

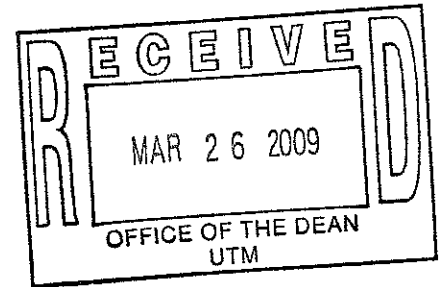


Centre for Forensic Science & Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Banting Institute, 100 College Street, Room 402
Toronto, ON M5G 1L5
Tel: 416-314-4048; Fax: 416-314-4060
Email: michael.pollanen@ontario.ca

Tuesday March 3, 2009

Gage Averill
Vice-Principal (Academic) and Dean
University of Toronto, Mississauga
3359 Mississauga Rd. N.
Mississauga, ON L5L 1C6



Dear Dean Averill,

The Centre for Forensic Science and Medicine (CFSM) at the University of Toronto was approved by the Faculty of Medicine Council on June 23, 2008 as a type C extra-departmental unit (EDU). The Centre is based in the Faculty of Medicine with the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology as the lead department. The Centre has been operating since the beginning of the 2008-2009 academic year. Both the advisory committee and the Executive Council have had their first meetings, and the Centre is actively working towards implementing our educational, research and development goals.

I am writing to ask you to seek approval from the Erindale College Council for a partnership between the University of Toronto, Mississauga and the Centre for Forensic Science and Medicine, University of Toronto.

I am enclosing our summary document that outlines the Centre's mission and our short and long-term goals to present to your faculty council.

Sincerely,

Michael Pollanen
Interim Director

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Encl. Centre for Forensic Science and Medicine Summary document.

THE CENTRE FOR FORENSIC SCIENCE AND MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

INTRODUCTION TO THE CENTRE

- **VISION:** To create the leading collaborative centre for forensic research and education.
- **MISSION:** To contribute to the development of a rigorous empirical base for forensic medicine and science.
- **PURPOSE:** The scope of the Centre will be broad and multi-disciplinary. The Centre will unify the forensic community, coordinate knowledge-based initiatives, and create an environment that fosters interdisciplinary research. The Centre will develop forensic educational programs across the entire training spectrum and through inter-professional education in allied Faculties. The forensic disciplines in the scope of the Centre will include: forensic science; forensic pathology; pediatric forensic pathology; forensic psychiatry and psychology; forensic anthropology; forensic odontology; and forensic pediatrics.

The three main goals of the Centre are to:

1. **Unify the forensic community.** The forensic experts and scholars at the University of Toronto are scattered amongst various institutions and academic departments. There is no locus or 'home-base' for forensic medicine and science. The Centre will provide this base and facilitate interaction and scholarly achievement between different forensic experts. For example, the community can be regularly brought together for regular research seminars and other Centre-based activities.
2. **Spark forensic research.** There is a major forensic research vacuum in Canada. There are few ongoing forensic research collaborations and there are no independently funded forensic research programs. The Centre will foster inter-disciplinary research proposals that will expand the possibilities both for research topics and funding.
3. **Co-ordinate and develop educational programs.** One of the main mandates of the Centre will be the development of educational programs across the University campus. Although there is already a well-developed undergraduate degree program in the forensic sciences, there is no regular and coordinated forensic education in the professional faculties (Medicine, Nursing, and Law) or education at the graduate level.

PARTNERSHIPS

1. Department of Pathobiology and Laboratory Medicine, Faculty of Medicine
2. Provincial Forensic Pathology Unit, Office of the Chief Coroner
3. Hospital for Sick Children (Departments of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine and Pediatrics, including the Ontario Pediatric Forensic Pathology Unit and Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect team).
4. Forensic Science Program, University of Toronto (Mississauga)
5. Law and Mental Health Program, Department of Psychiatry
6. Trauma, Emergency and Critical Care Research Program, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
7. Faculty of Law
8. Faculty of Dentistry
9. Faculty of Nursing
10. Centre of Criminology, University of Toronto

RESEARCH

Goals

1. Create a strategic network of research collaborations on 'leading-edge' issues in forensic medicine and science that are capable of extramural funding.
2. Recruit, foster, and fund graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in forensic research areas.
3. Create funded undergraduate and summer research opportunities in forensic research areas.

The traditional mainstay for research in forensic medicine has been collaborative/translational studies in forensic medicine including clinicopathological studies (e.g., retrospective and prospective case series). In the recent past, there has been an expansion of basic research in the cellular and molecular pathology of injury and wound healing. In addition, increasing opportunities are available in the forensic aspects of injury (clinical and pathological) and the epidemiology of injury and violence. Major unsolved problems that are worthy of significant research input are the enigma of SIDS and the genetic susceptibility to injury.

The more applied areas of research include research problems at the interface of law, nursing, medical imaging and anthropology. These topics include, the ethics and philosophy of forensic medicine, translational legal-medical issues (e.g., causation, expert witnesses, miscarriage of justice), medical jurisprudence, interprofessional forensic services (forensic nursing), postmortem medical imaging (virtual autopsy), forensic aspects of skeletal biology and pathology and human identification. The Centre will be a focal point to coordinate research

efforts in these areas and establish collaborative research teams.

Education

General Goals

1. Develop a regular University-wide educational seminar series to promote scholarship and interest in forensic medicine and science.
2. Create and deliver inter-professional and cross-faculty undergraduate forensic education.
3. Develop a post-graduate medical education curriculum and fellowships in forensic medicine for specialty programs at the University of Toronto.
4. Create and deliver continuing medical and legal education for physicians and lawyers in forensic medicine and science.

