

KANTHI DE ALWIS, M.D.
CURRICULUM VITAE
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Professional Certification

Diplomate, American Board of Pathology, Forensic Pathology (1989)
Diplomate, American Board of Pathology, Anatomical/Clinical Pathology (1984)

American Association of Medical Review Officers (January 2014)

Areas of Expertise:

Death Investigation, Cause and Manner of Death Certification.

Deaths Related to Surgical or Medical Intervention

Courtroom Testimony Criminal and civil litigation

Law Enforcement Related Fatalities, Excited Delirium Syndrome, Child Abuse and Neglect, Natural Death, Sudden Unexplained Infant/Child Death Investigation, Blunt Force Trauma, Gunshot Wounds, Drug and Alcohol Related Fatalities, Electrical Injuries, Thermal Injuries, Sharp Force Injuries, Drowning, Motor Vehicle Fatalities, Domestic Violence/Elder Abuse, Suicide, Deaths related to Asphyxia

Physician Licensure

Hawaii State Board of Medical Examiners (MD-04765), (1983 thru current)

Professional Experience

Performed approximately over 10000 forensic autopsies since 1984 (In Honolulu, Hilo, Maui, Molokai and Kauai)

Expert witness testimony in Circuit, District and Federal courts of the State of Hawaii in **criminal and civil litigation** cases, totaling approximately over 1000 appearances since 1985)

CURRICULUM VITAE
KANTHI DE ALWIS, M.D.
(Formerly Kanthi von Guenther, M.D.)
Page 2

Employment History

PRESENT – Forensic Pathology Consultant-Criminal/Civil Litigation
Director of Labs, City Health Services – Honolulu

01/01 – 10/09 Chief Medical Examiner
Department of the Medical Examiner
City and County of Honolulu

11/90 – 01/01 First Deputy Medical Examiner
Department of the Medical Examiner
City and County of Honolulu

12/85 – 11/90 Anatomical/Clinical Pathologist
Department of the Medical Examiner
City and County of Honolulu

04/78 – 06/79 Medical Officer
Government Hospital
Padukka, Sri Lanka

Depositions / Forensic Consulting – (Plaintiff/ Defense Witness)

Alleged medical malpractice/ therapeutic misadventure, workmen's compensation, wrongful deaths, Interpretation of assaultive injuries, child abuse, Insurance claims, and other medico-legal issues.

Professional Memberships

Member, National Association of Medical Examiners
Member, Hawaii Society of Pathologists
Fellow, American Academy of Forensic Sciences

Academic/ Professional Affiliations Past and Current

Consultant in Forensic Pathology

CURRICULUM VITAE
KANTHI DE ALWIS, M.D.
(Formerly Kanthi von Guenther, M.D.)
Page 3

2005- 2010- Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Pathology
University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine-

1987 – 07/2005 Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Pathology
University of Hawaii – John A. Burns School of Medicine

1982 – 1987 Clinical Teaching Assistant, Instructor in Gross Anatomy
University of Hawaii School of Medicine

Past- Member of the State of Hawaii Child Death Review Council Board and Review Committee

Personal Data

Date of Birth: June 14, 1953
Citizenship: United States of America

Medical Education

Faculty of Medicine
University of Sri Lanka
Colombo, Sri Lanka
MBBS with Honors and Distinction in Microbiology (1976)

Postgraduate Clinical Training

07/80 - 06/84 Anatomic/Clinical Pathology Resident
Integrated Pathology Residency Program
University of Hawaii – John A. Burns School of Medicine
Honolulu, Hawaii

11/76 – 04/78 Combined Internship
Obstetrics/Gynecology & internal medicine
General Hospital
Colombo, Sri Lanka

National Recognition/Honors

Honoree, Salute to Women in Law Enforcement (April 2004), Honolulu Country Club, Honolulu, Hawaii

