

TARRANT COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S DISTRICT

SERVING TARRANT, DENTON, JOHNSON & PARKER COUNTIES

2011 ANNUAL REPORT





TARRANT COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S DISTRICT
CURRENT ACCREDITATIONS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS (N.A.M.E.)
2010 - 2015

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS/
LAB ACCREDITATION BOARD (ASCLD/LAB)
2009 - 2014

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (ACGME)
2011 - 2015

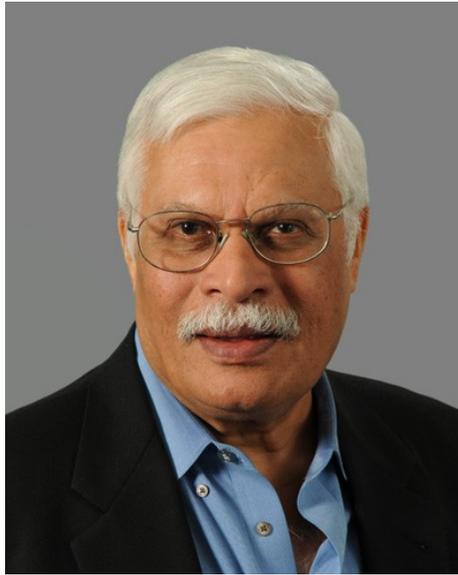
**TARRANT COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER
AND FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES**

200 FELIKS GWOZDZ PLACE, FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76104

OFFICE: 817-920-5700 FAX: 817-920-5713

www.tarrantcounty.com/emedicalexaminer

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TARRANT COUNTY CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER



Our Commitment and Philosophy . . .

Whenever we are called upon to assist, even if it is outside the defined jurisdiction, out of the scope of our duties, or otherwise removed from our responsibilities under the law, it is our general policy to help the individual reach the appropriate person, agency or organization who can assist.

Our Mission Statement . . .

The primary purpose of the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office is to assist the public and law enforcement agencies to determine the cause of death due to unnatural causes, medically unattended or death due to violence, using state of the art laboratory and forensic science facilities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nizam Peerwani
Chief Medical Examiner

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PREFACE

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office was originally established in 1965 to serve Tarrant County alone but today it also serves Denton, Johnson and Parker counties with a total district population exceeding 2.8 million. This area is experiencing a dramatic growth, and the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office is committed to continue providing the highest quality of service to the loved ones of the deceased and to the legal system.

Understanding the need to have knowledge in ever-growing subjects of anatomy, physiology, chemistry, and biology, and applying this knowledge to the science of determination of the cause of death has become a routine requirement for the staff at the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office. A combination of staff with outstanding qualifications, sophisticated state-of-the-art equipment, strict compliance with statutes and regulations and accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners and the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board make the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office one of the premier medical examiner offices in the nation. In addition to a staff of five highly trained, board certified forensic pathologists, the office boasts a 24 hour investigative staff and a full complement of support services, including Human Identification, Toxicology, Criminalistics, and Forensic Photography laboratories.

The wealth of information available at the office, coupled with an interest to share and educate, prompts the staff to provide educational opportunities such as the Tuesday morning forensic rounds, the annual "Current Trends In Forensic Science" conference, a twelve month forensic pathology fellowship, monthly autopsy classes, periodic training sessions with Physicians for Human Rights and training at the International Forensic Science Center to provide advanced forensic training to scholars from abroad. Members of the staff are often invited to provide services, give lectures, and provide consultation nationally and internationally.

As you review this report, we hope we have imparted an appreciation for the depth of our commitment to excellent quality and service. Every day presents new challenges which this Office strives to meet. We are always seeking to develop and implement new services and procedures to better serve you and the community.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE

- 1965 Tarrant County Commissioners Court establishes the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office. T.C. Terrell, M.D. is named Chief Medical Examiner.
- 1969 Feliks Gwozdz, M.D. is named Chief Medical Examiner
- 1979 After Dr. Gwozdz's unexpected death, Nizam Peerwani, M.D. is appointed Chief Medical Examiner
- 1980 First County-wide central morgue is established on the campus of Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (Now University of North Texas Health Science Center)
- 1982 Toxicology and histology laboratories are added; shortly after, forensic dentistry is added to the office in order to assist in human identification
- 1986 Parker County officially joins the Medical Examiner's Office, creating the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District
- 1989 Denton County joins the Medical Examiner's District
- The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District moves into a new state of the art facility at 200 Feliks Gwozdz Place, renamed in honor of Dr. Gwozdz. In addition to modern up to date toxicology and histology laboratories, the new facility also includes a full service crime laboratory offering forensic biology, trace analysis, latent fingerprint and firearm/tool mark examinations.
- 1993 The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District provides the death scene investigation and medical examiner services for McLennan County in the aftermath of the Branch Davidian incident at Mt. Carmel, Texas.
- 2003 The position of Forensic Anthropologist, formerly a part-time position within the office, becomes a full-time position, making the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District the only Medical Examiner's Office in Texas with a full-time forensic anthropologist.
- 2007 The Human Identity Section is established, consisting of the Forensic Odontologist, Forensic Anthropologist and one Latent Fingerprint Examiner.
- 2008 Johnson County joins the Medical Examiner's District.
- 2011 Construction completed on new building expansion.



2011 Summary

New Hires:

January 4th - Charles Clow joined the staff as a Senior Firearm/Toolmark Examiner.

March 16th - Michael Pollard joined the Tarrant County Staff as a Forensic Death Investigator. He previously served as the Chief FDI in the Johnson County office.

April 4th - Robert Johnson, Ph.D. joined the staff as Chief Toxicologist.

July 1st - Jerry Mendlowski, M.D. joined the staff to begin his one year Forensic Pathology fellowship.

October 26th - Brian Lane joined the staff as a part-time Histotechnician. This position is grant funded.

November 22nd - Tarr Jae Wilson joined the staff as the Records Secretary.

December 4th - Susan Roe, M.D. joined the staff as a Deputy Medical Examiner.

New Building: In September 2011 construction was completed on the building and the Toxicology, Chemistry, Crime Labs and Evidence Departments took occupancy of their new spaces. The moves went smoothly and the labs experienced minimal down time. The project was completed on time, within budget, and more than doubled our existing space.

The building was designed and constructed with the goal of achieving a certain LEED status. LEED Certification stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. Certification assures that a building project is environmentally responsible, profitable, and a healthy place to work. We anticipate being awarded LEED Gold Certification.



