



*American Academy of Forensic Sciences
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors
International Association for Identification
International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners
National Association of Medical Examiners
Society of Forensic Toxicologists/ American Board of Forensic Toxicology*

For Immediate Release

November 1, 2022

The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CF SO) is pleased to announce the addition of a seventh major forensic science organization member. The International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IACME) recently joined CF SO as a full member. The CF SO Board, representing its member organizations the American Society of Crime Lab Directors, the American Academy of Forensic Science, the International Association for Identification, the National Association of Medical Examiners, the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, and the American Board of Toxicologists, voted unanimously to approve this action effective September 2022. IACME joining CF SO will increase the membership represented by CF SO to over 22,000 forensic science practitioners.

For over 22 years, the CF SO has represented forensic science practitioners and forensic medicine practitioners at the highest levels of government. The primary focus of the CF SO is Federal, state, county, and local policymakers, as well as the United States Congress. The mission of the CF SO is to speak with a single forensic science voice in matters of mutual interest to its member organizations, to influence public policy at the national level, and to make a compelling case for greater federal funding for public forensic science service providers and public forensic medicine service providers including medical examiner and coroner offices.

“Adding IACME to the CF SO membership allows CF SO to advocate even more effectively for specific resources for coroner offices and medicolegal investigators. As the Federal government increases efforts to identify the needs of the medicolegal death investigation , it is important that CF SO continues to increase the visibility of these needs to policy makers and funding entities,” said CF SO Board Chairman Matthew Gamette.

The CF SO recently worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Justice to create the Medicolegal Death Investigation Data Working Group (MDI-DATA-WG) to identify the needs of medical examiner and coroner offices related to data collection and sharing. The early work of this group is a pending publication from the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence with specific recommendations for immediate actions to address immediate needs. CF SO is currently working on legislation to codify the NamUs program for missing and unidentified persons, to address workforce shortages in forensic pathology, and to increase training resources for coroners and medicolegal death investigators. The personnel shortages and resource needs of medical examiners and coroners in the United States has regrettably become one of the biggest issues facing the country.

The National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) is a founding member of CF SO and encouraged and endorsed this action. NAME President, Dr. Kathy Pinneri stated, "NAME and the IACME share a common goal of improving medicolegal death investigation in the United States as well as internationally. Forensic pathologists work in both medical examiner and coroner systems, so we all feel the strains from the shortage of forensic pathologists and the increasing case loads related to drug overdoses and violent deaths."

IACME President Bobbi Jo O’Neal said, “We are excited to join these powerful forensic science organizations to ensure the medicolegal profession has a voice at all levels of the federal government. The IACME will now have a formal representation to assist our membership in obtaining resources to keep up with the increasing caseload we’ve experienced for the past decade.”

Press Contact---Matthew Gamette, CF SO Chair matthew.gamette@thecfso.org