

James Claude Upshaw (“Jamie”) Downs is coastal Georgia’s first Regional Medical Examiner. He has worked continuously as a Medical Examiner & consultant in Forensic Pathology since 1989 & was Alabama’s State Forensics Director & Chief Medical Examiner from 1998 to 2002. Downs was graduated from the University of Georgia in 1983, magna cum laude & Phi Beta Kappa. He completed Peace Officers Standards & Training at the Southwest Alabama Police Academy, receiving distinction as class president, top academic student, & best defensive driver. Downs received his Doctor of Medicine degree, medical residency training in Anatomic & Clinical Pathology, & fellowship in Forensic Pathology from the Medical University of South Carolina (in his hometown of Charleston). The latter included a rotation through the Metropolitan Dade County Florida (Miami) Medical Examiner Department & internship at the FBI’s Behavioral Sciences Unit in Quantico, where he specialized in the study of overkill under the tutelage of Roy Hazelwood. He is board certified (ABP) in Anatomic, Clinical, & Forensic Pathology.

Notable past cases have included the Forensic Pathology examination of the crew of the *H.L. Hunley*, the first successful combat submarine in world history. He also personally performed the scientific identifications for all 339 victims in the “Operation Noble Cause” (Georgia Tri-State Crematory) case. He was the Pathologist on the first capital murder DNA trial in the history of the state of South Carolina. National television appearances include: *National Geographic*, *C-SPAN*, *The New Detectives: Case Studies in Forensic Science*, *Forensic Files*, *Street Stories*, *Dateline*, & *48 Hours*. He consults on the FOX fictional Medical Examiner show “Rosewood.” He has served as consultant to forensics fiction writer Patricia Cornwell who’s Charleston-set Book of the Dead (2007) was researched with in Downs in Savannah. The fictional Savannah Medical Examiner Colin Dengate featured in Cornwell’s 2012 book, Red Mist, is based on Dr. Downs.

Dr. Downs personally worked directly with U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions (AL) & staff to create & pass the *Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Act* of 2000. At the Senator’s request, Downs testified in support of the bill before Congress. Likewise, he testified (twice) before the US National Academy of Sciences Committee on Science, Technology, & the Law’s Forensic Science Committee regarding medicolegal death investigation & forensics in what became their groundbreaking report: Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward (2009).

Downs has served as consultant to the FBI Behavioral Science Unit in Quantico. He authored multiple chapters in their manual Managing Death Investigation, & was primary author of the FBI’s acclaimed Forensic Investigator’s Trauma Atlas. He has authored several books & chapters in the fields of Forensic Pathology & child abuse, including Abusive Head Trauma in Infants & Children: A Medical, Legal & Forensic Reference with CD-ROM (2006) & Child Fatality Review: a Clinical Guide & a Color Atlas (2007). He is presently finishing the manuscript for The Primer on Medicolegal Death Investigation (2016). He is senior editor of Ethics of Forensic Science (2012), the definite treatise on the subject.

Dr. Downs has lectured hundreds of times & has presented at numerous national & international meetings in the fields of Anatomic & Forensic Pathology, including at the National Forensic Academy & at the FBI’s National Academy. His audiences have included law enforcement, social services, attorneys (prosecution & defense), judges, university undergraduate & pre-professional students, medical personnel, & graduate medical audiences. Areas of special interest include ethics, asphyxiation, child/elder abuse, & police use of force. He has testified in numerous state & federal courts, the US Military Justice system, & before committees of both the US Senate & House of Representatives. Downs is a Fellow of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME), the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS), the College of American Pathologists (CAP), & the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP). Professional activities have included service on numerous professional boards & committees, including the NIJ Technical Working Group for Education & Training in Forensic Science & the Editorial Board of NAME’s Journal, Academic Forensic Pathology. He is on the Board of Advisors for the Law Enforcement Innovation Center at the University of Tennessee, the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigation, & the Forensic Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Downs also serves as a Clinical Laboratory Director. He his past chair of the AAFS Pathology/Biology section and has served on their Ethics Committee. as served on the the Board of Directors of the National Forensic Science Technology Center & the NIJ Forensics Training Task Force. He serves on the Medical/Investigational Advisory Board of the Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Program. He served as Scientific Program Chair for & host of the National Association of Medical Examiners 2007 annual meeting in Savannah & was Scientific Program Chair for the AAFS 2013 meeting in Washington, DC. In 2010, Dr. Downs was selected to serve as an advisory member of the Standards & Protocols Interagency Working Group under the National Science & Technology Council Subcommittee on Forensic Science, to advise & assist the Executive Office of the President of the United States. Downs has served as a grant reviewer for the National Institute of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance. He chaired the Steering Committee for the first ever Forensic Death Investigation Symposium & was keynote speaker to this NIJ-sponsored multidisciplinary assembly in 2010. Downs completed two terms service on the Board of Directors of NAME & served for over a decade on the Board of Directors of the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (Vice Chair).

