



BRIAN E. FROSH, MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL

PRESS RELEASE

Attorney General Frosh Announces Members of OCME Audit Design Team

BALTIMORE, MD (September 9, 2021) - Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today announced the members of the design team that will develop the process for reviewing in-custody death determinations made by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) during the tenure of Dr. David Fowler.

The seven members of the design team have a wealth of experience in forensic pathology and behavioral science. Drawing upon their collective national and international expertise, the team will shape the scope and methodology of the audit, including the manner in which cases for review will be selected. Once that task is complete, the Attorney General, in consultation with Governor Hogan's Office of Legal Counsel, will then proceed to selecting members of the review panel that will conduct the audit.

In [May 2021](#), Attorney General Frosh announced that, in consultation with Governor Hogan's Office of Legal Counsel, the Office of Attorney General would conduct an independent audit of in-custody death determinations made by OCME under Dr. Fowler. The decision to conduct the audit followed a request by hundreds of medical professionals to undertake a review of Dr. Fowler's work in the wake of his testimony in the trial of Derek Chauvin.

Members of the OCME Audit Design Team:

Stephen Cordner graduated in Medicine from The University of Melbourne in 1977. After his internship at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and two years in the Department of Pathology at Geelong Hospital he took up an appointment in 1981 as Lecturer, and later Senior Lecturer, in Forensic Medicine at Guy's Hospital in London. He remained there until 1987 working as a Home Office Pathologist. During this period he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia and the Royal College of Pathologists of Great Britain. Professor Cordner was appointed Foundation Professor of Forensic Medicine at Monash University and Foundation Director of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine in 1987. He retired from that role in 2014 and since then has been teaching, training and writing in forensic pathology, as well as being Head of the Institute's international program. He has worked as a Consultant to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), exploring the potential for humanitarian contributions from forensic pathology. This has involved missions to Iraq, the former Yugoslavia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Liberia, Nepal, Palestine and Afghanistan, not only for ICRC but also WHO and UNODC. He has undertaken autopsies in, and/or death investigations from, most jurisdictions of Australia, New Zealand, East Timor, Fiji and other Pacific island

nations, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, India, Jamaica, Canada, Turkey and the United Kingdom. In 2005, Professor Cordner became a Member of the Order of Australia for service to forensic medicine, particularly as a contributor to the development of forensic pathology in Australia and internationally.

Professor Jack Crane served as the State Pathologist for Northern Ireland from 1990 - 2014. He was appointed Professor of Forensic Medicine at The Queens University of Belfast in 1992. He graduated in medicine from Queen's in 1977 and subsequently undertook his pathology training at the Royal Victoria Hospital and at Queen's where he was the Senior Tutor and Lecturer in Pathology. He obtained the Diploma in Medical Jurisprudence in Clinical Forensic Medicine and in Forensic Pathology and Membership of The Royal College of Pathologists in 1984 and Fellowship in 1995. Professor Crane is also a Fellow of the Faculty of Pathology of The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and a Fellow of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine. Professor Crane's particular interest is in the pathology of terrorist violence and has written widely on the subject. He has been involved in the investigation of terrorist related deaths in Northern Ireland and worldwide since 1980. Professor Crane is an Examiner in Forensic Pathology for The Royal College of Pathologists and for the Diploma in Medical Jurisprudence of the Society of Apothecaries London. In 2007, he was appointed as one of the experts to review pediatric forensic pathology in Ontario on behalf of the Honourable Stephen Goudge. He was also an advisor in forensic pathology to the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. He was appointed to review the deaths at the Hillsborough Stadium Disaster and has recently been appointed as the pathologist to advise the Coroner regarding the Manchester Arena Bombing. Professor Crane was Responsible Officer for forensic pathologists in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from 2012-2017. He was a Chair of the Fitness to Practise Panel of the GMC and subsequently the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service for 10 years. He worked part time as a forensic medical officer in Belfast from 1974-1985. In 2011 Professor Crane was awarded the CBE by HM Queen for service to forensic pathology. Professor Crane currently lives in Northern Ireland.

Deborah Davis received her Ph.D. from Ohio State University. She is currently professor of psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno and a member of the faculty of the National Judicial College located on the UNR campus. Her career has focused predominantly on applications of psychology in the legal system. Over the last 35 years Dr. Davis has conducted research and authored numerous scientific publications on various topics within law and psychology, and has consulted widely within the legal system: first as a trial consultant and for the last 20 years as an expert witness on eyewitness memory, interrogation and confession, sexual consent communications, and forensics. She currently is a member of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC), housed under the National Institute of Standards and Technology. OSAC is the organization responsible for development of standards for the forensic sciences within the US. She serves on the Human Factors Committee within OSAC, and has served as the liaison of the Human Factors Committee to several of the Scientific Forensic Area Committees, including those of the Medical Examiners and Odontology. Dr. Davis has regularly taught graduate courses in Statistics and Research Methods, and has served on the Editorial Boards and/or as a reviewer for over 100 scientific journals, book publishers and granting agencies.