Undergraduate

Forensic Science Program (BSc)

- Delivery of core lectures in introductory courses in the Forensic Science Program (BSc)
- Redevelopment of FSC401
- Expansion of course offerings
- Create a 4th year Arts and Science course on *Pathobiology of trauma and injury*

Professional

Undergraduate Medicine

- Create a one-week duration *legal medicine* curriculum for the 2nd year of the PBL curriculum
- Create electives in major forensic medical areas
- Develop cross-disciplinary educational events between Medicine and Law

Other Undergraduate Health Professionals

- Create forensic curricula targeted to forensic nursing and legal issues in nursing and other areas

Undergraduate Law

- Create forensic curricula targeted to relevant issue (e.g., expert witnesses, forensic evidence, miscarriages of justice)

- Develop cross-disciplinary educational events between Medicine and Law

Postgraduate Medicine

- Create forensic curricula or modules targeted to the relevant specialties (e.g., Pathology, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine etc)
- Establish a Royal College accredited residency in forensic pathology
- Facilitate the development of Royal College accredited residency in forensic pediatrics

Graduate

- Develop a regular University-wide seminar series in forensic medicine and science
- Create Collaborative Graduate Program in Forensic Science and Medicine

Continuing Education

Medicine

- Create regular symposia and workshops for continuing professional development for pathologists and other physicians

Law

- Create regular symposia and workshops for continuing professional development for lawyers and judges

Steering Committee:

Dr. Michael Pollanen
Dr. Peter Collins
Dr. Martin Evison
Dr. Kathy Gruspier

Steering Committee: Short Biographies

Michael Pollanen

Michael Pollanen obtained his MD from the University of Toronto in 1999, his PhD from the University of Toronto in 1995, Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists of the United Kingdom (published work in 2001), Diploma of Medical Jurisprudence in (Forensic) Pathology from the Society of Apothecaries of London, United Kingdom in 2002, and Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons on Canada in Anatomical Pathology in 2003.

He was appointed as the Chief Forensic Pathologist for Ontario in 2006. He is an Associate Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and an Associate Member of the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Toronto. He is the founding Chair for the Forensic Pathology section of the Canadian Association of Pathologists and the founding Program Director for the forensic pathology residency at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Pollanen's main professional duties are to: perform autopsies, oversee quality processes for medicolegal autopsies in Ontario, and provide second opinions. He also performs autopsies for the Canadian military and has consulted in other Canadian provinces. He has international experience with consulting for: East Timor; Kazakhstan; Uzbekistan; Cambodia; Thailand; Bermuda; United States; and the International Criminal Court. In Ontario, he frequently testifies in criminal cases, mostly for the prosecution. He has also testified for the defense in the Ontario Court of Appeal in two cases related to fresh evidence issues in forensic pathology (R. v. Steven Truscott and R. v. Mullins-Johnson). He has also testified in New York State, Maryland, Washington, D.C., East Timor, Bermuda, and Jamaica and the (Goudge) Inquiry into Pediatric Forensic Pathology. He has a research program in experimental forensic pathology, has published over 50 papers in the peer-reviewed medical literature, and is on the editorial board of the journals: *Forensic Science International*, and *Forensic Science, Medicine, and Pathology*.

Peter Collins

Dr. Peter Collins is the Coordinator of the Forensic Psychiatry Unit, Behavioural Sciences and Analysis Services, Investigation and Support Bureau of the Ontario Provincial Police and serves as the Consultant Psychiatrist to both the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team (INSET) of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Peter is also the Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist to the Profiling Unit of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

In 1997, Dr. Collins was elected a member of the International Criminal Investigative Analysis Fellowship. In 2000 he was appointed a member of the INTERPOL Specialist Group on Crimes against Children.

Dr. Collins obtained his Masters in Applied Criminology from the University of Ottawa, his Medical Degree from McMaster University and completed his postgraduate medical training in Psychiatry at the University of Toronto. His clinical appointment is with the Law and Mental Health Program at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. He is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto and an Affiliate Professor with the Forensic Sciences Program at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

He is a psychiatrist, in the Canadian Navy (Reserve), at the rank of Lieutenant-Commander.

Dr. Collins is an expert on violent crime and has worked with, and instructed, numerous criminal justice agencies in Canada, the United States, Central America, South America, Europe, Africa, Micronesia and Australia including the FBI, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Interpol and Europol.

Martin Evison

Martin Evison graduated in Genetics from the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne and, following a period of professional employment in computing, completed postgraduate studies in Environmental Archaeology and Ancient DNA at Sheffield University. He was able to combine this expertise as a member of Sheffield Medico-Legal Centre, where he established a postgraduate and postdoctoral research group focusing on forensic human identification using computational and molecular methods. He has accepted instructions from prosecution and defence in a number of criminal investigations involving homicide and other serious crimes, and has contributed to human rights work in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and South America. He joined the University of Toronto as Director of the Forensic Science Program in 2005.

Katherine Lynne Gruspier

Kathy Gruspier obtained her BA in Near Eastern Archaeology from Wilfrid Laurier University, her MA in Palaeopathology and Funerary Archaeology from The University of Sheffield, her Ph.D. in Physical Anthropology from the University of Toronto and her JD from the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto. She is currently a consulting forensic anthropologist to the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario (since 1992) and is Adjunct professor of Forensic Science where she teaches law courses and introductory forensic science courses at the University of Toronto at Mississauga.

She has undertaken extensive field work and analysis of human remains in Italy and Jordan (archaeological sites), Kosovo, East Timor, Cambodia and Poland (forensic investigations). Kathy has published numerous papers in scientific journals, and regularly presents papers at international conferences and for continuing education groups and special seminars. She regularly testifies in criminal proceedings, and recently testified for the Goudge Inquiry into Pediatric Forensic Pathology for which she also wrote a research paper.