

# 2025 Western North Carolina Death Investigation Conference

April 26, 2025

8:30 am – 4 pm

Live Webinar



## Program Description

This activity is meant to inform and educate partners and learners in the medicolegal death investigation field about the North Carolina Medical Examiner's system and its role in death investigations. Topics covered will include recent changes in the practice and guidelines for the North Carolina Medical Examiner's system as well as current trends in cause and manner of death within the state. Also discussed will be changes seen in asphyxia deaths, features and documentation of gunshot wounds, scene and body examination photography, postmortem changes and decomposition and how to effectively partner with donor organizations.

## Objectives

Upon completion of this program, participants should be better able to:

- Understand and implement operational changes within the North Carolina Medical Examiner system.
- Identify and document changes consistent with asphyxial deaths.
- Recognize and communicate scene findings found in cases of possible asphyxial deaths.
- Properly photograph important findings during scene investigation and body examination.
- Identify and document features of entrance and exit gunshot wounds.
- Discuss how to work with partners at organ and tissue donor organizations.
- Describe and document antemortem and postmortem changes in the appropriate cultural context.
- Recognize and communicate different stages of postmortem and decomposition related changes.

## Target Audience

This activity is designed for county medical examiners, medicolegal death investigators, nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians, pathologist assistants, paramedics, law enforcement, attorneys, forensic scientists, students in criminal justice programs, emergency medical technicians, laboratory/ medical technicians and all others interested in updating their knowledge of forensic pathology.

As part of our commitment to creating a space where all BELONG, Northwest AHEC provides education and encouragement for respectful care for all, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, language, nationality, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, geography, disability, and age.

Provided by:

Northwest Area Health Education Center (AHEC), a program of Wake Forest University School of Medicine and part of the NC AHEC System.



**Wake Forest University**  
**School of Medicine**

**NORTHWEST AHEC**  
PART OF NC AHEC

## Cost and Registration

\$110 — Physicians, Dentists and Attorneys

\$ 80 —Nurses and APPs

\$ 60 — First Responders, Law Enforcement, EMS

\$ 25 — Medical Students, Residents and Fellows

Registration fee includes instructional and administrative costs, certificate of completion.

**Register and pay online at [www.nwahec.org/74894](http://www.nwahec.org/74894)** or complete and return the attached registration form.

Payment by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express) accepted online. Personal check, corporate check, money order or Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Health internal transfer accepted by mail.

**Payment Policy** — Payment is required on or before entrance into any Northwest AHEC activity. If a corporate payment has not been received before the activity start date, you will be required to provide a personal credit card or check. To avoid personal payment, you should check with the financial staff at your organization to determine status of payment. If and when the corporate payment is received, Northwest AHEC will issue a full refund based on your original form of payment.

**Refund Policy** — Cancellations received in our office at least two weeks (14 business days) before the activity will receive a 100 percent refund. Registrants cancelling between two weeks and five full business days prior to the first day of the event will be refunded at 70% of the registration fee subject to a minimum \$25 cancellation fee. The registration fee will not be refunded if a cancellation is received less than five days before the activity. Cancellations must be written in an email. You may send a substitute in your place.

When planning for an educational activity, registration fees are not based on credit hours or agenda. Registration fees are based on expenses such as meeting room rentals, food, equipment, staff, etc., and are not adjusted by issues such as cancellation of speakers or other unforeseen circumstances. Every effort will be given to ensure the activity is a success.

**Note** — Attendance at this activity grants permission for Northwest AHEC to use any photographs, audio, video, or other images from this activity for promotional or educational purposes. Please notify a Northwest AHEC staff member if you have concerns.