Tarrant County Medical Examiner



Cathy Adolph



Linda Anderson



Dana Austin



Bill Bailey



Jamie Becker



Kelly Belcher



Sabra Botch



John Briggs



Charles Clow



Andrea Corder



Rob Corley



Christina Coucke-Garza



Glynn Dill



Brittany Dodson



Pat Eddings



Pat ElRashid



Michael Floyd



Mark Fondren



James Greenwell



Esther Gutierrez



Gloria Hamilton



John Harris



Lavena Hernandez



Leticia Hildalgo



Burshauna Hill



Joyce Ho



Susan Howe



Robert Johnson



Deatra Keele



Marsy D. Key



Paul Krieg



Marc Krouse



Beryl Landry



Brian E. Lane



Carol Lawson



Connie Lewis



Jun Lumadilla



Michael Mayer



Jimmy McDonald



Alberto Medina



Jerry Mendlowski



Roger Metcalf



Michelle O'Neal



Connie Patton



Nizam Peerwani



Tracye Poirier



Michael Pollard



Ronnie Redic



Amy Renfro



Larry Reynolds



Susan Roe



Ron Singer



Gary Sisler



Sarah Skiles



Christi Smith



Mike Smith



Larry Steffler



Jennifer Valentine



Carolyn Van Winkle



Tracy Vancil



Bill Walker



Cheryl Wheeler



Lloyd White



Steve White

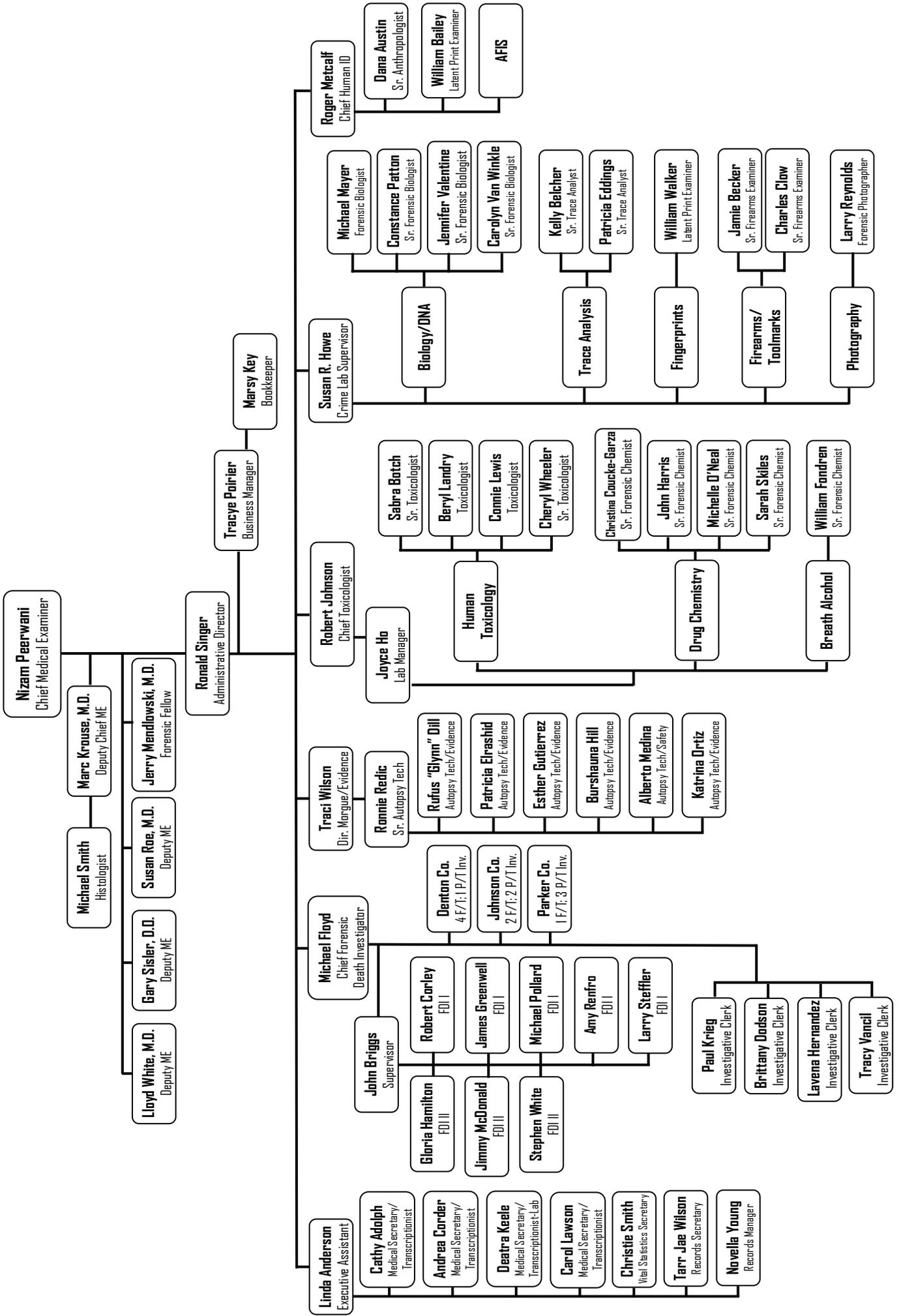


Traci Wilson



Novella Young

TARRANT COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE AND FORENSIC LABORATORIES



Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District Staff

Medical Examiners

Nizam Peerwani, M.D.	Chief Medical Examiner
Marc Krouse, M.D.	Deputy Chief Medical Examiner
Susan J. Roe, M.D..	Deputy Medical Examiner
Gary Sisler, D.O.	Deputy Medical Examiner
Robert Lloyd White, M.D. Ph.D.	Deputy Medical Examiner
Jerry Mendlowski, M.D.	Forensic Fellow

Administration

Ronald L. Singer, M.S.	Technical Administrative Director
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Business Office

Tracye Poirier, M.B.A.	Business Manager
Marsy Key	Bookkeeper

Forensic Death Investigation

Tarrant County

Mike Floyd, B.S.	Chief Forensic Death Investigator
John Briggs	Supervisory Investigator
Gloria Hamilton, B.S.	Forensic Death Investigator II
Jimmy McDonald	Forensic Death Investigator II
Stephen White	Forensic Death Investigator II
Robert Corley	Forensic Death Investigator I
James Greenwell	Forensic Death Investigator I
Michael Pollard .	Forensic Death Investigator I
Amy Renfro, B.S	Forensic Death Investigator I
Larry Steffler	Forensic Death Investigator I
Brittany Dodson	Investigative Clerk
Lavena Hernandez, M.S.	Investigative Clerk
Paul Krieg	Investigative Clerk
Tracy Vancil, B.S.	Investigative Clerk

Denton County

Troy Taylor, B.S.	Chief Forensic Death Investigator
Bill Mills, Jr., B.S.	Forensic Death Investigator
Robert Murphy	Forensic Death Investigator
Julie Carriker	Forensic Death Investigator
Terry Martin	Forensic Death Investigator
Janan Kline	Secretary

Johnson County

Gary Morris	Chief Forensic Death Investigator
Liesl Hoover	Secretary/Forensic Death Investigator
Jamie Smith	Forensic Death Investigator
Cassie Clewis	Forensic Death Investigator

Parker County

Regina Banks,	Chief Forensic Death Investigator
Jim Nichols	Forensic Death Investigator
Lavena Hernandez, M.S.	Forensic Death Investigator
Heather Casey	Forensic Death Investigator

Forensic Chemistry and Toxicology Laboratory

Robert Johnson, Ph.D.	Chief Toxicologist
Joyce Ho, B.S.	Toxicology Lab Manager
Sabra Botch, M.S.	Senior Forensic Toxicologist
Cheryl Wheeler, B.S.	Senior Forensic Toxicologist
Beryl Landry, B.S.	Forensic Toxicologist
Connie Lewis, B.S.	Forensic Toxicologist
Christina Coucke-Garza, M.S.	Senior Forensic Chemist
Mark Fondren, M.S.	Senior Forensic Chemist
John Harris, M.S.	Senior Forensic Chemist
Michelle O'Neal, B.S.	Senior Forensic Chemist
Sarah Skiles, B.S.	Senior Forensic Chemist

