

The Honorary Graduand: Jason Payne-James

Doctor of Science

Jason Payne-James LLM MSc MB BS FFFLM FRCS FRCP FCSFS FFCFM(RCPA) FACLM
RCPATHME LBIPP DFM DipMOD

John Jason ('Jason') Payne-James is a forensic physician and a specialist in forensic & legal medicine. He was born in Suffolk and educated at Ipswich School before qualifying in medicine from the London Hospital Medical College, University of London. After qualification he became an anatomy demonstrator, before undertaking training posts in emergency medicine, acute medicine, orthopaedics and trauma, surgery and gastroenterology. He worked at various hospitals including Westminster Hospital, the Whittington Hospital, the Royal Free Hospital and Central Middlesex Hospital in London, UK. His research interests initially included gastroenterology and nutrition.

He developed an interest in clinical (living) forensic medicine and became a forensic medical examiner for the Metropolitan Police, London, UK in 1990. He became established as a forensic physician and has had postgraduate education at the University of Glasgow, University of Wales and University of Ulster. He was founding editor-in-chief of the Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine. He was one of the first specialists in forensic & legal medicine recognised by the UK General Medical Council. He is Honorary Clinical Professor

at Queen Mary University of London; adviser for the UK National Crime Agency; President of the European Council of Legal & Forensic Medicine; Co-Chair of the Scientific Committee of the International Association of Forensic Sciences, 2026; and director of Forensic Healthcare Services Ltd. He was President of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians, (2015-2017); Chair, UK Scientific Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal Weapons (2019-2025); President, World Police Medical Officers (2011-2014) and Lead Medical Examiner at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (2019-2025).

His clinical, research and academic interests include documentation and interpretation of injury; evidential sampling; sexual assault; non-fatal strangulation; restraint and less-lethal systems; miscarriages of justice; healthcare in custody and secure settings; death

investigation; substance use; human rights abuses and torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; determining cause of death. His medicolegal and expert witness practice extends across the UK and internationally and has supported investigations into miscarriages of justice (including the cases of Alexander Monson, Jiah Khan and Ali Kololo).

He has co-authored or co-edited the Encyclopedia of Forensic & Legal Medicine (1st, 2nd, 3rd editions); Simpson's Forensic Medicine (13th, 14th and 15th editions); Oxford Handbook of Forensic Medicine (1st and 2nd editions); Current Practice in Forensic Medicine (1st, 2nd and 3rd editions); The Medical Examiner System in England & Wales: A Practical Guide; Symptoms & Signs of Substance Use (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th editions); and Forensic & Legal Medicine: Clinical & Pathological Aspects amongst others. He has contributed to or presented broadcast media programs, podcasts and documentaries on forensic matters (including 999 Murderer Calling; Fatal Addiction; Autopsy: The Last Hours of... ; Jack the Ripper: the Case Reopened; Mummy's Little Murderer); and Alo Ngata; Unascertained. His interests outside medicine are art, offshore sailing, books, theatre, film, food and wine.