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REPORT *Facts and Trends*

The following articles appeared in recent issues of the *CAM Report* newsletter. See the *CAM Report* section of this website to read a sample issue and to learn more about how to subscribe.

Forensic Pathologists In Demand

Forensic pathologists, physicians who have received special training in pathology and forensic pathology, are in short supply in the United States, according to the *Chicago Tribune*. These medical specialists are key members of the health and legal systems, performing autopsies on people who have died from unnatural or unusual causes. Only 400 forensic pathologists are employed in the **United States**.

The shortage is most pronounced in rural areas, where forensic pathologists are putting in 12+-hour days, logging thousands of miles to cover vast counties, and performing up to 400 autopsies a year (national guidelines recommend that forensic pathologists perform only 250 autopsies a year).

Although television shows such as *CSI* have raised public awareness about the field, *only about 35 of the 15,000 students who enroll in medical school each year go on to become forensic pathologists*. The *Tribune* reports that *nearly one-third of the forensic pathology fellowship programs this fall have no students*.

One factor fueling the shortage is the low salaries paid to those in the field. Forensic pathologists are the lowest-paid physicians, earning an average of \$100,000 a year. And despite having one more year of education than *hospital pathologists* (who perform autopsies on natural deaths), they earn \$100,000 less than these specialists.

Despite the drawbacks of this career, most forensic pathologists enjoy their work immensely. As “doctor-detectives,” they help families reach closure in the event of an unnatural or unusual death and provide expert testimony in courtrooms that “makes or breaks” homicide cases.

For more information on this career, contact the following organizations: **American Board of Pathology** (questions@abpath.org, www.abpath.org), **American Society for Investigative Pathology** (ICPI@asip.org, www.asip.org/career), and **National Association of Medical Examiners** (www.thename.org).

(*Chicago Tribune, October 11, 2007*)

Interesting Careers: Medical Flight Workers

Medical flight workers (MFWs) transport critically injured or ill patients from accident scenes and outlying hospitals. The **Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS)** estimates that the air medical community conducts nearly 650,000 air medical transports in the **US** each year. The medical flight crew consists of a pilot; specially trained nurses, emergency medical technicians, and respiratory therapists; and, in some instances, emergency-medicine-trained physicians. Medical flights may also be staffed by *organ transplant specialists*, who rush human organs to people who desperately need a transplant. MFWs

fly in specially equipped helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft—sometimes called “emergency rooms with wings.” They are on call 24-hours a day and are only grounded in the instance of bad weather that might put their own lives in danger. *Successful medical flight workers are extremely calm under pressure, organized, able to work as members of a team, and committed to providing top-flight care to injured or ill people*. For more information on these exciting careers, contact the following organizations: **AAMS** (703/836-8732, www.aams.org) and **National Association of EMS Physicians** (800/228-3677, naemsp@goAMP.com, www.naemsp.org).

(*CNN.com, Association of Air Medical Services, www.aams.org*)

Punctuation and Grammar Matter on Resumes

Eighty-four percent of executives surveyed by Office Team, a staffing service company in Menlo Park, California, say that a single typographical error on a resume will disqualify a job candidate from consideration. Those surveyed also stressed that job seekers need to conduct more than a cursory spell-check of their resumes—reading it at least several times before submission to hiring managers. It also is a good idea to have friends and family read your resume and cover letter to ensure that they are error-free.

(*Office Team*)

Mayor Says No to “I Don’t Know” and Other Excuses

Alexander Kuzmin, the mayor of **Megjan, Russia**, has decided to combat the “can’t do” spirit of many of his workers by banning more than 25 phrases. Some of the banned phrases include “I can’t,” “I don’t know,” “It’s not my job,” “It’s impossible,” “I’m having lunch,” and “I was away/sick/on vacation.” *The mayor believes that eliminating these phrases will improve worker-efficiency and job performance*.

(*Associated Press, September 5, 2007*)

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The CAM Report is published bimonthly September through May, and monthly in June and July. Annual Subscription Rate: \$75 in the US.

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