

Martha J. Burt

M.D.
Senior Consultant



Dr. Martha Burt is a physician board certified in Anatomic, Clinical, and Forensic Pathology, with her practice dedicated to forensic pathology, the branch of medicine focused on diseases, injuries, drugs, and other processes that result in premature or unexpected death. Throughout her 20+ year career, Dr. Burt has worked as an associate medical examiner in medical examiner offices serving semi-rural, suburban, and large metropolitan communities. Dr. Burt also has extensive experience in the management of morgue facilities, having served as the Director of the Autopsy Service at UF Shands Teaching Hospital at the University of Florida, College of Medicine, in Gainesville, Florida, and more recently as the Chief Medical Examiner for the Clark County Medical Examiner Office in Vancouver, Washington.

As a forensic pathologist, Dr. Burt has investigated and certified thousands of deaths resulting from a broad spectrum of processes and has developed particular expertise in deaths resulting from drugs and toxins, firearms, environmental exposure, and interpersonal violence. Through this work she has developed strong collaborative relationships with attorneys, members of the law enforcement community, healthcare agencies, and community partners, serving as an expert witness in both civil and criminal proceedings.

Dr. Burt brings to ESI strong skills in medical records reviews, critical analysis of death investigations and autopsy reports, trial/deposition testimony, and implementation of forensic pathology practice standards

Education & Medical Training

B.S., Biochemistry, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1991

M.D., Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland, Oregon, 1996

Residency, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1996-2000

Residency, Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2000-2001

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Areas of Specialization

- Autopsy
- Medical Investigation
- Forensic Toxicology
- Injury Analysis
- Biomechanics and Human Factors
- Pathology
- Transportation
- Death Investigation
- Public Health
- Workplace Accidents

Fellowship, Forensic Pathology, Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department, Miami, Florida, 2001-2002

Medical Licenses & Medical Board Certifications

- Florida, Medicine, Number ME 86602, originally issued 12/9/2002, expires 1/31/2027
 - Washington, Medicine, Number MD 60587285, originally issued 08/21/2015, expires 12/27/2027
 - Diplomate, American Board of Pathology, Forensic Pathology, 2002 (non-time limited)
 - Diplomate, American Board of Pathology, Anatomic & Clinical Pathology, 2001 (non-time limited)
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Languages

- English
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Positions Held

Engineering Systems Inc., Clackamas, Oregon

- Senior Consultant, 2024 – Present

Clark County Medical Examiner Office, Vancouver, Washington

- Chief Medical Examiner, 2019-2023
- Acting Chief Medical Examiner, 2018-2019
- Associate Medical Examiner, 2015-2018

Forensic and Surgical Pathology Consulting, LLC., Vancouver, Washington

- Contract forensic pathologist, 2018-2024

University of Florida, College of Medicine and UF Shands Hospital, Gainesville, Florida

- Director, Autopsy Unit, 2011-2015
- Clinical Assistant Professor, 2005-2015

District 8 Medical Examiner Office, Gainesville, Florida

- Associate Medical Examiner, 2005-2015

Miami Dade County Medical Examiner Department, Miami, Florida

- Associate Medical Examiner, 2002-2005
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Professional Affiliations/Honors

- American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Pathology/Biology Section, Associate Member, 2004-Present
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- National Association of Medical Examiners, Member, 2003-Present.
- Florida Association of Medical Examiners, Member, 2001-2015
- College of American Pathologists, Fellow, 2004-Present
- United States and Canadian Association of Pathology, 2000-2014

Publications

Laurel Smith, **Martha Burt**, Kim Copeland, Erik Podhora. "Homicide by Abuse: Examination of Prolonged Neglect and Starvation During COVID." Platform presentation. 40th Annual San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment. January 2025.

Laurel Smith, **Martha Burt**, Kim Copeland, Erik Podhora. "Homicide by Abuse: Examination of Prolonged Neglect and Starvation During COVID." Workshop. Children's Justice Conference, Spokane, WA. 2024. CJC 2024 Agenda (eventscoud.com).

Kevin Ergle, Lawrence Caruso, **Martha Burt**, Bobby Desai, Rohit Patel. "Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) in the Differential for Fulminant Hepatic Failure." Case Report in Clinical Medicine, 4, 6368. February, 2015. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4236/crcm.2015.42015>.

Wendi G. O'Connor, MD, Yanfei Huang PhD, MD, William F. Hamilton, MD, **Martha J. Burt**, MD. "The Speckled Polarized Lung: Microcrystalline Cellulose Pulmonary Granulomatosis as a Complication of Intravenous Drug Abuse." Platform Presentation, AAFS Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, February, 2015.

Jesse L. Kresak, **Martha J. Burt**, Marie Rivera-Zengotita, Anthony T. Yachnis. "Inadvertent Intrathecal Vincristine Administration with Widespread Axonal Injury Demonstrated by Amyloid Precursor Protein Immunohistochemistry." Academic Forensic Pathology, December 2014, Volume 4, Issue 4.

