

Judy Melinek, M.D.

PathologyExpert, Inc.
3739 Balboa Street #102
San Francisco, Ca 94121
Phone: (415) 850-7056
drjudymelinek@pathologyexpert.com

EDUCATION

Harvard University: Cambridge, MA 1987 – 1991

B.A. in Biology *magna cum laude*, June 1991. John Harvard Scholarship, 1989-90. Harvard College Scholarship, 1988-89. Elizabeth Cary Agassiz Certificate of Merit, 1987-88.

UCLA School of Medicine: Los Angeles, CA 1991 – 1996

M.D. with honors, May 1996. Dean's Scholar for outstanding thesis, Edith and Carl Lasky Memorial Award for research achievement, Viola G. Hyde Scholarship for excellence in surgery.

Armed Forces Institute of Pathology: Bethesda, MD 2001, 2003

Basic Forensic Pathology Course, 2001; Neuropathology Course, 2003

Imaging Forensics: San Francisco, CA June 2010

Digital Forensics Photography Class with George Reis; San Francisco Police Department Training

EXPERIENCE

PathologyExpert Inc., San Francisco 2004 – Present

Independent consultant. Contract with Alameda County Sheriff Coroner's Office since May 2013. Associate Clinical Professor (2013-2015) UCSF Dept. of Pathology. Research Associate, UC Davis Department of Environmental Toxicology (2015 - Present).

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, San Francisco July 2004 – April 2013

Assistant Medical Examiner. Assistant Clinical Professor, UCSF (2004-2013). Teaching award 2007-2008. Trained UCSF pathology residents, Medical Examiner Investigators and Technicians.

Santa Clara County Office of Medical Examiner-Coroner July 2003 – July 2004

Assistant Medical Examiner – Coroner. Adjunct Clinical Instructor, Stanford University Medical Center. Senior forensic pathologist directing a staff of 17 for ten months following resignation of the Chief Medical Examiner. Revised death certification, identification and evidence protocols. Child death review team.

Office of Chief Medical Examiner, City of New York July 2001 – June 2003

Clinical Instructor in Forensic Medicine, New York University. Forensic Neuropathology Fellowship. Examined remains from World Trade Center (9/01-8/02) and American Airlines Flight 587 crash (11/01).

Department of Pathology, UCLA July 1993-June 1994; July 1997 – June 2001

Pathology Post Sophomore Fellowship; Pathology Residency and Chief Resident.

Beth Israel-Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA

July 1996 – Dec 1996

Department of General Surgery - Internship. Primary surgeon in 61 operations.

RESEARCH

Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston

Summer 1988, January 1990 – May 1991

Center for Neurological Diseases – Undergraduate Biology thesis, "Protein Kinase C Activity Correlates with Memory T-Cell Function" presented at FASEB conference in Atlanta, GA in April, 1991.

Department of Neurology, UCLA

Summer 1992

With Jean Merrill, Ph.D. and Nobel laureate Louis J. Ignarro, Ph.D., researched NO synthesis in Multiple Sclerosis.

Department of Transplantation, UCLA

Dec 1993-March 1996, Nov 1998 – 2001

Liver Transplant Program – Pathology consultant for research investigating rejection, ischemia-reperfusion injury and Hepatitis C recurrence. Assisted in over 100 liver procurements & transplants.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Peer Reviewer

Journal of Forensic Sciences	Nov. 2014 – Present
Academic Forensic Pathology	Dec. 2012 – Present
The American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology	Oct. 2009 – Present
CDCP Sponsored NAME Toxicology Panel for Opiate Deaths	Jan. 2012 – 2013
Electrical Muscular Disruption Device (EMDD) Literature Review Panel – NIJ	2007 – 2011
Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine – Elsevier Press	October 2007