Dr. Downs is founder & president of **forensX**, LLC, a medicolegal consulting firm specializing in case consultation & Forensic trainings.

MAJORPROJECTS:

- State of Alabama - Forensic Science Bond issue (1998-2002)
 - \$17.5 million bond issue for the construction of two new forensics laboratories
 - Birmingham - \$10 million facility
 - Montgomery - \$7.5 million facility
 - Planning and site selection
- State of Alabama – Forensic Science Annex
 - Planning and construction of annex to State Crime Lab section
 - Statewide DNA Database laboratory
 - Forensic Biology laboratory
 - Medical Examiner Administrative space
 - Conference facility
- State of Alabama – Implied Consent (Breath Analysis Program)
 - Planning and construction statewide service facility
- State of Alabama – Crime Laboratory Certification (ASCLD/LAB)
 - Planning & implementation of accreditation state-wide process
 - Preparatory pre-inspection process (through NFSTC)
- State of Georgia – Coastal Regional Medical Examiner Office
 - Final design/implementation and staffing new combined use laboratory
 - Medical Examiner and Administrative Offices
 - Toxicology Laboratory and Administrative Offices
 - Conference facility
- State of Georgia – Medical Examiner Statewide Accreditation
 - Preparatory phase consultation
 - Pre-inspection Operations Manual preparation
 - Operational timeline
 - Pre-accreditation facilities/operations documentation
- State of Georgia – Operation Noble Cause (“Crematory incident”)
 - Oversight final identification multiple (over 335) sets variably skeletonized remains State of
- South Carolina – H.L. Hunley Project
 - Sole Forensic Pathologist consultant
 - Examination/processing eight sets of commingled remains (135 year-old scene)
 - Assembled and coordinated interdisciplinary forensic/archeology expert team
- Research consultant to Patricia Cornwell (author)
 - Identifying the Needs of the Forensic Science Community Committee, National Academies of Science
 - Views of Major Forensic Science Organizations: Issues & Challenges - NAME (1/25/07)
 - Medical Examiner/Coroner System – NAME (6/5/07)
- Medical Examiner Forensic Training (“Crime Lab 101 for Forensic Pathology Fellows”)
 - National Forensic Science Technology Center, Largo, Florida, 10/13-17/08
 - Curriculum planning & development
 - Instructor – Courtroom Testimony
- Medicolegal Death Investigation Training Program
 - (Forensic Pathology Fellows & Medicolegal Death Investigators)
 - National Forensic Science Technology Center, Largo, Florida, 2010-2011 (4 sessions)
 - Curriculum planning & development
 - Instructor – Applied Toxicology & Medicolegal Improving Death Investigation Systems
- Advisory Member, Standards and Protocols Interagency Working Group (2010-2011)
 - National Science and Technology Council Subcommittee on Forensic Science
 - Executive Office of the President of the United States
- Grant Reviewer
 - National Institute of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS:

1992-present Consultant Forensic Pathologist, Forensic Examiners/forensX, LLC
1990-1994 Deputy Medical Examiner, Charleston County, South Carolina
1994-2002 State Medical Examiner, State of Alabama, Department of Forensic Sciences
1994-2002 Clinical Assistant Professor, Pathology, University of South Alabama
1994-1998 Morgue Safety Officer, Department of Forensic Sciences, Mobile, Alabama
1996 Chair, Citizens' Support Group for Forensic Sciences Study Committee
1996-1997 Supervisor, Autopsy Technicians, Department of Forensic Sciences, Mobile
1996-1997 Chief, Autopsy Service, Department of Forensic Sciences, Mobile, Alabama
1997-1998 Chief, Investigative Services, Department Forensic Sciences, Mobile, Alabama
1998-present Consultant, Behavioral Sciences Unit, FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia
1998-2002 Director, State of Alabama, Department of Forensic Sciences
1998-present Visiting Instructor, National Forensic Academy, University of Tennessee
1998-present Board of Advisors, Law Enforcement Innovation Center, Univ. of Tenn.
2000-2002 Chief Medical Examiner, State of Alabama, Department of Forensic Sciences
2000-2005 Major, Civil Air Patrol, USAir Force Auxiliary, Legislative Wing
2000-present Forensic Pathology Consultant, C.S.S. *H.L. Hunley* Project,
The Hunley Commission, Charleston, South Carolina
2001-2007 Board of Directors, National Association of Medical Examiners
2002-2016 Coastal Regional Medical Examiner, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
2002-2012 Coastal Regional Death Investigation Section Supervising Medical Examiner
2003-present Forensic Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police
2002-2003 Identification–All Human Remains, Operation Noble Cause, Walker County, GA
2003-present Clinical Instructor–Anatomic & Clinical Pathology, Physician Assistant Program
South University, Savannah, Georgia
2003-2016 Clinical Instructor-Toxicology, Pharmacy Program
South University, Savannah, Georgia
2004 NIJ Technical Working Group
for Education & Training in Forensic Science
2007-present Advisory Council, American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigation
2007-present Board of Directors, National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC)
2009-present Medical/Investigational Advisory Board
Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Program
2009-2010 Clinical Instructor-Pathology, Mercer Univ. School of Medicine, Savannah, GA
2009-2010 Steering Committee (Chair)
NIJ inaugural Forensic Death Investigation Symposium
2010 Keynote Address NIJ inaugural Forensic Death Investigation Symposium
2010-2012 R.O.C.K. (Raising Our Children Kindly) Group Board
2010-present Clinical Assistant Professor, Pathology
Director, Autopsy Program, Mercer Univ. School of Medicine, Savannah
2011-2014 Board of Editors, Academic Forensic Pathology
(Journal of the National Association of Medical Examiners)
2013-2014 NIJ Forensics Training Task Force