Criminalistics Laboratory

Susan Howe, D.V.M., Ph.D.	Crime Lab Supervisor
Michael Mayer, B.S.	Forensic Biologist
Constance Patton, B.S.	Senior Forensic Biologist
Jennifer Valentine, M.S.	Senior Forensic Biologist
Carolyn Van Winkle, M.S.	Senior Forensic Biologist
Kelly Belcher, M.S.	Senior Trace Analyst
Patricia Eddings, B.S.	Senior Trace Analyst
William Walker	Latent Fingerprint/AFIS Specialist
Jamie Becker, B.S.	Sr. Criminalist-Firearms and Tool Marks
Larry Reynolds	Forensic Photographer

Histology

Mike Smith, B.S.	Forensic Histotechnician
Leticia Hidalgo, B.S.	Part-time Forensic Histotechnician
Brian Lane	Part-time Forensic Histotechnician

Human Identification Laboratory

Roger Metcalf, D.D.S.
Dana Austin, Ph.D.
William Bailey

Chief of Identification Services
Senior Forensic Anthropologist
Latent Fingerprint/AFIS Specialist

Morgue/Evidence Services

Traci Wilson
Ronnie Redic
Glynn Dill
Patricia Elrashid
Esther Gutierrez
Burshauna Hill
Alberto Medina
Katrina Ortiz

Director of Morgue/Evidence Services
Senior Autopsy Technician
Autopsy Tech/Evidence
Autopsy Tech/Evidence
Autopsy Tech/Evidence
Autopsy Tech/Evidence
Autopsy Tech/Evidence
Autopsy Tech/Evidence

Secretarial Services

Linda Anderson
Cathy Adolph
Andrea Corder
Deatra Keele
Carol Lawson
Novella Young
Tarr Jae Wilson
Christie Smith

Executive Assistant/PIO
Medical Secretary/Transcriptionist
Medical Secretary/Transcriptionist
Medical Secretary/Transcriptionist-Lab
Medical Secretary/Transcriptionist
Records Manager
Records Secretary
Vital Statistics Secretary

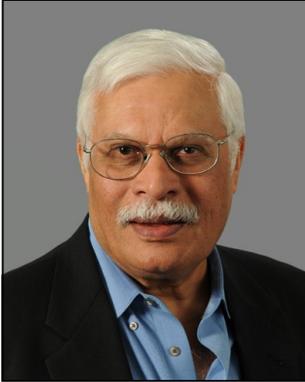
Building Superintendent

Jun Lumadilla



MEDICAL EXAMINER STAFF

NIZAM PEERWANI, M.D. - CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER



Dr. Peerwani is a graduate of the American University of Beirut (M.D. in 1976). He completed his residency in pathology at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, and is board certified in anatomic, clinical and forensic pathology. Currently he is the Chief Medical Examiner for Tarrant, Denton, Johnson and Parker counties in the state of Texas and has held this position since July 1979. He is an advocate of child safety and served on the Texas Child Fatality Review Committee as an expert in Forensic Medicine. Dr. Peerwani is also an advocate of Human Rights and serves as an expert consultant for Physicians for Human Rights with completed assignments in Rwanda, Bosnia, Indonesia, Cyprus, Afghanistan, Israel and Bahrain investigating genocide and human rights

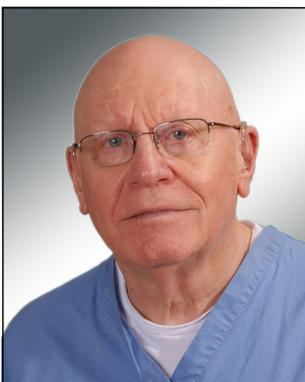
violations under the auspices of the United Nations Tribunal. Appointed by Governor Rick Perry in 2009, Dr. Peerwani currently serves on the Texas Forensic Science Commission.

MARC KROUSE, M.D. - DEPUTY CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Dr. Krouse graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.S. degree (1974) in zoology, and from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School with his M.D. (1977). He completed his pathology residency at Baylor University Medical Center and is board certified in anatomic, clinical and forensic pathology. Dr. Krouse began his career here as a Deputy Medical Examiner (1978 - 1985) and is currently serving as the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner (1985 - present). Dr. Krouse is a member of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and served two terms on their Board of Directors, as well as on various committees through the years. He is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine, and also serves on the Tarrant County Disaster Response Program which assists in planning responses to acts of terrorism, as well as other natural disasters and accidents.



GARY SISLER, D.O. - DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER



Dr. Sisler graduated from the University of Toledo with a B.S. degree (1959) before completing his D.O. degree (1965) at the Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine. A board certified diplomat of the American Board of Forensic Examiners and the American Board of Forensic Medicine, Dr. Sisler is also certified in anatomic and clinical pathology by the American Board of Pathology. After serving 29 years and achieving the rank of Colonel, United States Army Medical Corps, Dr. Sisler joined the medical examiner staff in 1989 as a Deputy Medical Examiner. In July of 2009 Dr. Sisler transitioned to part time status.

ROBERT LLOYD WHITE, M.D., PH.D. - DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

Dr. White earned a B.S. degree (1965) from the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma and an M.D. (1972) as well as a Ph.D. degree (1976) from the University of Oklahoma. He completed his residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at Baylor University Medical Center in 1976, and completed a fellowship in forensic pathology through the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences, University of Texas, and Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Dr. White's medical specialty certification includes anatomic, clinical and forensic pathology. He worked with Affiliated Pathologists group in Denton, Texas between 1977 and 1989 as Director of Autopsy Services and also served as Chief of Medical Staff, Lewisville Memorial Hospital, Lewisville, Texas. Between 1989 and 1992 he served as Mississippi State Medical Examiner and visiting Clinical Assistant Professor of Pathology, University of Mississippi Medical Center. He worked as Nueces County Chief Medical Examiner, Corpus Christi, Texas between 1992 and 2002. He was a consulting forensic pathologist between 2002 and 2005. He joined the TCME staff in February 2005. In addition to his experience as a teacher and a researcher he also has a degree in Theology from the University of Dallas, Texas.



SUSAN J. ROE, M.D. - DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER



Dr. Roe graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a B.S. in Nursing (1977) and from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Medical School with an M.D. (1983). Post graduate training in anatomic pathology, clinical pathology and forensic pathology at Indiana University, Hennepin County Medical Center, and Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office was completed in 1988. Dr. Roe is board certified in anatomic, clinical and forensic pathology. She worked as a Forensic Pathologist at the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office, Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Office and Minnesota Regional Medical Examiner's Office from 1988 through 2011. In addition she was a Bush Foundation Medical Fellow, Class of 2003 and worked at the Jesse E.

Edwards Registry of Cardiovascular Disease from 2005 through 2011. Dr. Roe joined the Medical Examiner staff in December 2011 as a Deputy Medical Examiner.

JERRY MENDLOWSKI, M.D. - FORENSIC FELLOW

Dr. Mendlowski graduated with a medical degree from the Jagiellonian Medical School in Cracow, Poland in 1982. He trained in pathology at the Health Science Center of the State University of New York in Syracuse. He is board certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology. He served as general pathologist at various community and rural hospitals throughout New York and Pennsylvania. Dr. Mendlowski joined the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office on July 1, 2011 to begin his one year Fellowship training in Forensic Pathology. Upon successful completion of this year of training he plans to change his career focus to Forensic Pathology.



ADMINISTRATION

RONALD SINGER, M.S. - TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Ronald Singer received a B.S. degree from Tulane University and an M.S. degree from Loyola University of New Orleans. A forensic scientist since 1972, he has served as President of the International Association of Forensic Sciences, is a Distinguished Fellow and Past President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, a Distinguished Member and Past President of the Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners, an Emeritus Member and Past Secretary of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, and is a member of numerous other forensic associations and committees. He has been an invited speaker on forensic issues throughout the U.S., Hungary, Bosnia, England, Portugal, Turkey, the Maldives and Sri Lanka. Mr. Singer is a recipient of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Criminalistics Section Outstanding Service Award, the Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners Member of the Year Award, the Gold Medal of the Mediterranean Academy of Forensic Sciences and the Distinguished Fellow Award from the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.