Professional Lectures and Presentations

"Consulting 101" National Association of Medical Examiners – West Palm Beach, FL	Oct. 14, 2018
"Pediatric Death Investigation," "Child Abuse & Neglect/NCIP Zavion Johnson" and "Officer Involved Shootings, In-Custody Deaths and High Profile Cases" California Sheriff Coroners Association – Santa Rosa, CA	Sept. 18, 2018
"What Trial Attorneys Need to Know about Forensic Pathology" California Public Defenders Association – Berkeley, CA	Sept. 15, 2018
"Science Matters: Tapestry of Trials" American Academy of Forensic Sciences – Seattle, WA	Feb 20, 2018
"Forensic Pathology" Defense Investigator Training Academy, Long Beach, CA	Oct 23, 2017
"Website Design, Social Media and Marketing," Forensic Expert Witness Association – San Francisco, CA	May 19, 2017
"Working Stiff: The Real Work of a Forensic Pathologist," Genentech – South San Francisco, CA	April 18, 2017
"The Forensic Pathologist and Medical-Legal Cases," Bay Area Chapter of Northern California Legal Nurse Consultants – South San Francisco, CA	April 11, 2017
"Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents" and "Excited Delirium Syndrome," NAME Interim Meeting – New Orleans, LA	Feb 14, 2017
Medical Examiners Conference – Neenah, WI	
"Officer-Related Fatalities" and "High Profile Cases," Wisconsin Coroners and Medical Examiners Conference – Neenah, WI	Oct 24, 2016
"Blunt and Sharp Trauma," Daytona Beach Death & Crime Scene Investigation Conference – Daytona Beach, FL	Sept. 14, 2016
"Forensic Training and Public Relations in a Digital Age," American Academy of	Feb 25, 2016

Forensic Sciences – Las Vegas, NV
 “Pediatric Death Investigation” and “Officer-Related Fatalities,” Alameda County Sheriff and Pleasanton Police Department Feb 18, 2016
 “How to Retain, Prepare and Present Experts at Trial Ethically and Effectively” Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) Dec 1, 2015
 “Officer-Related Fatalities” and “High Profile Cases,” Daytona Beach Death & Crime Scene Investigation Conference – Daytona Beach, FL Sept 10, 2015
 “Advanced Criminal Law: Forensic Pathology,” University of San Francisco Law School Feb 7, 2015
 “Forensic Pathology for the Primary Care Practitioner,” University at Sea Sept. 21-28, 2014
 “Medical Detectives: The Real CSI,” UCSF Osher Mini Medical School for the Public Feb. 5, 2014
 “Advanced Criminal Law: Forensic Pathology,” San Francisco Law School Feb. 2, 2013
 “Science & the Law: Forensic Pathology,” UC Hastings College of the Law 2012 – 2015
 “Introduction to Pre-Health Professions” Recurrent guest lecturer, Science – 235 San Francisco State University. 2007 – 2011
 “Death Certification” Recurrent guest lecturer, UCSF Resident Orientation 2010 – 2011
 AACC Outstanding Speaker Award: “Pairing Clinical and Post-Mortem Findings for Interpretative Purposes: The Medical Examiner’s Perspective” and Panel Discussion SOFT/TIAFT – San Francisco, CA Sept 27, 2011
 “A Facilitated or Unavoidable Fall from a Roof – An Unusual In-Custody Death” National Association of Medical Examiners – Alaska Aug 12, 2011
 “In-Custody Deaths: An Introduction to the Role of the Medical Examiner” Sudden Death, Excited Delirium & In-Custody Death Conference – Las Vegas, NV Nov 28, 2007
 “Vertebral Artery Dissection Complicating Occipital Injection of Heparin for Treatment of Thoracic Outlet Syndrome” National Association of Medical Examiners – Savannah, GA Oct 17, 2007

Consulting & Media (for additional listings see www.drworkingstiff.com)

Crime Watch Daily: “It’s Not About the Body: Forensic Pathologist on ‘Working Stiff’” Dec. 2015
 Dr. Oz: What Can the Dead Tell Us About Health Sept. 2014
 Mythbusters, Discovery Channel, “Bite the Bullet” episode August, 2014
 Workstew Podcast: Interview with Forensic pathologist Dr. Judy Melinek & Writer T.J. Mitchell: <http://www.workstewpodcast.com/?p=1142> May 2013
 Dr. Phil, “Deadly New accusations: A Murder Mystery?” September 21, 2012
 Dr. Drew, “Attorney on mansion death: ‘Time to Re-Open This.’” August 13, 2012
 Life, Love & Health: Radio Interviews with Christopher Springmann 2/10/12; 11/9/12; 1/18/13
 Forensic pathology consultant, National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, Inc., Cincinnati OH (*pro-bono*). 2009 – Present
 Forensic pathology consultant, Northern California Innocence Project, Golden Gate University School of Law, Santa Clara & Minnesota Innocence Project (*pro-bono*). 2004 – Present
 Medical device testing for cancer research: FeRx Corporation, San Diego, CA 1999 – 2000
 Script and on-set consultant in forensic pathology for NBC television program *E.R.* 2000
 Consultant in forensic pathology for UCLA Mock Trial Team Pre-Law Society. 2000

ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIPS

Member, International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IAC&ME) 2016 – Present
 Member, National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) 2000 – Present
 Board of Directors 2016 – 2018
 STAR Award Oct. 2018
 Ad-hoc committee on social medial policy 2018 – Present
 International relations subcommittee 2018 – Present
 ME/Coroner Media Guidelines Consensus Work Group for SAVE - Suicide Awareness Voices of Education 2018 – Present
 National Commission on Forensic Science/Medicolegal Death Investigation Subcommittee

Medicolegal Autonomy & Independence Project Member	2015 – 2017
CDCP Sponsored NAME Toxicology Panel for Opiate Deaths	2012 – 2013
NAME Medical Examiner Independence Ad Hoc Committee, Chair	2011 – 2013
NAME Death Certification Improvement Ad Hoc Committee	2009 – 2010
NAME Membership Ad Hoc Committee	2006 – 2007
Member, American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)	2000 – Present
Member, California Society of Pathologists	2006 – 2007
Member, College of American Pathologists	1998 – 2002
Member, American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP)	1998 – 2002
Member at Large (AMA Alternate Delegate), ASCP Resident Physician's Section	1999 – 2000
Board of Directors Resident Representative, Los Angeles Society of Pathologists	1998 – 2000
Student Representative, AMA Advisory Panel on Women Physician Issues	1994 – 1996

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

American Board of Pathology:

Board Certified in Anatomic & Clinical Pathology August, 2001

Board Certified in Forensic Pathology November, 2002

New York State: Physician, License Number: 220265-1 Issued: 1/30/01

State of California: Physician and Surgeon, License Number: A65951 Issued: 7/3/98

PUBLICATIONS (*peer reviewed)

1. Opioids Are Killing American Men, But They're Not the Leading Cause of Death. Melinek J. *Men's Health*. Dec 3, 2018 (<https://www.menshealth.com/health/a25378646/life-expectancy-report-leading-cause-of-death/>)
2. Dear NRA: This Isn't Just My Lane, It's My %@\$#! Highway. Melinek J. *MedPage Today* November 29, 2018 (<https://www.medpagetoday.com/blogs/working-stiff/76580>)
3. The NRA told doctors to "stay in your lane" on guns. I'm a doctor. This is my lane. Melinek J. *Vox.com* November 12, 2018 (<https://www.vox.com/first-person/2018/11/12/18087262/doctors-guns-thousand-oaks-nra>)
4. Don't Lie About Dying Patients' Pain — Because sometimes, yes, they suffered. Melinek J. *MedPage Today* September 27, 2018 (<https://www.medpagetoday.com/publichealthpolicy/ethics/75347>)
5. Doctor on the Stand: Fact Witness or Expert? Melinek J. *Forensic Magazine* September 20, 2018. <https://www.forensicmag.com/article/2018/09/doctor-stand-fact-witness-or-expert#.W7ItOZVN02Y.twitter>
6. My Father Killed Himself — Advice from a Physician and Suicide Survivor. Melinek J. *MedPage Today* August 16, 2018 (<https://www.medpagetoday.com/psychiatry/depression/74589>)
7. 'CSI' is Dead Wrong about Forensics — Five ways fictional TV crime shows fail. Melinek J. *MedPage Today* June 14, 2018. (<https://www.medpagetoday.com/pathology/generalpathology/73499>)
8. The Hidden Costs of the Opioid Epidemic. Melinek J. *Forensic Magazine*. June 2018. 15, 2:20-21(https://digital.forensicmag.com/forensics/june_2018/MobilePagedReplica.action?pm=2&folio=20#pg20)
9. Even Dead Patients Complain — Well, their families do. Melinek J. *MedPage Today* May 10, 2018. (<https://www.medpagetoday.com/primarycare/generalprimarycare/72803>)
10. How to Set up a Forensic Consulting Practice. Melinek J. *Forensic Magazine*. March 6, 2018 (<https://www.forensicmag.com/article/2018/03/how-set-forensic-consulting-practice>)

