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Peter M. Cummings, M.D.

*Medical Examiner and Director of Forensic Neuropathology, Office of the
Chief Medical Examiner Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Boston, MA, USA.*

Darin P. Trelka, M.D., Ph.D.

*Associate Medical Examiner, Broward County Medical
Examiner and Trauma Services, FL, USA.*

Kimberley M. Springer, M.D.

*Medical Examiner, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Commonwealth of
Massachusetts, Boston, MA, USA.*



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 to information provided by the manufacturer of any drugs or equipment that they plan to use.

To mom and dad, I miss you both.

To Sarah and Fionn, thank you for all the love and support (and for the occasional brief moments of quiet while I tried to finish this thing).

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To Michele, thanks for being my favorite lady.

To Lisa, thanks for letting me work on this, even when it annoyed you.

To all past, present, and future Forensic Pathology Fellows – enjoy!

Kimberley Springer

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FOREWORD

Histopathology examination is the daily bread and butter of the general or special-expertise pathologist. However, for many years histopathology had been under-evaluated in many Medical Examiners' and Coroners' Offices here in the USA, and had not been treated much better in the remainder of the world. Nevertheless, in recent decades there has been an increased awareness of the central importance of forensic microscopy in many forensic cases, and the number of histopathology books has increased significantly. However, there are still very few atlases of forensic pathology and by publishing their *Atlas of Forensic Histopathology*, Drs. Cummings, Trelka and Springer have made a highly valuable contribution to forensic medicine. All three authors are experienced and highly regarded Medical Examiners, with an aggregate experience of decades in forensic histopathology. While textbooks of forensic histopathology are valuable, the number of illustrative photos included is always much less than that presented in a microscopy atlas. In the forensic pathology world, as much as in the world at large, a picture is better evidence than a thousand words. Besides presenting a wealth of forensic microscopic illustrations, the authors of this atlas have eminently succeeded in selecting a wide spectrum of color illustrations from both common and difficult type of cases, including the challenging issues of aging of natural, chemical, and traumatic injuries. The legends to the illustrations are very clear and are accompanied by guiding tables of differential diagnoses and time-related pathogenetic changes. The atlas is valuable both to the novice forensic pathologist and to the experienced one, facing a difficult case or in need of supportive or documentary evidence.

The Atlas of Forensic Histopathology by Cummings, Trelka and Springer is an effective and easy-to-use professional tool which should be available in every forensic library.

Joshua A. Perper M.D., L.L.B., M.Sc
Director and Chief Medical Examiner
Broward County Office of Medical Examiner and Trauma Services
Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA

PREFACE

This atlas was a labor of love as much as it was a labor of practicality. Forensic pathology is one of those disciplines which, although recognized for over fifty years, has little in the way of literature, in contrast to many of its bigger brethren in anatomic pathology. As such, we found that it is often difficult to find well-presented, clear, and visually compelling forensic micrographs for correlation with what we were finding through our microscopes during slide review. In addition, as one practices this craft, one often finds oneself faced with questions asked by law enforcement officers and agents of the legal system for which anatomic pathology residency programs have not prepared us: “How old is this bruise?” or “...so was the fetus dead before the assault?” It is often enough that the answers to these questions can be found in articles spread out across the literature of the last 10 or 20 years, but the question which remains is whether trainees are aware of this literature and how can it be made more accessible?

In order to address these issues, we all began to build a literature library which we use in our daily practice. This atlas is a product of that library as a reflection of the needs we felt during forensic fellowship training and the first few years of our practice. We think it to be a concise collection of micrographs and descriptive tables of forensic interest, which we have incorporated into our respective practices. It is our hope that this will be a “scope side” referent for trainees in forensic medicine and as a review for forensic pathologists already in practice.

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