

# PROLIFERATING SPECIALTIES

Prior to 1850

IN THE EARLY 1800S, FORENSIC MEDICINE WAS NOT DIVIDED INTO DISTINCT DISCIPLINES. Physicians and surgeons who performed autopsies and testified in court depended on a variety of sources for their income and provided expertise as needed. No regular system of payment was provided for expert testimony, laboratory analysis, or postmortem examination. Toxicology and forensic pathology were just emerging as distinct fields, and most autopsies were performed by physicians without any special training.

Today, forensics includes many disciplines, with dozens of specialties and subspecialties drawing on expanding scientific knowledge and technological expertise.

## PROFESSIONAL SPECIALTIES

*There were very few occupations dedicated solely to forensic pursuits.*

- I Coroner
- II Coroner's Physician / Surgeon

## ANALYTICAL & ACADEMIC SPECIALTIES

*There were no scientific institutions or technical positions dedicated solely to forensic work. Interested academics and scientists provided forensic analysis or testimony.*

- I Professor of Medical Jurisprudence
- II Pathological Anatomist
  - a Professor of Anatomy or Pathological Anatomy
- III Toxicologist
  - a Professor of Toxicology, Medical Chemistry or Materia Medica
- IV Examining Physician / Surgeon

Today

## PROFESSIONAL & ACADEMIC SPECIALTIES

*Based on the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Specialties.*

- I Criminalistics
- II Engineering Sciences
- III Medical Illustration
- IV Jurisprudence
- V Odontology
- VI Pathology / Biology
  - a Medical Examiner
  - b Forensic Pathology
- VII Forensic Anthropology
- VIII Psychiatry & Behavioral Science
- IX Questioned Documents
- X Toxicology
- XI Entomology

## LABORATORY ANALYTICAL & SUPPORT SPECIALIZATIONS

*Based on the Federal Bureau of Investigation Forensic Laboratory.*

### FBI ANALYTICAL SPECIALTIES

- I Chemistry
  - a General Chemistry
  - b Toxicology
  - c Paints and Polymers
  - d Instrumentation Operation and Support
- II Computer Analysis
- III DNA Analysis Unit I
  - a RFLP
  - b PCR
- IV DNA Analysis Unit I
  - a mtDNA
- V Explosives
- VI Firearms-Toolmarks
- VII Forensic Audio, Video, and Image Analysis
- VIII Latent Print
- IX Materials Analysis
  - a Mineralogy
  - b Metallurgy
  - c Elemental Analysis
- X Questioned Documents
- XI Racketeering Records Analysis
  - a Drug Subunit
- XII Trace Evidence
  - a Anthropology and Odontology
  - b Hairs and Fibers

### FBI SUPPORT SPECIALTIES

- I Evidence Response Team
- II Forensic Science Research
  - a Research and Development
  - b Scientific Procedures Training
  - c Library
- III Forensic Science Training
- IV Hazardous Materials Response
- V Investigative and Prosecutive Graphic
  - a Crime Scene Survey and Documentation
  - b Forensic Facial Imaging
  - c Demonstrative Evidence
- VI Special Photographic
- VII Structural Design