We investigate familial causes of sudden cardiac death. Our mission is to improve risk assessment in families after a sudden death has occurred.

We focus on decedents from age 1 to age 40. In selected subjects, we perform whole genome sequencing. We work with you to guide families to appropriate clinical and genetic follow-up without additional cost to coroners.

We work with medical examiners, coroners, and pathologists around the country. Our team includes clinicians, researchers, and genetic counselors at Northwestern University and Lurie Children’s Hospital.

AUTOPSY CHECKLIST

If ALL of the criteria are marked ELIGIBLE

1. Fill 3 purple-top EDTA tubes from the kit provided.

2. Mail the kit back to us in the pre-paid FedEx container.

3. Eligible if age is 1-40 years

4. NOT eligible if death was due to trauma

5. NOT eligible if coronary artery disease was the clear cause of death

6. NOT eligible if primary cause of death is thought to be drug-related

7. NOT eligible if a cause of death outside the heart was found

If ANY of the criteria are marked NOT ELIGIBLE

1. Autopsy Checklist

2. Contact us

3. Eligibility criteria

4. Collection of DNA

5. Collaboration

CONTACT US:
312.227.2525
labs.feinberg.northwestern.edu/webster
NO COST. NO EQUIPMENT.
There is no cost to your office to participate in this collaboration.

We will send you pre-paid mailing kits. Kits contain purple-top EDTA sample tubes for post-mortem blood collection. We will provide a FedEx container to ship the sample back to us.

FOR FAMILIES: CLINICAL CARE
We want to assist families while advancing research. We will ask for permission to contact the family in order to explain current guidelines for clinical follow-up after a sudden cardiac death episode (Priori et al. *Heart Rhythm* 2013). We will also help connect the family with a local clinician, if possible.

GENETIC RESULTS
We will send a written report of clinically-actionable genetic variants back to your office. Families who consent to receive results can also receive this information. These will not be CLIA-certified results and verification may be required before the results can be used for clinical care.

How does this collaboration work?

**MEDICAL EXAMINER/ CORONER’S OFFICE**

1. Identify cases using checklist
2. Collect blood sample

**NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY**

1. Hold preliminary sample
2. We will call for final histology and toxicology results

**AT TIME OF AUTOPSY**

- Use kit (provided)
- Ship sample using FedEx label (provided)

**Clinically relevant genetic variants will be reported back to the coroner**

- If histology and toxicology confirm sudden cardiac death, perform whole genome sequencing