TRACYE POIRIER, M.B.A. - BUSINESS MANAGER

Tracye Poirier received her B.S. degree in Chemistry from the University of Texas at Arlington. She came to work here in 2000 as a Senior Forensic Toxicologist. She also served as a Senior Forensic Chemist before assuming her current role as the Business Manager. Her background in the sciences provides her with unique insight into managing a Medical Examiner office. Ms. Poirier earned her M.B.A. degree with an emphasis in Strategic Leadership in April 2010 from the University of Dallas. Ms. Poirier is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the Southwestern Association of Toxicologists.



SECRETARIAL SERVICES

LINDA F. ANDERSON - EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/PIO

Accepting employment as a medical secretary in 1994, Ms. Anderson is currently the Executive Assistant for the Chief Medical Examiner and she supervises the clerical department. She is responsible for scheduling pathologists for morgue duty, directs scheduling of physicians for court appearances and professional engagements, trains secretarial staff, and interacts with families and the general public. In addition to these responsibilities she acts as the Public Information Officer for the office. Ms. Anderson's previous employment history includes office manager/procurement technician for Harris Methodist Tissue Services and Court Clerk with the City of Fort Worth Municipal Court.



MORGUE/EVIDENCE SERVICES

TRACI WILSON - CHIEF OF MORGUE/LABORATORY SERVICES

Traci Wilson began her employment with the Tarrant County Examiner's Office as a Forensic Autopsy Technician in 1995. Prior to moving to Fort Worth she had worked as a Forensic Pathologist Assistant in Bossier City, LA. Ms. Wilson attended Northeast Louisiana University Monroe (ULM) where she majored in Business Administration/Business Law. In 2009 Ms. Wilson assumed the duties of Chief of Morgue/Laboratory Services, and has since worked hard to implement new policies to streamline record keeping and evidence handling.



HUMAN IDENTIFICATION SERVICES

ROGER METCALF, D.D.S., J.D. – CHIEF OF HUMAN IDENTIFICATION SERVICES

Roger Metcalf is a graduate of Baylor University and Baylor College of Dentistry. He completed a Fellowship in Forensic Odontology at the Center for Education and Research in Forensics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Dental School under Dr. David Sinn. He received his J.D. degree from Texas Wesleyan University School of Law in 2009. Dr. Metcalf has been a member of the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Mass Fatality Dental Identification Team since it was established in 1980, and participated in identification of victims from the Delta 191 and 1141 crashes at DFW Airport, and from the Mt. Carmel Incident in Waco, TX. Since joining the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District in 2004, Dr. Metcalf has supervised the forensic identification of more than 300 unidentified bodies per year. Dr. Metcalf is commissioned as a Lt. Colonel in the DFW Medical Ranger Group, Medical Reserve Corps, Texas Medical Brigade, Texas State Guard. He participates as an active member of the Wesleyan Innocence Project, a group that reviews possible exoneration cases for the Dallas County District Attorney's Office.



FORENSIC CHEMISTRY AND TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

ROBERT JOHNSON, PH.D. - CHIEF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGIST

Dr. Johnson graduated from The University of Oklahoma with a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry in 2004. Certified as a forensic toxicologist by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology, he joined the medical examiner's office in 2011. Additionally, Dr. Johnson is active in several professional societies including the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the Southwestern Association of Toxicologists. He has published over 50 scientific articles in his career all of which deal specifically with forensic toxicology.



CRIMINALISTICS LABORATORY

SUSAN R. HOWE, D.V.M., PH.D. - CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTOR



Dr. Howe received a B.S. and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Illinois, and a Ph.D. in Toxicology from Texas A & M University. A forensic scientist since 1996, she is an active member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the International Association of Forensic Sciences, the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, and the Southwestern Association of Toxicologists. Dr. Howe is currently serving as President of the Southwestern Association of Toxicologists. Dr. Howe is board certified in Forensic Toxicology by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology, and has published a number of scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals in the field of molecular toxicology.

FORENSIC DEATH INVESTIGATION

TARRANT COUNTY:

MICHAEL FLOYD - CHIEF FORENSIC DEATH INVESTIGATOR

Michael Floyd began working for the TCME District in 1990 as a Medical Investigator assigned to Parker County and he transferred to Tarrant County in 1993. In 1997 he was promoted to Senior Forensic Investigator, became the Supervisory Investigator in 2009, and was appointed the Chief Forensic Investigator in 2010. Prior to his employment at TCME Michael was a Texas-certified EMT-Paramedic for 16 years. Michael also holds a TCLEOSE Master Peace Officer certificate and Instructor license, and has been a commissioned peace officer since 1981. In 1984 he earned an Associate Degree from Weatherford College and in 1996 a B.S. degree from Texas Wesleyan University. Michael is a Diplomat of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators.



DENTON COUNTY:

TROY TAYLOR, B.S. - CHIEF FORENSIC DEATH INVESTIGATOR

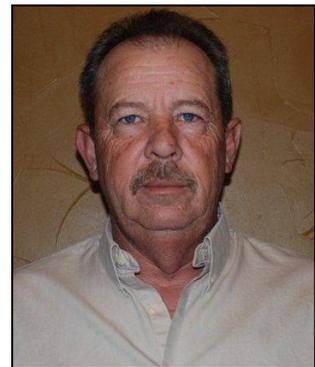
Mr. Taylor started his career in 1990 at the Denton County Medical Examiner's Office. After multi-year tenures in Denton and Tarrant County he transferred back to the Denton office in 2003. Troy teaches medical examiner law, wound patterning, and decompositional changes for intermediate crime scene classes as well as basic peace officer certification classes. He has attended medico-legal death investigation training and psychological profiling schools. Mr. Taylor was promoted to Chief Forensic Death Investigator of Denton County in 2007.



JOHNSON COUNTY:

GARY MORRIS - CHIEF FORENSIC DEATH INVESTIGATOR

Gary Morris began his service with the Johnson County Medical Examiner's Office as a Reserve Investigator in 2006. Mr. Morris served in several positions, advancing to his current position as the Chief Forensic Death Investigator for the Johnson County office, a position he has held since 2011. He has attended Forensic Death Investigation training in Fort Worth, St. Louis, Arizona and New York.



PARKER COUNTY:

REGINA BANKS - CHIEF FORENSIC DEATH INVESTIGATOR

Regina Banks has been Chief Investigator for Parker County since January 2011. Prior to this appointment, she was an Investigator for the Denton County Medical Examiner's Office. Mrs. Banks graduated from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Formerly Mrs. Banks worked as an Investigator for the State of Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.



