



OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

We exist to provide answers in support of families, victims, and community during times of profound need.

CITYWIDE JOB VACANCY NOTICE

Civil Service Title: City Medical Examiner

Title Code: 53859

Office Title: Forensic Neuropathologist

Division/Work Unit: Forensic Pathology

Hours/Shift: 37.5 hours per week; including holidays, and weekends

Level: II

Number of Positions: 1

Salary: \$189,527-\$238,942

Work Location: Citywide

The **Office of Chief Medical Examiner** investigates cases of persons who die within New York City from criminal violence, by accident, by suicide, suddenly when in apparent health, when unattended by a physician, in a correctional facility or in any suspicious or unusual manner or where an application is made pursuant to law for a permit to cremate a body of a person.

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JOB DESCRIPTION

The core values of the OCME are to put the mission of the agency first, to be truly dedicated and to have integrity in every aspect of our professional life. Under administrative direction, and with wide latitude for the exercise of independent initiative and judgment, s/he will perform difficult and complex assignments and investigations which include cases of suspicious death and those deaths resulting from criminal violence.

The Forensic Neuropathologist for the NYC OCME plays a key role in the complete analysis of adult and pediatric deaths, many of which are sudden and unexpected. Of the approximately 6,000 autopsies performed per year, about 800-900 are referred for formal neuropathology (NP) consultation. While traumatic brain injuries (TBI) represent the largest share of case material overall, a significant proportion comprise other interesting NP entities, such as cerebrovascular disease, epilepsy, developmental disorders, and neurodegeneration.

Specimens are transported from the Queens and Brooklyn offices to the Manhattan site for NP evaluation. Brain examinations are held in a dedicated autopsy room with 3 full tables, computer workstations, and a video set-up that can accommodate virtual case review by off-site MEs, allowing valuable real-time consultation with them about difficult cases. The service is supported by highly experienced Mortuary Technicians, Photographers, and Forensic Pathology Coordinators, as well as by a superb Histology Laboratory, capable of expert embedding of special samples (eyes, cervical vertebral blocks), as well as histochemical (Luxol-fast blue, Bielschowsky silver) and immunohistochemical preparations (APP, amyloid-beta, phospho-tau, alpha-synuclein, etc.) of necessity to modern NP diagnosis.

Each year 2 or 3 NP/Cardiac Path Fellows matriculate following their Forensic Path Fellowship for a 1-year intensive exposure. About 80% of their time is spent in NP, resulting in gross and microscopic experience with hundreds of cases each, for which they generate reports under direct supervision of the Neuropathologist. Because of the value of this experience to forensic practice, the NP/Cardiac Fellowship slots fill several years ahead with highly motivated candidates. The Neuropathologist also teaches routinely as part of the yearly lectures and Grand Rounds activities. The NP service has developed a close collegial relationship with the NP Program at NYU, meeting regularly with them for Consensus/Case Review Conferences, and hosting their NP Fellows at our brain-cuttings. Rotations with the OCME NP service are also sought after by training programs elsewhere in New York and in Boston; we have also welcomed national and international visitors. The NP service also participates in the regional Neuroplex group, which meets bimonthly to share interesting cases.

Scholarly opportunities abound, particularly in the public health arena. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the NP service was on the frontlines, and able to contribute valuable observations leading to new understanding of the pathogenesis of neurologic symptoms in affected individuals.

Duties will include but are not limited to:

- Orders the body to the Medical Examiner's Office for autopsy or other purposes indicated by circumstances.
- Performs autopsies when indicated.
- Carries out necessary histological examinations of tissues and other microscopic examinations.
- Selects organs and tissues for toxicological examinations and materials for serologic examinations.
- Prepares reports on the results of investigations and examinations, and promptly files the reports in the Office of Chief Medical Examiner.
- Certifies the cause of sudden deaths, unexpected deaths and deaths resulting from violence; certifies such causes on the basis of the complete findings of the postmortem and related examinations.
- Testifies before grand juries and in court as an official of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner.
- Reports the findings of deaths reported to the Office of Chief Medical Examiner to proper official agencies as required by applicable law.
- Investigates applications for cremation.

Please note that only candidates selected for interview will be contacted for this position.

****FINAL APPOINTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET APPROVAL****

POST DATE: 8/24/2021

POST UNTIL: Until Filled

JOB ID #475206

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The Official NYC Web Site: www.nyc.gov



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- Provides consultations in neuropathology or pediatric pathology for other pathologists serving in the Office of Chief Medical Examiner.
- Certifies the cause of death in such complex and sensitive cases when greater discretion, judgment and expertise are required.
- Develops new policies, methods and techniques in the investigation of deaths.
- Consults with law enforcement agencies, courts, and other City and governmental agencies on confidential policies and problems of mutual concern.
- Provides consultations in neuropathology or pediatric pathology for other pathologists serving in the Office of Chief Medical Examiner.
- Performs teaching and administrative duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

A valid license to practice medicine in the State of New York and completion of one of the following requirements:

1. Two years of an approved residency in anatomical pathology, or three years of an approved residency in anatomical and clinical pathology, and evidence of having performed at least 75 autopsies; **or**
2. An accredited residency training program in neuropathology or pediatric pathology

SPECIAL NOTE: To be eligible for placement in Level II, the selected candidate must either:

1. Be certified in forensic pathology by the American Board of Pathology in addition to meeting one of the following requirements:
 - a. Evidence of having performed at least 350 autopsies; **or**
 - b. One year of satisfactory performance at Assignment Level I. **OR**
2. Be certified in neuropathology or pediatric pathology by the American Board of Pathology.

Additional Information

1. Selected candidates will be required to provide a DNA sample by swabbing.
2. This is an essential staff position.

* As of August 2, 2021, all new hires must be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus, unless they have been granted a reasonable accommodation for religion or disability. If you are offered city employment, this requirement must be met by your date of hire, unless a reasonable accommodation for exemption is received and approved by the hiring agency.*

Residency Requirement

New York City Residency is not required for this position.

TO APPLY

PLEASE SUBMIT RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO: nyc.gov/ocmecareers.

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