CURRICULUM VITAE
KANTHI DE ALWIS, M.D.
(Formerly Kanthi von Guenther, M.D.)
Page 4

Nominated for the 2003 Dr. Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service, Career Public Servant (August 2002)

Past Board of Editors, The American Journal of Forensic Medicine and pathology

Special Professional Interests

Child Death Investigations:

- 1) Developed investigative procedures and guidelines
- 2) Member of the State of Hawaii Child Death Review Council Board and Review Committee
- 3) Conducted seminars on several aspects of child death investigations
- 4) Participation in public education through news media

Elderly Neglect/Abuse:

- 1) Conducted seminars on issues related to elderly neglect

Morgue Tours:

- 1) Implemented public outreach program for death prevention to at-risk and high school students, counselors, teachers and driver's education participants.

Internship Program:

- 1) Implemented an internship program for forensic science students at Chaminade University.

Publications

De Alwis, Kanthi MD; Mitsunaga, Erin M. BA, Sudden Death due to Nontraumatic Diaphragmatic Hernia in an Adult

John A. Lewis, Jr., D.D.S., Kanthi von Guenther, M.D. Recovery and Identification of the Victims of the Ehime Maru/USS Greenville Collision at Sea, Journal of Forensic Sciences, May 2004, Vol. 49, No. 3.

M. Lee Goff, Ph.D., K. Gunatilake (De Alwis von Guenther), M.D., A. I. Omori, M.D. Estimation of Postmortem Interval by Arthropod Succession.

CURRICULUM VITAE
KANTHI DE ALWIS, M.D.
(Formerly Kanthi von Guenther, M.D.)
Page 5

K. Gunatilake (De Alwis von Guenther), M.D., M. Lee Goff, Ph.D., Detection of Organophosphate Poisoning in a Putrefying Body by Analyzing Arthropod Larvae.

Book review, Forensic Pathology, Vincent Di Maio, M.D. and Suzanne Dana (August 2000)

Presentations/Speaking Engagements/Training Seminars

Drug Induced Agitated Delirium (July 2009)
Hawaiian Islands Trauma Symposium
Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, Hawaii

Role of the Medical Examiner in Hawaii's Justice System (2007, 2008)
Several social organizations, e.g., Rotary Club, Lion's Club, etc.
Honolulu, Hawaii

Role of the Medical Examiner in the American Justice System (July 2007)
9th Indo-Pacific Congress on Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Role of the Medical Examiner as it Relates to the Criminal Justice System
(February 2007, 2008)
Pacific Century Fellows
Honolulu, Hawaii

Interdisciplinary Peer-Review in Action, American Academy of Forensic Sciences 58th
annual meeting in Seattle (February 2006)

Drug-Induced Delirium and Deaths in Custody (July 2005)
Honolulu Police Department

Forensic Files – Tales of the Honolulu Medical Examiner (May 2005)
ASCLS/CLMA 2005 Annual Meeting, Waikiki Beach Marriot Resort Hotel,
Honolulu, Hawaii

Drug-Related Deaths (April 2005)
Juvenile Court Program, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Honolulu, Hawaii

Methamphetamine Related Deaths (September 2004)
Prosecuting Attorney's Office – Law enforcement agencies

Role of the Medical Examiner (July 2004)

CURRICULUM VITAE
KANTHI DE ALWIS, M.D.
(Formerly Kanthi von Guenther, M.D.)
Page 6

Chaminade University – High school science teachers

Death Certification Session (May 2004)
University of Hawaii – John A. Burns School of Medicine

Documentary Special, “ICE: Hawaii’s Crystal Meth Epidemic”, Interview with
Ms. Edgy Lee of Film Works, Ltd. (July 2003)

Workshop, Examining the Collective Community Response to the Needs of Victims
and Survivors of a Mass Casualty Incident Occurring on Oahu (July 2003)
United States Attorney’s Office, Hawaii Department of the Attorney General,
Federal Office for Victims of Crime, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney
Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii

