

Dr. Jennifer Nara specializes in forensic pathology. Her experience includes both criminal and civil litigation and testimony. She is one of only 500 board certified Forensic Pathologists in the country.

Dr. Nara has over 16 years of experience as a Medical Examiner prior to joining ESi. Her expertise comes with her compassion and professionalism toward the families and clients she serves. Her experiences include numerous trial and deposition testimony. As a medical examiner for local government, she has interacted with various law enforcement agencies, prosecution and defense attorneys, clinical teams who treated deceased patients, and assisted families obtain answers for their deceased loved ones.

During her tenure in Florida, she had two high profile cases, the Todt family murders and Nicole Montalvo murder, where her detail-oriented work and testimony was critical to achieving justice for the victims in these cases.

She is a Clinical Assistant Professor for Washington State University School of Medicine where she teaches medical students and interns about forensic pathology and medicine. In addition to expert consultation work, Dr. Nara still actively performs autopsies for a local Medical Examiner office in Washington State.

Education

Bachelor of Science, Cell & Molecular Biology, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, 1997

Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Western University of Health Sciences/College of Osteopathic Medicine, Pomona, California, 2022

Anatomic and Clinical Pathology Residency, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI, 2002-2006.

Forensic Pathology Fellowship, Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department, Miami, FL 2006-2007.

Contact Information

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ESi Seattle

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Seattle, WA

Areas of Specialization

- Biomechanics and Human Factors
- Product Liability
- Medical Investigation
- Pathology
- Autopsy
- Toxicology
- Personal Injury
- Transportation
- Workplace Accidents

Medical Board Certifications & Medical Licenses

- Diplomate of The American Board of Pathology: Anatomic Pathology

- Diplomate of the American Board of Pathology: Forensic Pathology
- American Board of Pathology Maintenance of Certification Focus Group/Committee with successful launch of ABPath Certlink Assessment (pilot in 2017)
- Washington state medical licensure (expires 11/2026)
- Hawaii state medical licensure (expires 6/30/2026)

Languages

- English

Positions Held

Engineering Systems Inc., Seattle, Washington

- Senior Consultant, 2022-Present

Spokane County Medical Examiner Office, Spokane, WA

- Deputy Medical Examiner, 2020-2022

Orlando Medical Examiner Office, Orlando, FL

- Associate Medical Examiner, 2016-2020

City and County of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

- Assistant Medical Examiner, 2016

Riverside County Sheriff Coroner Department, Perris, CA

- Associate Forensic Pathologist, 2012
- Chief Forensic Pathologist, 2013-2016

Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department, Miami, FL

- Associate Medical Examiner, 2009-2012

Palm Beach County Medical Examiner, Palm Beach, FL

- Associate Medical Examiner, 2007-2009

Continuing Education

- ABPath CertLink – American Board of Pathology annual continuing certification program for maintaining board certification.
- Ongoing annual continuing medical education (CME) in general medicine, pathology, and toxicology to maintain medical licenses and board certifications.

Professional Affiliations/Honors

- Clinical Assistant Professor – Washington State University School of Medicine, 2021-Present
- Clinical Instructor – University of Washington Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, 2021-2023
- Clinical Assistant Professor of Forensic Pathology – Florida State University College of Medicine, 2016-2020
- Voluntary Assistant Clinical Professor of Pathology – University of California, Riverside, 2013-2016
- Voluntary Assistant Professor of Pathology – University of Miami School of Medicine, 2009-2012
- International Association of Coroners & Medical Examiners (IACME) 2023-Present
- American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS), 2006-Present
- American Society of Clinical Pathologist (ASCP), 2022-Present
- American Osteopathic Association (AOA), 202-Present
- National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME), 2006-Present
- Florida Association of Medical Examiners (FAME), 2006-2020
- College of American Pathologist (CAP), 2002-2013
- Medical School Class Award for Pathology, class of 2002
- City of Montclair, California – Clinic Coordinator Service Award, June 2002

Project Experience

Investigation and analysis

Product Liability

- Analyzed findings, injuries, or death in infants due to various pediatric consumer products and surfaces.
- Worked directly with biomechanical engineers and accident reconstruction experts in analyzing transportation-related injuries and/or death:
 - Conscious pain and suffering – aviation, marine, motor vehicles, construction
 - Injury patterns – foreign object impacts to head while driving, impact injuries with tree and/or internal components of motor vehicle, patterned injuries on body from motor vehicles

Thermal Injuries and Fire Deaths

- Analyzed antemortem and postmortem findings, injuries, and artifacts in motor vehicle fires and structure fires; worked directly with forensic anthropologist.
- Analyzed toxicology results including carboxyhemoglobin and cyanide for issues involving vitality in fires.

Medical Records Review

- Review and analysis of medical records for cause of death and/or permanent injury in jacuzzi-related necrotizing fasciitis, delayed deaths from motor vehicle crashes, alleged abuse/neglect versus chronic natural disease.

Toxicology

- Analyzed toxicology results in cases involving alleged impairment: labor and industry-related deaths, motor vehicle crashes.

Publications

"Relation of Kinetic Energy to Contact Wounds of the Head by Centerfire Rifles and Shotgun Slugs." American Journal of Forensic Sciences. January 2013. Vol. 58, No. 1: 69-72.

"Relation of Kinetic Energy to Contact Wounds of the Head by Centerfire Rifles and Shotgun Slugs." Proceedings of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Feb 2007, Vol. 13: 300-301.

Case Presentation: "Annular Elastolytic Giant Cell Granuloma," 2003 Scientific Symposium: Dermatopathology Meeting, Kona, HI, October 23, 2003.

Presentations

“Forensic Pathology,” talk and tour for Universal Studios Animation department employees, Orlando Medical Examiner Office, September 2019.

“Pediatric head trauma and abuse,” Orlando Medical Examiner Office December 2017.

“Death Investigation: Patterns of injuries in Forensics,” Riverside County Sheriff Coroner Bureau March 2015.

“Autopsy and cause of death,” University of California Riverside School of Medicine May 2014.

Child Sexual Abuse Course, Riverside County Sheriff Coroner Bureau: Autopsy Findings of Child Sexual Abuse (2012-2016).

“Low Voltage Electrocution in a Swimming Pool,” Miami-Dade County homicide meeting presentation, October 2010.

“Forensics and the REAL CSI Miami,” Miami middle school presentation, May 2009.

Medical Legal Death Investigation Course, Miami-Dade Medical Examiner Department (2008-2012):

- Thermal Injuries
- Patterns of Suicide

“Airplane Propeller Injuries,” Miami-Dade County homicide meeting presentation, February 2007.

2007 AAFS Meeting poster presentation in San Antonio, TX on “Relation of Kinetic Energy to Contact Wounds of the Head by Centerfire Rifles and Shotgun Slugs.”

“An Animal’s Instinct,” Miami-Dade County homicide meeting presentation, September 2006.

Abstract: “Actinic Melanocytosis” 2004 International Society of Dermatopathology Meeting, Washington, DC, February 4, 2004.