

Ponni Arunkumar, M.D.

Dr. Ponni Arunkumar has 13 years of forensic pathology experience. She has conducted close to 6,500 postmortem examinations, and testified in court and depositions over 150 times. She currently serves as the Interim Chief Medical Examiner at the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office. From 2012 to 2016, she served as the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner for Cook County. Prior to that, she was an Assistant Medical Examiner in Cook County.

Dr. Arunkumar is a board certified anatomic and clinical pathologist with specialization in forensic pathology. She is on staff at RUSH university, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Northwestern University. She has presented at various national conferences and published articles in the field of forensic pathology. She is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the National Association of Medical Examiners, the College of American Pathologists, and the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

Vision statement

I am Dr. Ponni Arunkumar, the Interim Chief Medical Examiner in Cook County. I am a board certified forensic pathologist and have been practicing forensic pathology for 13 years. I have been affiliated with Cook County and its medical community since 1999. I completed my anatomic and clinical pathology training at Cook County Hospital, now John H. Stroger hospital, and am board certified in both fields. I did my forensic pathology training at the Cook County Medical Examiners' Office and was an Assistant Medical Examiner. Since September 2012, I was the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner. In addition, I am on staff at RUSH University, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Northwestern University and teach their pathology residents.

At the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, my number one goal is to attract and retain the best in class talent in the field of forensic pathology. I want to drive a culture of efficiency and continuous improvement by incorporating innovative technology and reducing costs. The current need is to maintain full accreditation status with the National Association of Medical Examiners/NAME and in 5 years, attain International Organization of Standards/ISO accreditation. The office is already a destination for forensic pathologists in training, and I will continue to strive towards offering one of the best training programs in the field of forensic pathology

I am honored to serve the residents of Cook County.