The Medical Perspectives of Classifying Drowning (May 2003)
2003 State of Hawaii Annual Drowning Prevention & Ocean Safety
Conference, Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii

Death Certification Session (May 2003)
University of Hawaii – John A. Burns School of Medicine

Medical Examiner’s Role in a Mass Fatality/Casualty Event (March 2003)
U.S. Attorney Office

Elderly Neglect/Abuse (February 2003)
American Academy of Forensic Sciences 55th Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois

Role of the Medical Examiner (January 2003)
Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Development Committee

Investigative and Autopsy Protocol for Infants/Unexpected Death in Infancy and
the Status of SIDS in Hawaii (December 2002)
Child Death Review Council Training Seminar, Prince Kuhio Hotel, Honolulu

Role of the Medical Examiner in a Mass Fatality (November 2002)
Funeral Directors Association, Turtle Bay Hilton

Elderly Neglect/Evidence Collection/Head Injuries in Children (October 2002)
Interisland Detectives Seminar, Outrigger Waikoloa Beach Resort

Recognition of Elderly Abuse/Neglect (October 2002)
Health Care Assurance Group

CURRICULUM VITAE
KANTHI DE ALWIS, M.D.
(Formerly Kanthi von Guenther, M.D.)
Page 7

Mass Disaster Preparation/Mass Fatalities Incident Response Workshop
(September 2002)

Functions of the Department of the Medical Examiner with Reference to
Medical Examiner Cases (September 2002)
Queen's Trauma Surgeons' Grand Rounds

Recognition of Elderly Abuse (July 2002)
Adult Protective Service

The Pathology of Abusive Head Trauma in Children (July 2002)
Children's Justice Center

Medical Examiner Case Files (May 2002)
Hawaii Society of Clinical Lab Science

Death Certification Session (May 2002)
University of Hawaii – John A. Burns School of Medicine

Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy (May 2002)
University of Hawaii – John A. Burns School of Medicine

Current Status of SIDS in Hawaii (April 2002)
Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children

Forensic Autopsy (April 2002)
Chaminade University

Pediatric Forensic Neuropathology (August 2001)
Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children

Neonaticide – Investigation of Newborn Killings and Medicolegal Investigations
in Unusual Violent Deaths (October 2001)
Interisland Detectives Seminar, Hawaii Convention Center

Investigation of Sudden Unexplained Deaths in Infancy and Child Abuse (May 2001)
Hilo Police Department

Neonaticide and Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy (March 2001)
Honolulu Police Department, Criminal Investigation Division
State of Hawaii Child Protective Services
Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

CURRICULUM VITAE
KANTHI DE ALWIS, M.D.
(Formerly Kanthi von Guenther, M.D.)
Page 8

Jurisdictional and Preventive Issues Regarding Medical Examiner Cases
(February 2001)
Risk Managers, Hawaii Health Care Facilities
Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children

Investigation of Child Deaths (January 2001)
Honolulu Police Department, Criminal Investigation Division
State of Hawaii Child Protective Services
Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

Fatal Child Abuse Investigation (October 2000)
Inter-island Detectives Seminar, Lahaina, Maui

Recent Expert Witness Testimony/ Notable Events:

- Capital Murder Trial: Honolulu, HI- Naeem Williams (2014)
- Christopher Deedy Murder Trial: (2014)
- Edith Skinner-cold case murder trial-Honolulu Hawaii (2014)

Past Notable cases

- Ehime Maru victims-recovery operations-Japanese fishing vessel in Honolulu Hawaii
- Xerox murder trial-Honolulu, Hawaii -1999
- Landslide victims of Sacred Falls-Oahu
- Dana Ireland murder trial- Hilo Hawaii
- Cold Blood-@discoveryID #investigation discovery-How Did Dana Ireland Die?
(Video)
- Incident commander of the Molokai Air Crash victims at Halawa Heights, Molokai