11. The Importance of Expert Witness Consult Work. Melinek J. December 13, 2017 (<https://www.forensicmag.com/article/2017/12/importance-expert-witness-consult-work>)
12. Reasonable Uncertainty: The Limits and Expectations of an Expert's Testimony. Melinek J. *Forensic Magazine* September 2017, 14, 3:18-19 (<https://www.forensicmag.com/article/2017/09/reasonable-uncertainty-limits-and-expectations-experts-testimony>)
13. * Which Knife was Used? - Using a Porcine Model to Assess Stab Wound Size. Zohn A, Melinek J. *Am J Forensic Med Pathol.* 2017 Sep; 38(3):180-183
14. Jury Duty: Inside the Box. Melinek J. *Forensic Magazine* June 2017 14,2:23-24. (<https://www.forensicmag.com/article/2017/06/expert-witness-jury-duty-inside-box>)
15. How to Find a Qualified Forensic Pathology Expert. Melinek J. *Forensic Magazine.* March 2017, 14,1:22-23 (http://www.forensicmag.com/article/2017/03/how-find-qualified-forensic-pathology-expert#.WNMewiS-3_U.twitter)
16. * Gunshot Wound Trajectory Analysis Using Forensic Animation to Establish Relative Positions of Shooter and Victim. Galligan A, Fries C, Melinek J. *Forensic Science International* 2017 Feb; 271:e8-e13. doi: 10.1016/j.forsciint.2016.12.039. Epub 2017 Jan 5
17. Infant Death Investigation: Asphyxia or SIDS? Melinek J. *Forensic Magazine* December 6, 2016, 13,4:14-15(<http://www.forensicmag.com/article/2016/12/infant-death-investigation-asphyxia-or-sids>)
18. * Dissecting and Streamlining the Medical Record Acquisition Process in Death Investigation Systems. Croom N and Melinek J. *Academic Forensic Pathology* December 2016 6(4): 679-690
19. * Catching a Bullet: Gunshot Wound Trajectory Analysis Used To Establish Body Position. Butler B, Fries C, Panock J, Jordan M and Melinek J. *Academic Forensic Pathology* December 2016 6(4): 739-745
20. How Designer Drugs and the Opioid Epidemic Affect Modern Forensic Practice. Melinek J. *Forensic Magazine* September 2016, 13,3:18-19(http://digital.forensicmag.com/forensics/september_2016/MobilePagedReplica.action?pg=18#pg18)
21. Mind Your Manners: Where Death Certification Ends and Prevention Begins. Melinek J. *Forensic Magazine* June 2016, 13,2:18-19 (http://digital.forensicmag.com/forensics/june_2016/MobilePagedReplica.action?pg=18#pg18?)
22. After a Violent Death: What the Victim's Family Needs to Know. Melinek J. Parents of Murdered Children *Survivors* Spring Newsletter Volume 34, Issue 1, March 2016
23. What Would You Do? Ethics and the Forensic Expert. Melinek J. *Forensic Magazine* March 4, 2016, 13, 1:18-19 (http://www.forensicmag.com/articles/2016/03/ethics-and-forensic-expert-what-would-you-do?et_cid=5157302)
24. Justice Scalia's Unexamined Death Points to a Problem (Opinion) *CNN.com* February 18, 2016 (<http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/18/opinions/justice-scalia-no-autopsy-melinek/>)
25. Forensic Radiology and the Medical Examiner. Melinek J. *Forensic Magazine* December 23, 2015, 12,6:16-17(<http://www.forensicmag.com/articles/2015/12/forensic-radiology-and-medical-examiner>)
26. Five Case Studies in Forensic Toxicology. Judy Melinek. *Forensic Magazine* October 22, 2015, 12,5:20-21 (<http://www.forensicmag.com/articles/2015/10/five-case-studies-forensic-toxicology>)
27. 7 Common Mistakes Regarding Autopsy Reports. Melinek J. *Forensic Magazine* September 9, 2015. (<http://www.forensicmag.com/articles/2015/09/7-common-mistakes-regarding-autopsy-reports>)
28. What Michael Brown's Autopsy Tell Us (Opinion) *CNN.com* August 21, 2014 (<http://www.cnn.com/2014/08/20/opinion/melinek-michael-brown-autopsy/>)
29. Working Stiff: Two Years, 262 Bodies and the Making of a Medical Examiner. Judy Melinek & T.J. Mitchell. Scribner Books, New York, August 2014. New York Times Bestseller E Book & Science Book Lists. #1 Best Seller on Amazon Law Enforcement Biographies & Memoirs.

