Course: **Forensic Pathology (PAT 1104)**

Department: Pathology  
Course: Forensic Pathology (11-04)  
Faculty Coordinator: Stephen Lenfest, MD (214-920-5916)  
Hospital: Institute of Forensic Pathology  
Periods offered: All  
Length: 4 weeks  
Max no. of students: 2  
**First Day Contact:** Dr. Stephen Lenfest, Dr. Jeffrey Barnard, or Melinda High 214-920-5913; FAX 214-920-5811; MAIN LINE 214-920-5900  
**First Day Time:** 8:00 a.m.  
**First Day Place:** Dallas County Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences  
2355 North Stemmons Freeway Dallas, TX 75207  
Prerequisites: None

**I. Course Goals and Objectives**

A) To introduce the student to a modern system of death investigation in a combined medical examiner's office/criminal investigation laboratory.

B) To introduce the student to the art of death certification based upon autopsy examination as well as investigative information including a review of medical history and scene investigation (as required).

C) To impart an understanding of the relationship between the medicolegal death investigation system, law enforcement agencies, clinicians and hospitals, and family members in forming an opinion of the cause and manner of death.

D) To expose the student to the forensic pathologist's role in public health including possible familial implications from a single individual's demise, and to the forensic pathologist's role in the legal system.

**II. Methods of Instruction**

A) Didactic (schedule, topic, faculty)

1. Lectures dealing with subjects such as postmortem changes, blunt and sharp force injuries, gunshot wounds, head injuries, asphyxia, pediatric autopsy pathology, toxicology, trace evidence, and DNA; schedule varies.

2. Conferences  
   a. Cases awaiting autopsy (daily at 7:30 AM).  
   b. Autopsy findings and case review (daily at 2:00 PM).  
   c. Neuropathology, gross (Wednesdays at 2:30 PM)  
   d. Neuropathology, microscopic (Thursdays at 3:30 PM)
B) Clinical (schedule, faculty teaching, house-staff teaching) Students spend most of their four weeks in the autopsy suite, with attendance as appropriate to observe courtroom testimony and death scene investigation. They may also rotate through the various laboratories in the criminal investigation laboratory including toxicology, trace evidence, DNA, and firearms.

C) Student responsibilities (and to whom accountable)

Observe and assist in the autopsy suite or other area as assigned, attend and participate in scheduled conferences including a brief presentation.

III. Method of Student Evaluation

Based upon attendance, attentiveness, enthusiasm, and assessment of knowledge based upon evaluation by participating medical examiners and by an examination given near the end of the rotation.

Contact Nichole Pace (214) 648-2461 for help if all desired rotations are filled.