, at the NAME Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, following the completion of the afternoon scientific program, and prior to the NAME Foundation Outreach Fundraiser, all meeting attendees are invited to help celebrate Dr. Noguchi's 90th birthday. Tom is funding the celebratory

Dr. Tom Noguchi

event as a way of saying "thank you" to all of his friends and colleagues in the National Association of Medical Examiners for the many years of support he has experienced within our organization. Please plan to attend the festivities and wish Dr. Noguchi a very happy birthday.

NAME's 50th Anniversary Celebration

The event will take place on Saturday, September 10 from 8 to 10 PM at the main NAME meeting room in the conference hotel. This event is intended to



Dr. Jan Garavaglia (Dr G)

be an entertaining, educational and public outreach forum featuring NAME Foundation Advocate Dr. Jan Garavaglia, who starred in the reality TV series Dr.G: Medical Examiner, with an audience welcome and introduction by Minneapolis ME Dr. Andy Baker. Jan will share her personal story about her path to becoming a Forensic Pathologist; the challenges, humor and joys of the profession; her adventures as the star of a reality based TV series; and some stories about interesting cases; followed by a Q&A session. The broad target audience includes the NAME membership and their guests; however, we plan to extend invitations to Dr. G's fans (and admirers) as well as

local physicians, pathologists, residents, students and other professionals.

The event will serve as an outreach fundraiser for the NAME FOUNDATION to help raise scholarship money for Forensic Pathology Fellows, Pathology Residents, and students to attend and make scientific presentations at the NAME Annual Meeting. As such, attendance at this event will be associated with a small donation and require pre-registration. On-line ticketing and registration will be managed by THE CENTER FOR FORENSIC SCIENCES RESEARCH AND EDUCATION at The Fredric Rieders Family Foundation. Ticket donations are \$10 for students, and \$20 for everyone else. NAME members may wish to opt for a special package deal: with a \$50 donation, NAME members will receive a 1 year NAME Foundation Membership, a 50th Anniversary commemorative challenge coin, and admission to the event. Please pre-register for the event at the web address listed below. Remember that space is limited.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/50th-anniversary-name-foundation-fundraiser-featuring-dr-jan-c-garavaglia-tickets-26157012328>



Sales of the commemorative coin were brisk at the NAME Interim Meeting in Las Vegas. Coins are still available for a donation of \$20 each. Alternatively, for a donation of \$50, NAME members can receive a coin, along with a one-year membership in the NAME Foundation, as well as admission to the NAME Foundation Outreach Fundraiser, featuring Dr. G (so long as seats are still available).



Question:

**How can you help celebrate
NAME's 50th Anniversary
and Dr. Noguchi's 90th
birthday?**

Answer:

Join the NAME Foundation!

What better way to celebrate than to become active in the NAME Foundation? Your contribution helps to fund valuable research and educational activities within the forensic pathology and death investigation community, including providing monetary and educational material awards for best student and resident presentations at the NAME Annual Meeting, providing scholarships to students and residents to help defray the

costs associated with meeting attendance, and to help bring leading scientists to attend and present at our NAME meetings. As a part of the celebrations this year, the NAME Foundation is inviting every single NAME member to join the Foundation. It is only through active participation that the Foundation will be able to continue to support valuable educational and research initiatives.

News from the NAME President, Dr. David Fowler



David Fowler
NAME President

After a very busy start to the year at NAME it seems things have become a little quieter on that side but there has been much activity at other levels. Offices are seeing unprecedented increases in caseloads most due to a surge in opioid deaths. While this is occurring, and eating up what little time we all have as we struggle to respond, we must not forget long term goals.

The Foundation as our research and education body can assist us by taking an even more active role at this time. That however requires resources so I encourage you all, if you are not already, to join the Foundation.

The information passed on to us by Dr. Randy Hanzlick regarding the state of our new 2016 fellows was no surprise as this has been the story for years

with some minimal variation. 83 accredited training slots approved by ACGME, 61 funded and 47 filled. So I agree with Dr. Hanzlick that filling the ones we have seems to be the most expedient way of increasing the supply of Medical Examiners. While this is true I also see value in looking forward, with a long term aim. Many of us have moved to new facilities, or added staff, and certainly caseload. Here in Maryland our 4 fellow positions were granted over 25 years ago, in a small facility while we did 2500 cases with a handful of staff to supervise. Now we have a larger facility, 16 medical examiners and 5000 cases. That should be sufficient to apply for more positions. That is something I fully intend to do.

I believe there are individuals who would like to train in forensic pathology but do not do so due to lack of funded FP training available in an office they would like to train in. This may be for many reasons and when interviewing it is often the personal issues that are cited. "I want to stay in this area for family, significant other, or similar reason." The next challenge is to fund all existing positions. Grow your own, get them to like working with you, and again if they are there for personal reasons that can be an advantage. I believe that every one of our ACGME accredited positions will give a fellow a great training as evidenced by the pass rate for the forensic boards. What we need to do

is stop competing with each other and start competing with anatomic and clinical pathology. If we give any potential fellow the slightest reason not to at least try a year of forensic pathology we have missed an opportunity.

The other issue that has been debated for years is the issue of the match. For years I was equivocal about the match, but again, for the greater good and meeting the needs of offices and prospective fellows, this debate needs to be restarted. I am in favor of any reasonable process that will assist in increasing our national capacity. Currently there are 29 open advertisements on the NAME website. All fellows are spoken for so as we all need staff there are likely to be forces at play that will drive up salaries and other compensation to attract pathologists. While this is unlikely to pull forensic pathologists that opted to go back to anatomic and clinical pathology it is a step in the right direction. Governments base much of their decision for salary setting on two factors: recruitment and retention. I have seen many offices that have advertised, come back with better offers for a second go round; a very heartening sign. Then as an office fails to recruit and the workload increases for those that remain, recruitment becomes even more difficult if not impossible. It is rather like the oil in your car engine. Change it or face a very expensive rebuild.

The Foundation has assisted in encouraging young potential forensic pathologists to gain exposure to our discipline and hope that with additional support from the membership the Foundation will have more capacity to provide grants and awards to foster these interests.

So I see the residency directors working at one level and the Foundation providing support at another to encourage entry into our profession.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the meeting shortly.

Sincerely

David Fowler

**Do you
have an
idea,
question
or
concern?**

name@thename.org

NAME Foundation Activities at the NAME Annual Meeting

- NAME Foundation Board of Trustees meeting.
- NAME Foundation Membership meeting.
- Sponsor of Best Student and Best Resident Oral/Platform and Poster Presentation Awards.
- Providing scholarships for students and residents who make presentations.
- Annual Silent Auction.
- 50/50 Raffle.
- Morning Yoga sessions.
- Helping to celebrate Dr. Noguchi's 90th birthday.
- Sponsor of special Saturday Evening NAME Foundation Outreach Fundraiser, featuring Dr. G,
- NAME Foundation Advocate.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

NAME Foundation Board of Trustees

Chair – Joseph A. Prahlow

Vice Chair – Margaret S. Greenwald

Secretary – Gregory A. Schmunk

Treasurer – Michael Graham

Founding Director – Thomas Noguchi

Trustees: John Butts, Mary Case, Joe Felo, Marcella Fierro, Jan Garavaglia, Mary Goolsby, Jim Luke, Amy Martin, Yvonne Milewski, Chris Milroy, Michael F. Rieders, Joel Sexton

Ex-Officio: Steve Cina, David Fowler, Marcus Nashelsky

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