



VICTORIAN INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE

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FORENSIC PATHOLOGY REGISTRAR

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Forensic Pathology Registrar position at the VIFM is a unique opportunity for medical graduates to directly support VIFM's vision with medico legal death investigations, and to assist the organisation and activities of the Forensic Pathology Division.

Forensic pathology is at the interface of medicine and the law and registrars will join the Institute's forensic pathology team in providing independent investigations into the causes and mechanisms of sudden, unexpected and suspicious deaths.

Applicants should have an interest in the engagement of medicine with the justice system and will be trained and supported in conducting medico-legal investigations (including autopsies) for the State Coroner and Police, as well as providing expert opinion and testimony concerning investigations.

During their term, registrars receive regular formal and informal teaching, and acquire invaluable practical skills as they achieve the following objectives:

- Participate in the development of all forensic medical services at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine including teaching and research and maintain to the satisfaction of the Head, Forensic Pathology, diagnostic, analytical and administrative competence in the provision of forensic pathology and related services.
- Maintain commitment to personal and professional development in forensic medicine including forensic / anatomical pathology.
- Perform high quality routine and specialist inspections and autopsies (including on deceased persons suspected of or actually harbouring infectious disease such as Hep B, Hep C, HIV, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, TB and other infectious processes) according to the designated pathology roster.
- Participate in case technical reviews.
- Attend scenes of death for the purpose of contributing to the investigation of the death and to aid in the identification and preservation and transportation of deceased persons and possible human remains.
- Take a full and active part in the coronial death investigation team comprising the State Coroner, the Police and other specialist agencies.
- Contribute to the maintenance and development of autopsy and forensic technical procedures.

- Provide a prompt, courteous, timely and professional forensic pathology service that takes full regard of the operation of the criminal and civil justice systems with regards to privacy, confidentiality and security.
- Participate in training programs offered and contributed to by the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.
- Contribute directly to research projects in the areas of forensic pathology and science.
- Comply with all occupational health and safety procedures of the Institute and to ensure that such procedures are strictly adhered to by subordinate medical, scientific and technical staff.
- Undertake interviews, counselling, provision of advice and information and/or discuss autopsy related matters, including autopsy results, with next of kin of deceased persons whose deaths were reported to Coroners.
- Be responsible to the Head Forensic Pathology for the above duties and to undertake other duties from time to time that may be required.

Key Selection Criteria

- Proven ability to contribute strongly to a state-wide multifaceted forensic pathology service.
- Demonstrated ability and/or knowledge of teaching and research in forensic / anatomical pathology and related areas.
- Clear understanding of the role and benefits of a high performing forensic pathology service.
- Understanding of the Criminal Justice System and the place within it of the Forensic Pathologist as both a specialist medical practitioner and an expert witness.
- Excellent organisational and self-management skills with the ability to plan and prioritise work, and be professional, flexible and agile in service delivery in a deadline driven environment.
- Ability to contribute to the development and maintenance of a team environment, VIFM ethos and aspirations, and continuous development initiatives.
- Ability to contribute to and participate in training and research programs.
- Demonstrated integrity, highly developed interpersonal and communication skills and the ability to work cooperatively with a wide range of clients, interest groups, institutions and individuals.
- Ability to work cooperatively as a member of a highly motivated team of professionals.

Registrar Qualification & Registration Requirements

- Qualifications as a Medical Practitioner
 - Completion of the 1st part exam of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (in Anatomical or Forensic Pathology) or its equivalent is preferred
 - Current Victorian Driver licence