**TARRANT COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S DISTRICT
GENERAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY
2011**

	<u>Number</u>
Reported Deaths:	8,708
Jurisdiction Terminated:	6,294
Jurisdiction accepted:	2,414
Scenes investigated:	1,296
Bodies brought to the facility:	2,414
 Medical Procedures:	 2,414
External:	1018 (42% of deaths certified)
Partial Autopsies:	522 (22% of deaths certified)
Complete Autopsies:	874 (36% of deaths certified)
 Manner of Death:	
Deaths certified as Natural:	1,203 (50% of deaths certified)
Deaths certified as Accident:	668 (28% of deaths certified)
	(Non-motor vehicle: 420)
	(Motor vehicle: 248)
Deaths certified as Suicide:	293 (12% of deaths certified)
Deaths certified as Homicide:	153 (6% of deaths certified)
Deaths certified as Pending	1 (>1% of deaths certified)
Deaths certified as Undetermined:	73 (3% of deaths certified)
Deaths certified as Non-Human Remains:	23 (1% of deaths certified)
 Unidentified Bodies:	
Total Identified:	376
Identified by fingerprints:	278
Identified by anthropology:	28
Identified by odontology:	27
Identified visually:	22
Identified by DNA:	13
Identified by other means:	3
Pending:	5



2011 TARRANT COUNTY DEATHS		
MANNER OF DEATH	CASES	PERCENTAGE
NATURAL	915	14%
ACCIDENT	518	8%
SUICIDE	190	3%
HOMICIDE	138	2%
PENDING	1	0
UNDETERMINED	57	1%
NON-HUMAN REMAINS	16	>1%
JURISDICTION TERMINATED	4519	71%
TOTAL	6354	100%

2011 DENTON COUNTY DEATHS		
MANNER OF DEATH	CASES	PERCENTAGE
NATURAL	159	11%
ACCIDENT	95	6%
SUICIDE	66	4%
HOMICIDE	11	1%
PENDING	0	0
UNDETERMINED	11	1%
NON-HUMAN REMAINS	4	0
JURISDICTION TERMINATED	1140	77%
TOTAL	1486	100%



2011 JOHNSON COUNTY DEATHS		
MANNER OF DEATH	CASES	PERCENTAGE
NATURAL	57	13%
ACCIDENT	26	6%
SUICIDE	12	3%
HOMICIDE	4	1%
PENDING	0	0
UNDETERMINED	3	1%
NON-HUMAN REMAINS	0	0
JURISDICTION TERMINATED	323	76%
TOTAL	425	100%

2011 PARKER COUNTY DEATHS		
MANNER OF DEATH	CASES	PERCENTAGE
NATURAL	72	16%
ACCIDENT	29	7%
SUICIDE	25	6%
HOMICIDE	0	0
PENDING	0	0
UNDETERMINED	2	0
NON-HUMAN REMAINS	3	1%
JURISDICTION TERMINATED	312	70%
TOTAL	443	100%



FIVE YEAR COMPARISON

TARRANT COUNTY

Manner of Death	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Natural	915	843	804	766	798
Accidental	518	464	517	492	504
Suicide	190	200	163	182	175
Homicide	138	140	94	118	109
Pending	1	0	1	0	14
Undetermined	57	46	43	38	32
Non-Human Remains	16	11	12	13	13
Jurisdiction Terminated	4519	4541	4421	4406	5085
Total	6354	6245	6055	6015	6730

DENTON COUNTY

Manner of Death	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Natural	159	140	175	152	154
Accidental	95	90	86	77	94
Suicide	66	58	64	55	48
Homicide	11	15	13	11	16
Pending	0	0	0	0	0
Undetermined	11	14	11	11	12
Non-Human Remains	4	4	2	1	2
Jurisdiction Terminated	1140	1079	989	1014	870
Total	1486	1400	1339	1321	1196

JOHNSON COUNTY

(*Johnson County joined the TCME District on 7/1/2008)

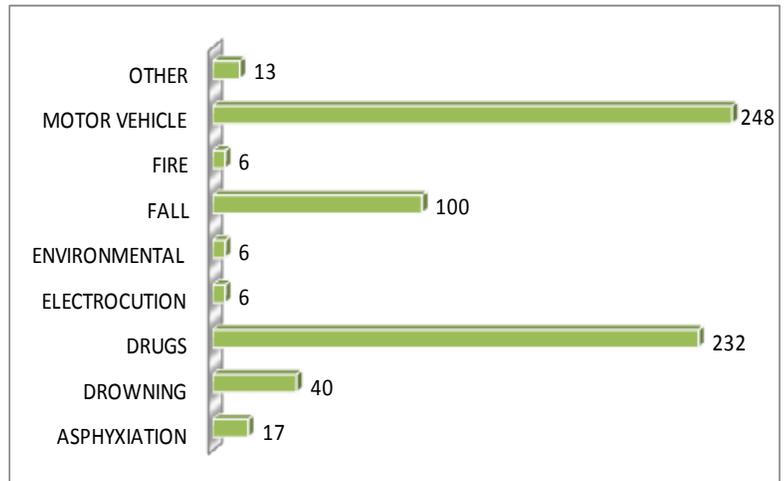
Manner of Death	2011	2010	2009	2008*	2007*
Natural	57	60	45	26	
Accidental	26	29	24	26	
Suicide	12	29	16	10	
Homicide	4	1	0	1	
Pending	0	0	0	0	
Undetermined	3	1	4	0	
Non-Human Remains	0	2	1	0	
Jurisdiction Terminated	323	317	315	161	
Total	425	439	405	224	

PARKER COUNTY

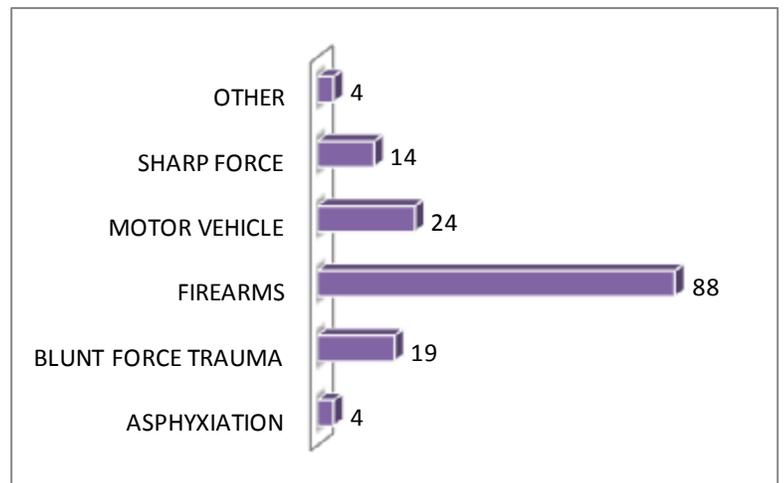
Manner of Death	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Natural	72	50	42	50	55
Accidental	29	32	38	37	35
Suicide	25	18	10	11	17
Homicide	0	1	2	4	4
Pending	0	0	0	0	0
Undetermined	2	1	2	2	0
Non-Human Remains	3	0	2	4	0
Jurisdiction Terminated	312	296	279	244	224
Total	443	398	375	352	335

ACCIDENTS, HOMICIDES AND SUICIDES BY METHOD

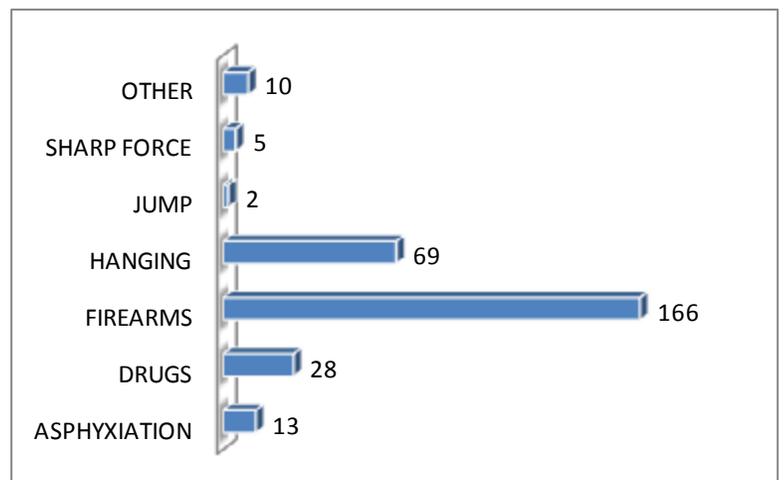
ACCIDENTS BY METHOD		
ASPHYXIATION	17	3%
DROWNING	40	6%
DRUGS	232	34%
ELECTROCUTION	6	1%
ENVIRONMENTAL	6	1%
FALL	100	15%
FIRE	6	1%
MOTOR VEHICLE	248	37%
OTHER	13	2%