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - MEMBERSHIP:

- 1990-1994 Lowcountry Pathology Society
- 1990-present College of American Pathologists, Fellow
- 1991-present National Association of Medical Examiners, Fellow
- 1992-present American Society of Clinical Pathologists, Fellow
- 1993-present American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Fellow
- 1994-2002 Alabama State Association of Forensic Sciences
- 1995-present American Association for the Advancement of Science
- 1995-present U S and Canadian Academy of Pathology
- 1998-present Harvard Associates of Police Science
- 1998-2000 International Wound Ballistics Association
- 1999-2002 Alabama Peace Officers' Association
- 1999-present Homicide Research Working Group
- 2000-2002 Alabama Chiefs of Police Association
- 2000-2002 American Society of Crime Lab Directors
- 2001-2002 Alabama State Employees Association
- 2001-present American Association of Clinical Chemistry
- 2003-present International Association of Chiefs of Police
Forensic Subcommittee
- 2003-2013 Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations
Vice Chair 2007-2013
- 010 - present American Chemical Society
- 2011-present Ray. E. Helfer Society
*"A society of physicians dedicated to ending child
maltreatment"*

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

*The A–Z of Death and Dying
Social, Medical, and Cultural Aspects*

Michael Brennan, Editor

ABC-Clio, 2014

Coroner

Causes of Death

Death Certification

Downs JCU & Swienton A, Editors

Ethics in Forensic Science (2012) Elsevier Publishing

Willoughby W, Thompson E, & Downs JCU

Religion: The Forensic Practitioner's Quest for Truth

Downs JCU & Swienton A

Ethical Codes in Other Organizations – Authority & Enforcement

Stephens FE & Downs JCU

Ethics in Law Enforcement; Defining the Thin Blue Line

Bono J, Swienton A, & Downs JCU

Testimony

Downs JCU

Whistleblowers

Swienton A & Downs JCU

Media

Downs JCU

Medicolegal Forensic Investigator's Trauma Atlas

(manuscript in preparation)

Downs, JCU

Forensic Medicine

McGraw Hill Encyclopedia of Science & Technology, 2011

Downs JCU

Death Investigation

Crime Scene Investigation, Second Edition

Jacqueline T. Fish, Larry S. Miller, and Michael C. Braswell

The Encyclopedia of Death and the Human Experience

Bryant CD and Peck DL, Eds., Sage Publishing, 2009

Downs JCU

Homicide

Downs JCU

Sexual Homicide

Downs JCU
Medical Examiner

Lori Frasier L, Alexander R, Parrish R, & Downs JCU
***Abusive Head Trauma in Infants and Children:
A Medical, Legal & Forensic Reference*** GW Medical, 2007

Lori Frasier L, Alexander R, Parrish R, & Downs JCU
***Abusive Head Trauma in Infants and Children:
A Medical, Legal & Forensic Reference – Supplementary CD-ROM***
GW Medical, 2007

JCU Downs & Bill Harris
The Role of Coroners
In Alexander R & Case ME
Child Fatality Review - An Interdisciplinary Guide and Photographic Reference
GW Medical, 2007

Downs JCU
The Role of Medical Examiners in Law Enforcement
Police Chief Magazine, International Association of Chiefs of Police, November 2007

Downs JCU
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning: Incidence and findings at post-mortem
The Encyclopedia of Forensic Medicine, 2004 & 2015

Downs JCU
Pattern Injuries
The Encyclopedia of Forensic Medicine, 2015

Withrow AG, Sikorsky J, Downs JCU, Fenger T,
*Extraction & Analysis of Human Nuclear & Mitochondrial DNA
from Electron Beam Irradiated Envelopes*
Journal of Forensic Sciences 2003 Nov;48(6):1302-8

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The Autopsy
Handbook of Death & Dying, Bryant, C. Ed., Sage Press, 2003

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Medical Examiner/Coroner
Handbook of Death & Dying, Bryant, C. Ed., Sage Press, 2003

Downs JCU and Westveer A

Forensic Investigator's Trauma Atlas

Managing Death Investigation Volume II, FBI National Academy, U.S. Department of Justice, FBI, Arthur E. Westveer, MLA, Ed., 2003

Cina SJ, Downs JCU and Conradi SE.

