

FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



Registered Charity No 1119599

The Role of the Medical Examiner

Monday 06 July 2020

Learning Objectives

- Understand the reasons for the introduction of the Medical Examiner in England & Wales
- Understand the structure of the Medical Examiner Service
- Understand the role and functions of the Medical Examiner
- Understand the role and functions of the Medical Examiner Officer
- Be aware of relevant guidance and legislation
- Be aware of where training for the roles may be sought

Presenter

Prof Jason Payne-James



Jason Payne-James is a Specialist in Forensic and Legal Medicine. He has been a forensic physician for 30 years. He qualified in medicine in 1980 at the London Hospital Medical College and undertook additional postgraduate education to higher degree level at Cardiff Law School, the Department of Forensic Medicine & Science at the University of Glasgow and with the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland. He is Director of Forensic Healthcare Services Ltd and he was President of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians from 2015-2017 and of the World Police Medical Officers from 2011-2014. He is Honorary Professor at the Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Belgrade, Serbia. He is Honorary Clinical Professor at the William Harvey Research Institute, Queen Mary University of London, UK. He is Lead Medical Examiner at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Trust and with others is developing the NNUH Medical Examiner Service. He is expert adviser to the National Crime Agency, He is an Independent Member of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal weapons.

He is an independent researcher, an author and an editor and initiates, leads or has collaborated in research projects with a number of organisations including the Independent

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Office for Police Conduct, the Metropolitan Police Service, the Home Office Centre for Applied Science & Technology and the National Crime Agency. He is an advisor to governmental and other agencies in the UK and abroad. He is co-author of Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine documents including those related to medication management in custody, management after exposure to Taser® and irritant spray, head injury and choking.

Jason has developed, co-edited, co-authored and contributed to a number of books including the Encyclopedia of Forensic & Legal Medicine; Forensic Medicine: Clinical & Pathological Aspects; Symptoms and Signs of Substance Misuse (1st & 2nd and 3rd editions with Margaret Stark and Mike Scott-Ham); Artificial Nutrition Support in Clinical Practice; Symptoms and Early Warning Signs; Medicolegal Essentials of Healthcare (1st and 2nd editions); Colour Atlas of Forensic Medicine. He is co-author of the 13th and 14th Editions of Simpson's Forensic Medicine; he co-authored the Oxford Handbook of Forensic Medicine and co-edited both Age Estimation in the Living with Professor Dame Sue Black and Anil Aggrawal and Current Practice in Forensic Medicine (a third volume co-edited with John Gall is underway). Together with Joe Beynon and Duarte Nuno Vieira, their book Monitoring Detention, Custody, Torture and Ill-treatment was highly commended in the BMA Medical Book Awards.

He provides expert opinion and advice for defence solicitors, the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, Service Prosecuting Authority, HM Coroners and other agencies in the UK and overseas. He is frequently asked to act as an expert witness in a range of settings. He has been involved in many high profile and sensitive cases including miscarriages of justice. He provides pro-bono support in a number of cases for individuals and campaigning bodies.