Hardt, N; Wong, T; Harrison, R; **Burt, M**; Winter, W; Roth, J; "Prevalence of Prescription and Illicit Drugs in Traumatic Pregnancy-Associated Deaths of Florida Mothers, 1999-2005." Journal of Forensic Sciences, 58:1536-1541, 2014.

Hardt, Eliazar, **Burt**, Das, Winter, Saliba, Roth. "Use of a Prenatal Risk Screen to Predict Maternal Traumatic Pregnancy-Associated Death: Program and Policy Implications." Women's Health Issues 23-3 (2013). e187-e193.

James Breedon and **Martha J. Burt**, "Use of Specialty Consultation Services and Ancillary Testing in a Small Medical Examiner Office." Platform Presentation, National Association of Medical Examiners Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, October 2012.

Weil SR, **Burt MJ**. "Investigative techniques of child deaths." Presented at the American Association of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting, Feb 2012.

Jacqueline J. Russo; Ronald S. Rusiecki; Vladimir Vincek; **Martha J. Burt**; Kenneth Rand, "Purpuric eruption in a patient treated with systemic steroids - quiz case," Arch Dermatol. 2010;146(2):191-196

Martha J. Burt, M.D.*, Michele L. Merves, Ph.D., Chris W. Chronister, Ph.D., and Bruce A. Goldberger, Ph.D., "Homicide by Propofol," Platform presentation, 2009 AAFS Annual Meeting, Denver, CO

Noni Graham, L Merlo, S Win, C Hammond, **M Burt**, W Hamilton, B Goldberger, M Gold, "Demographic characteristics of cocaine-related decedents in Gainesville, FL," presented at the 2008 SOBP Annual Meeting

Charlotte Stevens and **Martha J. Burt, MD** "Impact of a new level 1 trauma center on the medical examiner's office (platform presentation), presented at the 2008 AAFS Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

Joseph A. Prahlow, MD, Donna J. Hunsaker, MD, and **Martha J. Burt, MD**, "Drugs and Toxins (Chapter 10), in Basic Competencies in Forensic Pathology: A Forensic Pathology Primer, Joseph A. Prahlow, editor, College of American Pathologists, 2006, ISBN 0-930304-89-6.

Martha J. Burt, MD, "Why autopsy the elderly?" ASCP Check Sample paper, accepted with revisions.

Martha J. Burt, MD, Matthew J. Bowes, MD, and Mark J. Shuman, MD MS, "Causes of Death in Chronic Alcoholics: A Comprehensive Retrospective Analysis of Medical Examiner Cases," Platform presentation at the 2004 American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting, Dallas, Texas.

Martha J. Burt, MD and Matthew J. Bowes, MD, "Accidental Parachuting Death Due to Equipment Failure," Platform presentation at the 2004 American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting, Dallas, Texas.

Anthony B. Falsetti, PhD, Heather Walsh-Haney, MA, and **Martha J. Burt, MD**, "Personal Identification and Death Investigation of Documented and Undocumented Migrant Workers in Florida: Demographic, Biographic and Pathologic Factors." Platform presentation at the 2004 American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting, Dallas, Texas.

Martha J. Burt, MD and Michael Bell, MD, "Autopsy Findings Following Surgery for the Treatment of Morbid Obesity". Platform presentation at the National Association of Medical Examiners 2003 Annual Meeting, San Jose, California.

Martha J. Burt, MD and Mark J. Shuman, MD, "Cause and Manner of Death in Apparently Healthy Older Individuals." Presented at the National Association of Medical Examiners 2002 Annual Meeting, Shreveport, Louisiana.

Martha J. Burt, Julie Kloss, Fred S. Apple, "Postmortem blood free and total morphine concentrations in medical examiner cases." *Journal of Forensic Toxicology* 2001;46:1138-1142. Presented at the 2000 Society of Forensic Toxicology Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Martha Burt, David C. Anderson, Julie Kloss, Fred S. Apple, "Evidence-based implementation of free phenytoin therapeutic drug monitoring." *Clinical Chemistry*, 2000;46:1132-1135. Presented at the 2000 Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah.

S. Askari, **M. Burt**, P. Weik, J. Crosson, "Usefulness of calculated platelet dose in achieving a target platelet count in selected patients." AABB abstract, November, 1998.

Martha J. Burt, "Clinical Chemistry Question and Answer: Why is serum

homocysteine gaining attention in laboratory medicine?" Journal of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (JIFCC); 1997;9:76.

Robert M. Peitzsch, **Martha J. Burt**, and Wayne F. Reed, "Evidence of Partial Draining for Linear Polyelectrolytes: Heparin, Chondroitin 6-Sulfate, and Poly(styrenesulfonate)," Macromolecules, 1992, 25.

Martha J. Burt, "Laser Light Scattering of Heparin and Polystyrene Sulfonate," Senior Honors Thesis, Tulane University, 1991.

Presentations

Forensic Pathology: Determining Manner and Cause of Death. 18th Annual Forensic Science and Technology Seminar, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. April, 2025.