Letter From the Incoming NAME President

Kim A. Collins MD FCAP
NAME President 2018

Dear members of NAME,

As we close out 2017 and press forward into 2018, we leave behind a year of national turmoil, world tragedies and changes, and our own profession still evolving. What is exciting, in the midst of what some may view as utter chaos, is the fact that we, as forensic pathologists and medicolegal death investigators, are in a prime position to direct many changes in our favor.

We have a very strong membership of committed individuals, dedicated and active committees, a cohesive Board of Directors, and an Executive Committee prepared to facilitate and steer NAME.

What I have learned over the years, working with organized medicine is the importance of communication. Communication is a dialogue that goes two ways: advocate and inquire. To advocate, one must put forth his or her opinions and support those opinions with experience, facts, and proven examples. The other half of communication is to inquire: to listen, ask questions, and invite opinions. If the two parts of communication are not in balance, the message cannot be delivered nor received as intended.

This issue of *Academic Forensic Pathology* is about advocacy. Advocacy for children, law-enforcement, the public, death investigation, and forensic pathology.

gy. As advocates, the authors are educating the reader, conveying opinions with a solid foundation. You will see how this issue supports such important topics. As the reader, I ask that you listen and inquire. Ask questions, spark dialogue, and use this issue as part of your support to go forward and advocate for our profession. To be valued, we must be seen. And to be seen, we must be heard. Whether we are meeting with local lay groups or agencies, writing letters to congress or your governor, or assisting with legislation and bills in Washington, DC, if we do not advocate for our profession, no one will.

With the forensic pathologist shortage, opioid crisis, lack of adequate funding in our workplace, and other areas that continually beat upon us, we are the ones to step up, center ourselves, and be heard! Together, we can and will make positive change! I look forward to working with each and every one of you during my term in 2018. We will advocate, we will be heard, and we will make change!