## Credit

- The Wake Forest University School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)<sup>™</sup>. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**ACCREDITATION:** The Wake Forest University School of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

- 6.0 CLE Credit  
Continuing Legal Education Credits from the NC Board of Continuing Legal Education.
- 6.0 Contact Hours  
ANCC and the North Carolina Board of Nursing accepts AMA PRA Category 1 Credits<sup>™</sup> from the organizations accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME).
- 6.0 Contact Hours Northwest AHEC
- 6.0 Nursing Contact Hours  
Northwest Area Health Education Center (NW AHEC) is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the North Carolina Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.
- 6.0 CME for Physicians Assistants  
AAPA accepts certificate of participation for educational activities certified for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits<sup>™</sup> from organizations accredited by ACCME or a recognized state medical society. Physician Assistants may receive a maximum of 6.0 hours for completing this program.
- 6.0 ABPath MOC Part 2  
Successful completion of this CME activity enables the learner to earn up to 6.0 credit(s) toward the Lifelong Learning (CME) requirement of the American Board of Pathology's (ABPath) Continuing Certification (CC) program. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit learner completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABPath credit.

Credit will be awarded based on participant selection at time of registration. Before selecting credits, please review our general [Credit Glossary](#), but note not all programs offer all credits.

## For More Information and Assistance

If you have not received your confirmation within 24 hours of the program date or have questions regarding the event, registration or fee(s), please contact Samantha Garvens at 336-713-7754 or email [sagarvens@wakehealth.edu](mailto:sagarvens@wakehealth.edu).

We want to assure that all participants can benefit from our program. If you need auxiliary aids or special services to attend this program, please contact Samantha Garvens at least five working days prior to the program.

## Agenda

- 8 am**      **Technology Check**
- 8:30 am**    **Introduction and Opening Remarks**  
Mark Giffen, DO  
Assistant Professor of Pathology  
Wake Forest University School of Medicine
- 9 am**      **State of the State**  
Michelle Aurelius, MD  
Chief Medical Examiner  
NC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- 10 am**     **Donor Services and the Medical Examiner System**  
Lora Smitherman  
Honorbridge
- 11 am**     **Break**
- 11:15 am**   **Asphyxial Deaths**  
Katie Shewbart, DO  
Forensic Pathologist  
Wake Forest University School of Medicine
- 12:15 pm**   **Lunch**
- 12:45 pm**   **Photography Basics for the Medical Examiner**  
Joseph Fortin  
Forensic Photographer  
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist
- 1:45 pm**    **Gunshot Wounds**  
Kaysie Miller, MD  
Forensic Pathology Fellow  
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- 2:45 pm**    **Break**
- 3 pm**      **Postmortem Changes and Decomposition**  
Mark Giffen, DO  
Assistant Professor of Pathology  
Wake Forest University School of Medicine
- 4 pm**      **Closing Remarks**  
Mark Giffen, DO  
Assistant Professor of Pathology  
Wake Forest University School of Medicine

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Primary Phone # (last 4 digits only):     \* required

First Name	MI	Last	Degrees (e.g., MD)		
Profession		Job Title			
Home Address		City	State	Zip	County
Home Phone		Cell Phone			
Employer					
Employer Address		City	State	Zip	County
Employer Phone		Employer Fax			

### Email Required:

Preferred Email     Home Email     Work Email

By providing your fax number, email address and telephone number, you have granted permission for us to contact you via the numbers and address indicated.

Please register ONLINE at [www.nwahec.org/74894](http://www.nwahec.org/74894) (Recommended)

OR select one of the following options:

Make check payable to "Wake Forest University Health Sciences" and mail with registration form to:  
Wake Forest University School of Medicine / NW AHEC  
Medical Center Boulevard, Winston-Salem, NC 27157-3311  
Attention: Samantha Garvens

Wake Forest Atrium Health Internal Transfer:    \*\*Can now input internal transfers when registering online\*\*

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Comp   OpUnit   Cost Cntr   Natrl Acct   Program   Fund   Project

Employer will make payment. Supervisor completes below and faxes registration to 336-713-7701.

Supervisor's Name (Printed)

Signature

Phone

By signing, I am certifying that agency payment will follow. If you have a balance due and do not attend or send a substitute, you will be invoiced for the full program fee.