30. * The Ethics of Being a Retained Expert Witness. Melinek J. *Academic Forensic Pathology* 2013, 3 (3): 281-288
31. * Forensic Considerations in Bariatric Surgery Patients. Melinek, J. and Lemos, N.P. *Academic Forensic Pathology* 2013, 3(1): 13-21
32. * Medical Examiner's Independence is Vital for the Health of the American Legal System. Luzi SA, Melinek J, Oliver WR. *Academic Forensic Pathology* 2013, 3(1): 84-92
33. * NAME Position Paper: Medical Examiner, Coroner, and Forensic Pathologist Independence. Melinek J, Thomas LC, Oliver WR, Schmunk GA, Weedn VW. *Academic Forensic Pathology* 2013, 3(1): 93-98
34. * Recommendations for the Investigation, Diagnosis, and Certification of Deaths Related to Opioid Drugs. *Academic Forensic Pathology* 2013, 3(1): 62-76
35. * NAME Position Paper: Recommendations for the Investigation, Diagnosis, and Certification of Deaths Related to Opioid Drugs. *Academic Forensic Pathology* 2013, 3(1): 77-83
36. * Vertebral Artery Dissection Complicating Occipital Injection of Heparin for Treatment of Thoracic Outlet Syndrome. Melinek J, Hart AP. *Am J Forensic Med Pathol.* 2012 Mar;33(1): 76-9
37. * New Records of Carrion Feeding Insects Collected on Human Remains. Honda J, Melinek J, Happy C. *Pan-Pacific Entomologist* 2008, 84(1):29-32
38. Medical Illustrations for Chapter 19, Forensic Neuropathology, Armbrustmacher, V. and Hirsch, C. Spitz & Fisher's *Medicolegal Investigation of Death*. 4th Edition. Editor: Werner U. Spitz. Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 2006. *Figures 1-6, 13, 66 and 67*; credit on page 1072.
39. * Anthropological and Radiographic Comparison of Vertebrae for Identification of Decomposed Human Remains. Mundorff AZ, Vidoli G, Melinek J. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 2006 Sep;51(5):1002-1004. * Postmortem Suture Analysis of Anastomotic Suture Line Disruption Following Carotid Endarterectomy. Melinek J, Lento P, Moalli J. *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 2004 Sep;49(5):1077-81.
40. Santa Clara County Police Chief's Association Child Abuse Protocol for Santa Clara County Law Enforcement. Update 2004 May.
41. * Death Following Gastric Bypass Surgery For Morbid Obesity. Melinek J, Livingston EH, Cortina G, Fishbein MC. *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine*. 2002 Sept 126:1091-1095
42. * Inhalational Anthrax: Gross Autopsy Findings. Gill J and Melinek J. *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine*. 2002 Aug. 126:993-994
43. * Bucillamine, a Thiol Antioxidant, Prevents Transplantation-Associated Reperfusion Injury. Amersi F, Nelson SYK, Shen XD, Kato H, Melinek J, Kupiec-Weglinski JW, Horwitz LD, Busuttil RW, and Horwitz MA. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 2002 June 99:8915-8920.
44. * Heme oxygenase-1 gene therapy: a novel immunomodulatory approach in liver allograft recipients? Ke B, Shen XD, Melinek J, Gao F, Ritter T, Volk HD, Busuttil RW, Kupiec-Weglinski JW. *Transplantation Proceedings*. 2001 Feb-Mar 33(1-2):581-2
45. * Amelioration of hepatic ischemia/reperfusion injury with intercellular adhesion molecule-1 antisense oligodeoxynucleotides. Ghobrial R, Amersi F, Stecker K, Kato H, Melinek J, Singer J, Mhoyan A, Busuttil RW, Kupiec-Weglinski JW, Stepkowski SM. *Transplantation Proceedings*. 2001 Feb-Mar 33(1-2):538
46. * A novel iron chelator in combination with a P-selectin antagonist prevents ischemia/reperfusion injury in a rat liver model. Amersi F, Dulkanchainun T, Nelson SK, Farmer DG, Kato H, Zaky J, Melinek J, Shaw GD, Kupiec-Weglinski JW, Horwitz LD, Horwitz MA, Busuttil RW. *Transplantation*. 2001 Jan 15; 71(1):112-8
47. * Upregulation of Heme Oxygenase-1 Protects Genetically Fat Zucker Rats from Ischemia/Reperfusion Injury. Amersi F, Buelow R, Kato H, Ke B, Coito AJ, Zhao D, Zaky J, Melinek J,

