

Forensic Nursing - Excellence



Jane Ruddy

Leicestershire, England

Work Setting: School of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, De Montfort University, UK Leicester, England, United Kingdom

After qualifying in the UK as a Registered General Nurse in 1988, Dr. Jane Ruddy has since gained experience and expertise in general medicine, critical care, research, and education. In 1997, Jane was shortlisted for a UK Nursing Times Award for her work in forensic nursing science. In 1998, she became the first nurse to take a sabbatical with the Coroner's Office in Charleston, South Carolina. These early influences prompted Jane to complete a PhD on the "Meaning of Being a Nurse Involved in the Work of Death Investigation: An American view and Its Implications to the UK." Jane's important work has led to a difference in the care of the vulnerable, deceased, and their families in the UK.

Jane's accomplishments include:

- Establishing the first postgraduate course for custody nurses taking on much of the Forensic Medical Examiners role in police stations;
- Developing a training course for Medical Examiners for the Department of Health and Royal College of Pathologists following the Government's reform of the death investigation process;
- Recommending updates to the National Policing Improvement Agency's National Exhumation Protocol;
- Leading the evaluation of a multi-country, multi-agency, contaminated mass fatality exercise in preparation for the UK Olympic Games;
- Chairing the curriculum development of the first MSc Post Mortem Radiology Natural and Forensic Death Investigation at the University of Leicester to replace invasive autopsy;
- Receiving the Honorary Senior Lecturer award for contributions to teaching and forensic nursing within the East Midlands Forensic Pathology Unit, University of Leicester;
- Being honored as the Chao Tzee Cheng Visiting Professor awardee in Forensic Science (Nursing) at the National University of Singapore.

Jane's groundbreaking work continues. She is currently:

- Developing an accreditation system for the International Society for Forensic Radiology and Imaging to standardize worldwide the education regarding noninvasive autopsy;
- Advising curriculum development in Wildlife Forensics at the University of Leicester; and
- Assisting the Pathology and Anthropology Working Group of the INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification Steering Group in drafting the standards for religious perspectives involving tissue and body retrieval and repatriation following mass disasters.