

The Board of Directors met in Portland, Oregon on September 19, 2014 and approved the following Major Actions:

- A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the 2014 Interim Board of Directors Meeting Minutes held in Seattle, Washington.
- A motion was made and approved to continue with Academic Forensic Pathology (AFP) as the official Journal of NAME for 4 years.
- A motion was made and approved to accept the following position paper "Medical Examiner Release of Organs and Tissues for Transplantation"
- A motion was made and approved to accept the following position: **"Death certification is a process that integrates clinical, circumstantial and death scene information, autopsy findings, and other laboratory findings. It is the position of NAME that death certification is the practice of medicine and as such should be performed only by licensed physicians. Specifically, it is the position of NAME that the forensic pathologist directing a medicolegal death investigation should be responsible for determining the cause and manner of death for that case and recording the findings on the death certificate."**
- A motion was made and approved to accept the following position: **"The National Association of Medical Examiners autopsy standards have been approved by and represent the consensus of the professional community. NAME does not recognize any other forensic autopsy standards."**

The NAME Business Meeting took place September 22, 2014 and adopted the following Autopsy Performance Standards and Bylaws changes:

Adopted Autopsy Performance Standards changes 2014

Adopted change:

B3.7 the death is by apparent intoxication by alcohol, drugs, or poison, unless a significant interval has passed, and the medical findings and absence of trauma are well documented.

Adopted change:

D10.3 document or describe apparent race or racial characteristics

Adopted change:

G26 Specimens must be routinely collected, labeled, and preserved to be available for needed laboratory tests, and so that results of any testing will be valid. The blood specimen source should be documented for proper interpretation of results. Blood or other appropriate samples should be collected, whenever possible, for potential genetic testing in sudden, unexplained deaths that remain unexplained at the completion of the autopsy.

The forensic pathologist or representative shall:

G26.1 collect blood, urine, and vitreous.

G26.2 collect, package, label, and preserve biological samples.

G26.3 document whether blood is central, peripheral, or from cavity.

B5 Adopted change:

Interpretations and opinions must be formulated only after consideration of available information and only after all necessary information has been obtained.

Autopsies shall be performed as follows:

B5.1 the forensic pathologist reviews and interprets all laboratory results the forensic pathologist requested.

B5.2 the forensic pathologist reviews all ancillary and consultative reports the forensic pathologist requested.

B5.3 The forensic pathologist determines the cause of death

Adopted change:

H31 Documentation and Reports

Postmortem inspection and forensic autopsy reports must be readable, descriptive of findings, and include interpretations and opinions to make them informative. The report typically includes two separate parts of the forensic pathologist's work product, (1) the objective forensic autopsy with its findings including toxicological tests, special tests, microscopic examination, etc., and (2) the interpretations of the forensic pathologist.

The forensic pathologist shall:

H31.1 prepare a written narrative report for each postmortem examination.

H31.2 include the date, place, and time of examination.

H31.3 include the name of deceased, if known.

H31.4 include the case number.

H31.5 include observations of the external examination, and when performed, the internal examination.

H31.6 include a separate section on injuries.

H31.7 include a description of internal and external injuries.

H31.8 include descriptions of findings in sufficient detail to support diagnoses, opinions, and conclusions.

H31.9 include a list of the diagnoses and interpretations in forensic autopsy reports.

H31.10 Include cause of death

H31.11 include the name and title of each forensic pathologist.

H31.12 sign and date each postmortem examination report.

Rationale for changes to **B5 and H31**: This change is recommended to restrict the NAME autopsy standards to matters that pertain solely to autopsy performance. The proposed changes delete matters related to death certification from the standards concerning the performance of an autopsy. (Note: Death certification is a process that integrates clinical, circumstantial and death scene information, autopsy findings, and other laboratory findings.

NAME is not abandoning its position that death certification is the practice of medicine and therefore is the domain of physicians. NAME has issued a separate position statement that death certification is the practice of medicine and that the forensic pathologist directing a death investigation should be responsible for determining the cause and manner of death for that case and recording the findings on the death certificate.

Adopted BYLAW changes 2014

ARTICLE III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2. Number and Qualification.

The number of voting Directors of the Association shall be twenty-seven (27) or such other number, but not fewer than three (3), as may be designated from time-to-time by amendment to these By-Laws. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the Officers elected from time-to-time pursuant to Article V, Section I of these By-Laws, who shall serve ex officio with full voting privileges; the immediate past President, who shall also be the Chairperson of the Board of Directors; twenty-one (21) Fellows (with the allowance that no more than two (2) Members may be elected to any of the Director positions allotted for Fellows); and one (1) Investigator Affiliate; and one (1) Administrator Affiliate. The Chairperson of the National Association of Medical Examiners Foundation shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board. All other members of the Board of Directors, including those members who are Members and Affiliate Members, shall be entitled to one vote for each matter presented for consideration. A member of the Association must have been in good standing with the Association for a minimum of five (5) years in order to be eligible to be a member of the Board of Directors. Additionally, in order to be eligible to be a member of the Board of Directors, Fellow and Member candidates must attend not less than one-half (1/2) of the annual and special meetings of the members during the five (5) year period prior to being

elected to the Board of Directors, and Affiliate Members must either present a paper or poster at a meeting or participate as a member of a committee of the Association during the preceding five (5) years. Failure to attend at least one-half (1/2) of the annual and special meetings after election shall cause such Director to be ineligible for re-election and may, except for good cause shown, subject such Director to suspension from the Board.

Proposed Amendment 5: NEW BYLAW

ARTICLE X, Section 7, Expulsion of Members:

Members who have been expelled from membership for violations of law may apply to the Board of Directors for reinstatement if the member is found not guilty of the offense, if the conviction is overturned or expunged, or if the member is pardoned for the offense. Members who have been expelled from membership for reasons other than violations of law may apply to the Board of Directors for reinstatement if the basis for expulsion can be shown to have been materially inaccurate, or if probative new information is produced that was not available at the initial Ethics Committee hearing that resulted in expulsion. The Board of Directors may forward the request for reinstatement to the Ethics Committee and/or the Membership and Credentials Committee for further review and recommendation. The expelled member may be reinstated to membership upon a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members of the Board of Directors present and voting. An expelled member shall not be required to pay dues during the period of expulsion. If reinstated, the required dues payment shall be the annual dues less the prorated amount for the period of expulsion. The reinstated member will resume the same level of membership as at the time of expulsion.

There were a record number of registered attendees and the general feedback was excellent. Thank you for your continued support of NAME.

Scott Denton, MD, NAME Secretary-Treasurer
Denise McNally, NAME Executive Director