- Lassman CR, Kolls JK, Alam J, Ritter T, Volk HD, Farmer DG, Ghobrial RM, Busuttil RW and Kupiec-Weglinski JW. *Journal of Clinical Investigation* December 1, 1999 104(11):1631-1639
48. The New ASCP Comprehensive Review Course for Anatomic and Clinical Pathology. Melinek J. *RPS News* Winter 1999 13(4): 2-3
 49. * Significance of Early Aminotransferase Elevation after Liver Transplantation. Rosen HR, Martin P, Goss J, Donovan J, Melinek J, Rudich S, Imagawa DK, Kinkhabwala M, Seu P, Busuttil RW. *Transplantation* January 15, 1998 65(1):68-72
 50. * Randomized Controlled Trial to Evaluate Flush and Reperfusion Techniques in Liver Transplantation. Millis JM, Melinek J, Csete M, Imagawa DK, Olthoff KM, Neelakanta G, Braunfeld M, Sofer M, Chan S, Pregler J, Yersiz H, Tamura K, Shackleton CR, Shaked A, Jurim O, Busuttil RW. *Transplantation* February 15, 1997 63(3):397-403
 51. * Lack of Correlation between the Magnitude of Preservation Injury and the Incidence of Acute Rejection, Need for OKT3 or Conversion to FK506 in Cyclosporine Treated Primary Liver Allograft Recipients. Shackleton CR, Melinek J, Martin P, Millis JM, Olthoff KM, Imagawa DK, Jurim O, Shaked A, McDiarmid SV, Goldstein LI, Busuttil RW. *Transplantation* September 27, 1995 60(6):554-558
 52. * Living-Donor Liver Transplantation at UCLA. Jurim O, Shackleton CR, McDiarmid SV, Martin P, Shaked A, Millis JM, Imagawa DK, Olthoff KM, Maxfield A, Pakrasi AL, Melinek J, Ament M, Vargas J, Goldstein LI, Busuttil RW. *The American Journal of Surgery* May 1995 169:529-532
 53. * Microglial Cell Cytotoxicity of Oligodendrocytes Is Mediated through Nitric Oxide. Merrill JE, Ignarro LJ, Sherman MP, Melinek J, Lane TE. *The Journal of Immunology* August 15, 1993 151: 2132-2141
 54. * Increased Protein Kinase C Activity in Human Memory T Cells. Höllsberg P, Melinek J, Benjamin D, Hafler DA. *Cellular Immunology* June 1993 149(1):170-179

REVIEWS

Working Stiff: Two Years, 262 Bodies and the Making of a Medical Examiner. Judy Melinek & T.J. Mitchell. Scribner Books, New York, August 2014.

"Haunting and illuminating...the stories from [Dr. Melinek's] average workdays should also transfix the reader with their demonstration that medical science can diagnose and console long after the heartbeat stops." — New York Times

"In this engrossing tale of how Melinek became a forensic pathologist, she pulls back the sheet to show readers just what goes on after someone dies... Armchair detectives and would-be forensic pathologists will find Melinek's well-written account to be inspiring and engaging."— Publishers Weekly

"Spellbinding. . . . Melinek is movingly empathetic toward the families of victims. . . . An unforgettable story." — Booklist (starred review)