April 16, 2015

Dear Sirs:

With the blessings of our State Medical Examiner's Office in Missoula, I wish to advertise for a qualified individual to come and join me in beautiful Montana, based in or around Billings, MT, providing private Forensic Pathology autopsy and consultative services to our region. I envision this position to involve a “week on - week off” or “two week on – two week off” flexible schedule, equally sharing/splitting autopsies and call with me. Currently serving much of Montana and Wyoming, there is ample opportunity to travel and experience the beauty of this region and all it offers. Learn more about Montana at [www.mt.gov](http://www.mt.gov).

Major duties will include performing 300 – 350 autopsies per year, shared with me (thus 150-175 per pathologist), as an Associate State Medical Examiner, serving as forensic pathologist and consultant to county coroners and attorneys. The primary responsibility for providing death investigations resides with the county coroners. In their consultant role, the state medical examiners must be available to the coroners as needed. We are based in Billings, 350 miles across the state from Missoula and the State Medical Examiner’s office. The actual State Medical Examiner is housed within the Montana Forensic Science Laboratory, a 30,000 sq ft facility that was built in Missoula in 2000 (accredited by ASCLD/LAB). Through the Forensics Lab, we have access to toxicology, DNA, latent prints and firearms/tool marks testing capabilities, with their very accessible and responsive services.

Autopsies are performed at St. Vincent HealthCare in Billings, which is adjacent to the Billings Clinic, together these two hospitals providing the major trauma center for the region. The morgue is secured and maintained by St. Vincent Healthcare, with excellent ancillary services readily available, such as radiology, hospital laboratory and consulting medical professionals. Residency programs and other training programs abound, and offer tremendous opportunities to teach.

I envision this person to be an experienced forensic pathologist, who is looking for an opportunity to work in our chosen field at a pace that is more flexible and allows enjoyment of the world outside the morgue, courtroom or office. I have performed almost 12,000 forensic autopsies in my career, and will appreciate having someone in the office to share cases with. The schedules will be flexible, to allow the maximal personal time. This is a non-salaried position, but fee-for-service reimbursement is quick and more than adequate to support the lifestyle that Montana and the Northwest offers. Lying in a glacier-carved valley along the Yellowstone River in south-central Montana, with short drives to the Beartooth-Absarokee, Pryor and Big Horn Mountains, Billings is a progressive town of about 110,000 individuals. The surrounding area offers the gamut of outdoor recreational opportunities. It is not uncommon to be able to ski in the morning and then play golf or flyfish in the afternoon.

As it is for the salaried position currently advertised through the State of Montana for our office in Missoula, “your application will be used to evaluate your written communication skills. The selection procedures to be used in evaluating the applicants’ qualifications may include, but are not limited to, an evaluation of the application, a structured interview, performance tests, and reference/background checks. The successful applicant must successfully pass a background and reference check in addition to a fingerprint check and an extensive background investigation. A medical degree from an accredited school, a license to practice medicine in Montana and board certified in forensic pathology and anatomic or anatomic and clinical pathology is required. Additional materials, references or information submitted by the applicant but not requested by the employer will not be considered.”

Thomas L. Bennett, M.D., Forensic Pathologist (AP/CP/FP)