HOMICIDES BY METHOD		
ASPHYXIATION	4	3%
BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA	19	12%
FIREARMS	88	57%
MOTOR VEHICLE	24	16%
SHARP FORCE	14	9%
OTHER	4	3%



SUICIDES BY METHOD		
ASPHYXIATION	13	4%
DRUGS	28	10%
FIREARMS	166	57%
HANGING	69	23%
JUMP	2	1%
SHARP FORCE	5	2%
OTHER	10	3%



FORENSIC DEATH INVESTIGATION

One of the primary purposes of the medical examiner's office is to conduct inquests or investigations into the cause and manner of deaths occurring within Tarrant, Denton, Johnson and Parker Counties. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District staffs an around-the-clock investigative division responsible for initiating a formal response to all reportable cases.



Investigators within the district made inquiries into more than 8700 deaths in 2011. Forensic investigators are trained in a multi-disciplinary capacity and possess unique education and abilities, including knowledge of criminal investigation techniques, relevant aspects of forensic medicine, crime scene processing skills, and maintenance of case integrity. Additionally, each investigator must be capable of conducting effective interviews, locating and notifying next-of-kin, and interacting with law enforcement personnel.

Once a jurisdictional death is reported, the investigator attends the scene or hospital where the death occurred. After conducting the initial investigation, the investigator prepares a detailed case report containing biographical data on the decedent, a narrative of the events leading up to



the time of death or discovery of the decedent, and a summation of all investigative analyses and leads. In addition, investigators coordinate with hospitals,



physicians, law enforcement agencies, employers, families, and other pertinent sources to gather information that might be of value to the determination of the cause and manner of death.

HUMAN IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY

Identification of unidentified remains is a primary function of the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office. In order to more efficiently accomplish this task, the office has created the Human Identification Laboratory. Headed by a full time forensic odontologist, the laboratory staff also includes a full time forensic anthropologist, and utilizes the talents of the fingerprint examiners assigned to the crime laboratory. Unidentified remains are systematically examined using fingerprints, dental records, anthropological studies and DNA technology and making use of local, state and national data bases in an effort to provide identity and closure to the deceased and their families.



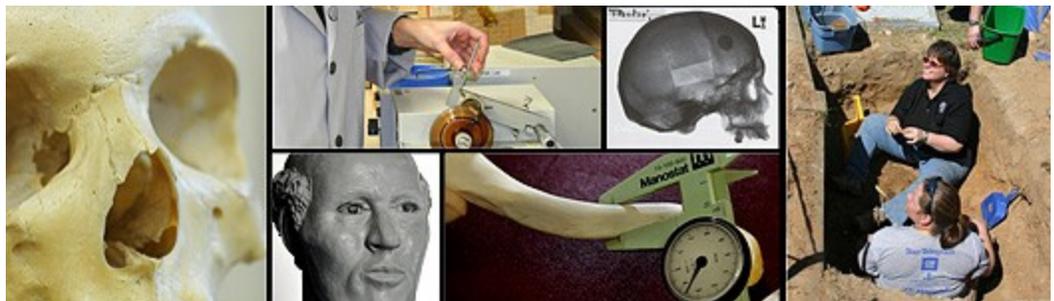
FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY

Forensic dentists deal with a range of medicolegal problems. Identification of the human remains of natural disasters, terrorist activities, and missing and unknown persons is a central activity. The postmortem dental examination of human remains usually involves charting dental and cranial features, radiographic (x-ray) documentation of these features, and forensic report writing regarding these findings. Dental identification plays a particularly important role in the identification of victims of catastrophic events where there are massive numbers of casualties such as airplane crashes (Pan Am flight 103 and American Airlines flight 587), fires, floods, earthquakes, or terrorist attacks (Oklahoma City Federal Building and the World Trade Center).



FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

Bones comprise the structural framework of the human body. Due to their properties, bones decompose more slowly than many other tissues and organs; thus, they are often capable of providing clues that assist examiners in determining the cause and manner of death. Skeletal remains can provide information such as the race, stature, weight, age, and gender of the decedent. Evidence of trauma or natural disease may also be identified. X-ray comparisons can help establish scientifically the identity of a body. Samples of DNA can also be obtained from bone; thus, in cases where decomposition is advanced significantly, DNA analysis can still be of value. Tarrant County has the only comprehensive forensic anthropology laboratory attached to a medical examiner's office in Texas.



THE MORGUE



The main center of activity of any medical examiner's facility is the morgue area. Dedicated in 1989, the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office morgue area employs a design which centralizes all morgue activity, isolating it from the other activities of the building. There are two holding areas, each capable of holding fifty bodies. One of the areas is dedicated to incoming cases only, while the other holds bodies awaiting release. The main morgue consists of four workstations, each of which is designed to be

conducive to a dynamic work environment in which examinations can be carried out with maximum efficiency. The morgue area also contains a separate major case morgue and a teaching morgue capable of seating 45 students. In addition a 2 station isolation/biohazard morgue was included in the new construction.

Classroom instruction is an integral component of any medical education program. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office regularly participates in the academic and practical training of students from the entire North Texas area by



offering once a month autopsy classes.



The morgue is staffed by autopsy technicians (deiners) who assist the pathologists with forensic examinations. Each autopsy technician is responsible for obtaining photographs, radiographs (X-rays), fingerprints, and biological samples from the decedent before autopsy. Because the identification of

foreign bodies in or on a decedent is vitally important to a comprehensive examination, the medical examiner's office relies on radiological techniques as a tool. Designed to facilitate easy access to radiographic equipment without moving the body from the transport gurney, the radiology lab incorporates a C-arm fluoroscope, a fixed flat plate device, and articulated dental radiography equipment.



EVIDENCE HANDLING

In order to preserve evidentiary integrity, each piece of evidence collected by or submitted to the medical examiner's office for processing must be coupled with a detailed chain-of-custody log. To ensure the chain-of-custody is maintained correctly, and that all evidence is handled, cared for, and stored properly, forensic technicians with expertise in evidentiary preservation are utilized.

FORENSIC CHEMISTRY AND TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY



FORENSIC CHEMISTRY

Forensic chemists analyze drugs submitted by other agencies. Drug types received commonly range from clandestine chemical substances to therapeutic or prescribed medications.



Cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and amphetamines, all drugs of abuse, represent the most common products received for chemical assay. Daily, law enforcement agencies within the medical examiner's district are faced with the challenge of identifying drugs found subsequent to an arrest or search warrant execution.

INTOXILYZER PROGRAM



An intoxilyzer instrument provides an objective, scientific means of testing someone who is suspected by police to have been driving under the influence of alcohol by measuring a sample of the suspect's breath for determinable levels of alcohol concentration. Grant funds supplied by the Texas Department of Transportation were used to establish the ME office's intoxilyzer program in 1994. Under

the program, forensic chemists establish intoxilyzer test sites, calibrate and maintain equipment, and train intoxilyzer operators, which benefits local police agencies.

FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY



Forensic toxicological services were established at the medical examiner's office in 1983. Subsequently, the toxicology laboratory has expanded to include mass spectrometry, gas chromatography, and high-pressure liquid chromatography analysis. The toxicology laboratory provides drug testing to assist the medical examiners in determining the cause and manner of death by isolating, identifying, and determining the level of chemicals in specimens. Additionally, the forensic toxicology laboratory participates regularly in established

analytical proficiency testing and quality assurance programs.



CHEMISTRY CASES RECEIVED

	2011 CASES	2010 CASES	2009 CASES
JAN	149	153	215
FEB	171	115	198
MAR	219	175	197
APR	139	169	167
MAY	118	183	192
JUN	156	230	247
JUL	254	178	224
AUG	171	170	160
SEP	181	177	183
OCT	125	148	159
NOV	210	181	120
DEC	195	141	244
TOTALS	2088	2020	2306

BREATH ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM

	2011	2010	2009
Breath Tests	2667	2828	3292
Under 21	307	309	377
Affidavits	800	868	861
Testing Sites Supervised	20	20	238
Court Appearances (Days)	35	38	58

2011 TOXICOLOGY CASES

	TARRANT	DENTON	JOHNSON	PARKER	OTHER ME CASES	OTHER CASES	2011 TOTALS	2010 TOTALS	2009 TOTALS
JAN	59	20	4	7	28	129	247	221	241
FEB	66	14	5	3	34	76	198	205	196
MAR	87	17	2	1	33	105	245	228	175
APR	57	27	5	7	31	88	215	201	215
MAY	73	16	3	6	38	129	265	259	206
JUN	88	20	5	4	41	121	279	237	192
JUL	84	20	9	5	56	85	259	226	241
AUG	79	16	3	6	41	98	243	226	179
SEP	68	15	3	8	36	105	235	217	207
OCT	68	19	6	5	45	100	243	218	232
NOV	67	15	3	5	30	126	246	203	205
DEC	92	18	3	6	39	126	284	226	211
TOTALS	888	217	51	63	452	1288	2959	2667	2500

2011 TOXICOLOGY SERVICES BY SAMPLE

	Acid	Base	Alcohols	Ethanol (AXSYM)	THC	Cocaine	Opiate	Benzo- diazepine	Amphet- amine	Metham- phetamine	Oxy- codone	Carbon Monoxide	2011 TOTALS	2010 TOTALS	2009 TOTALS
JAN	253	242	602	106	131	202	202	202	202			18	2160	2006	1944
FEB	258	258	405	103	96	160	160	160	160			12	1772	1704	1605
MAR	294	293	421	186	165	258	258	258	258			58	2449	1659	2254
APR	240	241	431	126	105	171	171	171	171			36	1863	1635	2211
MAY	219	215	473	136	122	223	223	223	223			0	2057	1612	1970
JUN	261	261	410	176	162	254	254	254	254			6	2292	2115	2493
JUL	189	189	406	130	133	215	215	215	215			7	1914	2085	2266
AUG	214	210	370	164	144	235	235	235	235			5	2047	2039	2101
SEP	169	169	403	136	104	214	214	214	214			2	1839	1979	1897
OCT	208	191	324		182	152	152	152	152			182	57	4	1756
NOV	157	157	341		175	158	158	158	158	161	150	2	1775	2133	1918
DEC	201	201	523		208	208	208	208	208	217	208	6	2396	1856	2054
Totals	2663	2627	5109		1263	1727	2450	2450	2450	2450	560	415	156	24320	22506
	5290 (ABN combined)		6372 (Combined Alcohols)												

As demonstrated in the chart above, the **AXSYM** instrument was replaced by the **ELISA** instrument at the beginning of October 2011. The samples highlighted with the coral color show combined **AXSYM/ELISA** totals. Ethanol samples were previously screened on the **AXSYM**. Alcohols have not begun to be run on **ELISA** as of yet. Additional benefits to the new **ELISA** instrument are its capability to screen for methamphetamine and oxycodone, and to be able to screen for THC in both blood and urine specimens..

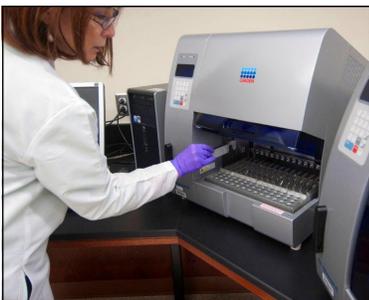
CRIMINALISTICS LABORATORIES

Since 1989, the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District has operated a full-service crime laboratory, serving the needs of the medical examiner's office, district attorney's offices, and law enforcement agencies in North Central Texas and throughout the United States. Equipped with modern analytical instrumentation, the various sections of the crime laboratory combine scientific technology with an experienced professional staff. Specialized sections of the crime laboratory identify, analyze, and report on various forms of evidence such as DNA, blood spatter, trace materials, chemical compounds, firearms, tool marks and latent fingerprints.

NOTE: In general case work output in the laboratories was down somewhat as a result of time spent preparing and moving into the new facilities.

FORENSIC BIOLOGY

DNA analysis provides the ability to restrict potential populations of persons to which a biological sample might belong to a much smaller subset of suspects. Such a determination is useful in identifying the source and, subsequently, connecting that source to a particular death or crime scene. In addition, the DNA



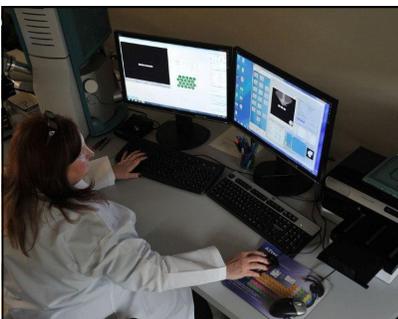
laboratory is a designated CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) laboratory. CODIS is the FBI's DNA data base that ultimately links all 50 states and 18 countries to provide a means of comparing forensic case work profiles. The data base search may result in linking unsolved cases to a single perpetrator and can provide significant investigative leads.



- In 2011, the Forensic Biology laboratory 569 cases.

TRACE EVIDENCE

Trace evidence is that material which, because of its size or weight, can be easily transferred from one individual or object to another. Gunshot residue, hair, glass, paint, and fibers are among the more common materials collected and submitted for examination. Trace analysis utilizes



advanced technology and instrumentation such as the scanning electron microscope coupled with an energy dispersive x-ray analysis spectrometer to obtain chemical profiles of materials in an attempt to relate materials to each other or to a common source. The trace analyst, as other criminalists, must be knowledgeable of relevant and scientifically sound analytical, investigative methodologies.



- In 2011, the Trace laboratory completed 133 cases.

FIREARMS AND TOOL MARKS



Examination and analyses of firearms, projectiles, ballistics, and markings imparted by any form of tool, fall within the purview of the firearms and tool marks laboratory. Firearms submitted are examined for inherent characteristics, unique identifiers, and safety-related factors, and can be test fired to obtain reference material that can subsequently be compared to submitted evidence. Range-of-fire determinations can be carried out on a 40-foot indoor range.



- **In 2011, the Firearms laboratory completed 93 cases.**

NOTE: Even with moving into the new facilities the Firearms' section case output was positively affected with the hiring of an additional examiner.

