Title of research need: Increase in Forensic Pathology Workforce

Keyword(s): Autopsy; forensic pathologist; medical students; training; medical school

Submitting subcommittee(s): MDI  Date Approved: 2/28/2021

If SAC review identifies additional subcommittees, add them to the box above.

Background Information:

1. Does this research need address a gap(s) in a current or planned standard? (ex.: Field identification system for on scene opioid detection and confirmation)

   No.

2. Are you aware of any ongoing research that may address this research need that has not yet been published (e.g., research presented in conference proceedings, studies that you or a colleague have participated in but have yet to be published)?

   NAME Strategic Committee is prioritizing this goal but not specifically conducting research.


4. Review the annual operational/research needs published by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) at https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/forensic-science-research-and-development-technology-working-group-operational#latest? Is your research need identified by NIJ?

No.

5. In what ways would the research results improve current laboratory capabilities?

We have a well-recognized shortage of forensic pathologists in this country, this research aims to address why more medical students are not choosing to go into the field so that changes can be made to increase the pipeline.

6. In what ways would the research results improve understanding of the scientific basis for the subcommittee(s)?

The committee aims to improve the practice of medicolegal death investigation, and this would include ensuring that there are enough practitioners to perform the specialized functions.

7. In what ways would the research results improve services to the criminal justice system?

We have a critical shortage of forensic pathologists in this country, the goal is to see what can be done to encourage enough medical students to go into the field to ensure longevity of this valuable and incredibly specialized profession.

8. Status assessment (I, II, III, or IV): 

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>Major gap in current knowledge</th>
<th>Minor gap in current knowledge</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No or limited current research is being conducted</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Existing current research is being conducted</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>IV</td>
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This research need has been identified by one or more subcommittees of OSAC and is being provided as an informational resource to the community.