Hydrogen peroxide: A source of lethal oxygen embolism.

American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology 15(1): 44-50, 1994.

Downs JCU, Nichols CA, Scala-Barnett D and Lifschultz BD.

Handling and Interpretation of Crossbow Injuries.

The Journal of Forensic Sciences 39(2): 42.8-45, 1994.

Downs JCU, Conradi SE and Nichols CA.

Suicide by Environmental Hypoxia (Forced Depletion of Oxygen).

The American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology 15(3): 216-223, 1994.

Downs JCU and Nichols CA.

Suicidal Ingestion of Barium Sulfide Containing Shaving Powder.

The American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology 16(1): 56-61, 1995.

Downs JCU, Riddick L, Nichols CA, Scala-Barnette D, and Lifschultz BD.

Crossbow Injuries - An Unusual Form of Sharp Force Injury.

American Society of Clinical Pathologists Check Sample, October 1995.

Downs JCU

Sexual Homicide in Managing Death Investigation, FBI National Academy,

U.S. Department of Justice, FBI, Arthur E. Westveer, MLA, Ed., 1998 and 2002.

Downs JCU

Asphyxiation in Managing Death Investigation, FBI National Academy,

U.S. Department of Justice, FBI, Arthur E. Westveer, MLA, Ed., 1998 and 2002.

Downs JCU

Sharp Force Injury in Managing Death Investigation, FBI National Academy, U.S.

Department of Justice, FBI, Arthur E. Westveer, MLA, Ed., 1998 and 2002

Downs JCU

Blunt Force Injury in Managing Death Investigation, FBI National Academy, U.S. Department of Justice, FBI, Arthur E. Westveer, MLA, Ed., 1998 and 2002.

Downs JCU, Conradi SE and Nichols CA.

Suicide by Environmental Hypoxia (Forced Depletion of Oxygen).

The American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology 15(3): 216-223, 1994. Reprinted in Managing Death Investigation, FBI National Academy,

U.S. Department of Justice, FBI, Arthur E. Westveer, MLA, Ed., 1998.

Downs JCU, *Under Investigation: The World of Forensic Pathology*, MUSC Alumni Today, Alumni Magazine of the Medical University of South Carolina, November 1999

Downs JCU, *Date Rape Drugs*, Alabama Coroners' Association Newsletter, May 2000
Hornfeldt CS, Lothridge K, and Downs JCU
Forensic Science Update: Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate (GHB) Forensic Science Communications, January 2002

Downs JCU and Ostroff D.
Videography—A primer Alabama Coroners' Association Newsletter, September 2000

Titford M and Downs JCU, *Case Histories in Forensic Histotechnology*, The Journal of Histotechnology, 2001;24(1):23-27

Downs JCU, *Shaken Baby Syndrome—A primer* Alabama Coroners' Association Newsletter, 2001

Downs JCU, *Forensic Improvement and Medical Examiners*, National Association of Medical Examiners News, Vol. 9, No. 4, August 2001

Downs JCU, *The Paul Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act*, The American Academy of Forensic Sciences Newsletter, Summer 2002

Cheng TC and Downs JCU.
Intracellular Acid Phosphatase and Lysozyme Levels in Subpopulations of Oyster, Crassostrea virginica, Hemocytes Journal of Invertebrate Pathology 52: 163-167, 1988.

LECTURES/SPEAKING:

Hundreds of invited presentations at local, regional, national, and international levels on the subjects of Medicolegal Death Investigation, Forensic Pathology, Child abuse, Police Use of Force, and Teamwork, to audiences ranging from pre-graduate to post-doctoral and active practitioner levels. Audiences have included law enforcement, social services, attorneys, judges, university undergraduate & pre-professional students, medical personnel, and graduate medical personnel. He has testified in numerous state and federal courts, as well as before committees of both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives

AWARDS/SERVICE:

Presidential Iceberg Award, National Association of Medical Examiners, 2004

Thomas Park Food Pantry, Savannah, GA, 2006-present

Presidential STAR Award, National Association of Medical Examiners, 2007

Volunteer of the Year, R.O.C.K. (Raising Our Children Kindly) Group Board 2008

President's Award, National Association of Medical Examiners, 2010

Board Member of the Year, R.O.C.K. (Raising Our Children Kindly) Group Board, 2011