LATENT FINGERPRINTS



Latent fingerprint examination is a fundamental tool of the medical examiner's office, with latent prints being utilized as a scientific form of identification on unidentified bodies that come into the medical examiner's office. Fingerprints can also be retrieved from submitted evidence and used to assist in identifying a criminal suspect. Applying the newest technology, the latent print examiner achieves remarkable results in lifting prints from various substrates.



- **In 2011, the Latent Fingerprint laboratory completed 28 latent print cases and 278 identification cases.**

FORENSIC PHOTOGRAPHY

A fully equipped forensic photography laboratory was added to the crime laboratory in 1994. By 2005, the laboratory had replaced all film processing with digital photography. In addition to more traditional photography, the lab is capable of making photographs utilizing ultraviolet and infrared techniques. Image enhancement can also be performed. Pictures, enlargements, and other services are provided to the medical examiner, to the courts, and to individuals for educational or research-based presentations.

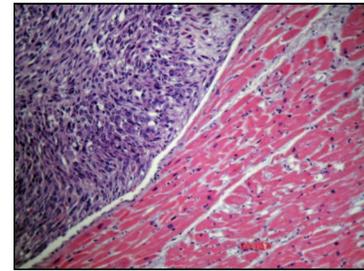


- **In 2011, the Forensic Photography laboratory provided 87,277 services on 2241 cases.**

FORENSIC HISTOLOGY



Many cause of death determinations rely upon the examination of a decedent's tissues and organs. Special stains and fixation methods are employed to assist the physician in identifying disease processes and certain tissue changes that occur in response to trauma, lifestyle habits, or other variables.



- **In 2011, the forensic histology section provided 35,374 services on 1,405 cases submitted.**



SECRETARIAL SERVICES

Secretaries for the medical examiner's office provide a diverse complement of administrative support services for the daily operation of business. In addition to performing the usual secretarial tasks, each medical secretary assists in the management of records, complex transcription services, and interaction with bereaved families, law enforcement agencies, hospitals and funeral homes. Included in their responsibilities is the issuance of death certificates, cremation letters and amended death certificates as well as scheduling pathologists for court appearances.



- **In 2011, the secretarial section transcribed 3219 autopsy cases, issued 2414 death certificates, 624 death certificate amendments, 5843 cremation permits, and completed over 3900 records requests.**



BUSINESS OFFICE

The Business Office was established to meet the increasing complexities of the day to day management of the business aspects of the Medical Examiner's office. The Business Manager, assisted by the Bookkeeper, comprise the business office, which provides support in the financial aspects of the office including budget preparation and reporting, accounts payable, accounts receivable, personnel matters and other related fiscal issues. The Transportation of Human Remains contract is supervised by the Business Manager. In addition the Business Office is responsible for maintaining inventory of all supplies, computer hardware, office equipment and scientific instruments, and ensuring all service warranties are current.

BUILDING SUPERINTENDENT

The building superintendent is responsible for all of the general maintenance of the building, including minor repairs and preventive maintenance. He also oversees vendors and contractors and ensures work is properly done, and supervises work release individuals assigned to perform janitorial, grounds and other duties. His role is especially vital in maintaining all of the ventilation and air conditioning needs specific to a facility like the Medical Examiner's Office, with its inherent biohazards and the investment in precision scientific instruments that cannot tolerate temperature changes.

CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

Child deaths attributable to illness, birth defect, delivery difficulty, neoplastic disease, and other natural causes account for approximately one out of four child fatalities locally. Although these deaths can be devastating, the larger community is impacted perhaps more by deaths occurring unnaturally. The greatest risk of death from abuse or neglect occurs among the youngest children who, because of their age, have an absolute dependence on their caretakers.

Although there are more than 4,000 child deaths annually in Texas, no single agency tracks all aspects of every death reported. Of particular interest are those deaths that are preventable. In 1995, the Texas Legislature amended Chapter 264 of the Family Code to include language outlining the establishment and continuance of a state child fatality review team committee, local child fatality review teams, and formation of a statewide analytical evaluation of all collected and reported child death information. The ultimate goal of the project is to identify trends and reduce the number of preventable childhood deaths. There are approximately 50 representatives appointed to the Tarrant County CFRT from the following agencies:

- ◆ Tarrant County District Attorney Office
- ◆ Local Law Enforcement
- ◆ Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (CPS)
- ◆ Cook Children’s Medical Center
- ◆ Alliance for Children - Tarrant County
- ◆ Tarrant County Public Health
- ◆ Shaken Baby Alliance

	2011		2010		2009	
Total Child Deaths*	99		122		113	
Natural Causes	31	32%	35	29%	28	25%
Accident	24	24%	38	31%	42	37%
Homicide	14	14%	20	16%	17	15%
Suicide	8	8%	5	4%	4	4%
Undetermined	22	22%	24	20%	22	19%

* Total Child Deaths refers to deaths occurring within the TCME district that were reviewed by this committee.

EDUCATION

FORENSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

Opportunities for education in the forensic sciences are extended to local law enforcement, medical, and higher education agencies through the medical examiner's office. Annually over 600 persons are provided the unique educational experience of witnessing a forensic autopsy. Local agencies served through this educational program include the Fort Worth and Arlington Police and Fire Academies, District Attorney Offices in Hood and Denton County, Weatherford College Nursing School, and both the pre-med and biology honor sciences at Texas Wesleyan University and other colleges.



TUESDAY MORNING FORENSIC ROUNDS

Forensic Rounds meets every Tuesday (except in July and December) at 8:00 am in the 3rd floor annex conference room. A large variety of topics are presented by either the ME staff or an invited speaker. In addition to medical examiner staff the audience includes law enforcement personnel, attorneys, medical personnel, and medical students.



ANNUAL CURRENT TRENDS IN FORENSIC SCIENCE CONFERENCE



Current Trends is a conference organized by the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office that is open to anyone in the medical, law enforcement, judicial or medicolegal professions, or anyone interested in the forensic sciences. As the title suggests, the conference seeks to present topics that are current or new developments in the various forensic disciplines. An award is presented each year to a person who has been nominated by their peers as being someone who exhibits excellence in the field of forensics. The Zachariah Award of Excellence was named after our former Technical Administrator, Dr. Nannepaga Zachariah, who passed away in February 2009.

INTERNATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER

The International Forensic Science Center is a part of the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office and was started during 2006. The purpose of this is to provide education available at the medical examiner's office to forensic scholars and students from abroad. These sessions typically last for two weeks during which the medical examiner staff arranges lectures and practical sessions. A working relationship was established between Texas Wesleyan University and the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office to facilitate this education at the international level. TWU has provided housing for our foreign students on several occasions.



FORENSIC PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

The Forensic Pathology Fellowship was started in 2004 and at the current time is fully accredited by the ACGME. The fellow works with the medical examiners and scientific staff and receives twelve full months of exposure at the medical examiner's office. When the program is completed, the fellow will graduate and become eligible to sit for their board examination in forensic pathology and then to pursue a career as a forensic pathologist.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS/INTERNS

Any student over the age of 18 who wants to get exposure to the medical examiner's activities can apply for a volunteer position. There are restrictions as to what areas a student may have access to, so the individual student's needs and goals must be evaluated to see if there is a compatible opportunity available at the time. Safety and liability issues must also be considered. Appropriate background checks and immunizations may be required before beginning an assignment.

TCME EXPANSION PROJECT



The small picture at left shows the progress made on new construction at the end of 2010. The picture below shows the completed new construction from the northwest corner. The new addition houses all of the TCME laboratories and offers expansive, state of the art facilities.



