FORENSIC PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

A fellowship is a period of subspecialty training for physicians, undertaken after completion of a specialty residency. The San Diego County Medical Examiner is one of only 37 sites in the country that provide a one-year accredited training program in the medical subspecialty of forensic pathology, and has trained 13 fellows over the last 19 years.

Our program has been fully and continuously accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and is approved for two positions, although historically we have only had adequate funding for one. Due to budget constraints, we have not been able to offer the position since July of 2009. However, after the acquisition of grant funds this year through the National Institutes of Justice we will be fully funding one fellow each year for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 academic years.

San Diego County is uniquely positioned to provide a fellow exposure to sudden, unexpected deaths in a variety of manners not encountered in many, more populous jurisdictions: our population, our proximity to an international border, the ocean and our waterways, our blend of well-developed modern urban areas and remote unpopulated urban areas, and our remarkable variety of inland geography. The Medical Examiner's team of fully board-certified forensic pathologists comes from diverse training backgrounds, which provide the fellow a wide breadth of knowledge, experience and perspective from which to learn. In addition, we require our fellows to participate in death scene response and to provide court testimony. Combine all of this with the fact that we have one of the highest faculty-to-fellow ratios in the country, and it is clear that the San Diego Medical Examiner is well-positioned to successfully train fellows to become proficient in the field of forensic pathology and instill the confidence, skills and knowledge they need to practice in any setting.