Itiel Dror (Ph.D., Harvard) specializes in human cognition and expert decision making. He specifically researches why and how the cognitive architecture of the human brain causes competent and hardworking experts to make mistakes (e.g., errors due to cognitive load, implicit bias, time pressure, etc.). Dr. Dror has applied his scientific research to many expert domains,

working with the U.S. Air Force on pilot decision making, with hospitals across the U.S. and other countries on medical decision making, with police shooting investigations in Canada and the United Kingdom, as well as the U.S. Dr. Dror has worked closely with many crime labs examining cognitive and human factors in forensic work, and providing training and methods for reducing bias and improving forensic decisions. He served as Chair of the Human Factors Resource Committee of OSAC, a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Advisory Committee on Forensic Science Assessment, a member of the Massachusetts Forensic Science Oversight Board, and has fulfilled many advisory and training roles in the forensic domain.

Dr. Michael Freeman is a consultant in forensic medicine and forensic epidemiology. He is a tenured associate professor of forensic medicine and epidemiology in the Faculty of Health, Medicine, and Life Sciences at Maastricht University (NL), and a joint clinical professor of psychiatry and public health and preventative medicine at Oregon Health & Science University, School of Medicine. Dr. Freeman is a member of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine (FFLM) of the Royal College of Physicians in the United Kingdom, and a fellow of the American College of Epidemiology, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and the Academy of Forensic Medical Sciences (UK). Dr. Freeman has provided expert testimony more than 1,400 times in a wide variety of civil and criminal cases, including injury and death litigation (including deaths in custody), as well as in homicide, assault, and other criminal matters. He has published approximately 220 scientific papers, books, and book chapters, with topics including death in custody and restraint-related asphyxia, traffic crash-related injury and death, injury causation, genocide, and cancer epidemiology, among others. Dr. Freeman is the co-editor and co-author of the authoritative text on forensic applications of epidemiology; *Forensic Epidemiology: Principles and Practice*, published in 2016. Dr. Freeman holds a doctor of medicine (Med.Dr.) degree from Umeå University in Sweden, a Ph.D. and MPH in public health/epidemiology and biostatistics from Oregon State University, and a master's of forensic medical sciences with the Academy for Forensic Medical Sciences in the UK, among others. He also holds a diploma of legal medicine with the FFLM in the UK, and has completed a 2-year post-doctoral fellowship in forensic pathology through Umeå University and the Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner, in Pittsburgh, PA. Dr. Freeman is a past Fulbright Fellow with the U.S. Department of State, in the area of forensic medicine.

William C. Thompson is professor emeritus at the University of California, Irvine, where he has held academic appointments in criminology, psychological science and law. His career has largely been devoted to improving forensic science through test case litigation, scholarly publications, and work with advisory and standard-setting bodies. He was a Special Master for the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, advising the court on the scientific status of methods for probabilistic genotyping. He chaired a panel of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) that produced a major report on latent fingerprint examination. He is also a member of the Forensic Science Standards Board of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC), which is the major government-supported body responsible for development of forensic science standards in the United States. He chairs the Human Factors Resource Committee of OSAC. At UCI he continues to do research on cognitive and contextual factors that affect the production and communication of forensic science evidence, with support from the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) through the Center for Statistical Applications in Forensic Evidence (CSAFE). He has a PhD in psychology (Stanford) as well as a JD (UC Berkeley).

Dr. Alfredo E. Walker is a registered Forensic Pathologist of the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service. He holds an academic appointment of Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa and is both a Vice Chair of the Department of PALM and its Director of Education. He is a medical graduate of the School of Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of the West Indies, St Augustine campus, Trinidad and Tobago. Prior to his current position, Dr. Walker was a Consultant Forensic Pathologist in the Department of Forensic Pathology and Legal Medicine of the now defunct UK government-owned Forensic Science Service Ltd. He was a Consultant Forensic Pathologist on the Home Secretary's Register of Forensic Pathologists in England and Wales and holds the distinction of being the first and only black pathologist to attain this status. He pursued postgraduate training in anatomical pathology and sub-specialty training forensic pathology in the United Kingdom. He attained Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists of the United Kingdom and the Diploma in Medical Jurisprudence by examination. He holds professional Memberships of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine and the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences of the United Kingdom, the National Association of Medical Examiners and the American Association of Forensic Sciences and was the Founding President of the Caribbean Association of Forensic Sciences. In 2020, he planned and co-hosted a trilogy of online events on Deaths in Custody.

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2021/090921.pdf>