



# **Institute of Forensic Medicine, Ministry of Justice Press Release**

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## **Joint press conference for contract signing of the Institute of Forensic Medicine, Ministry of Justice commissioning National Taiwan University to conduct a PMCT assisted examination and autopsy program**

In order to implement the resolution of the National Affairs Conference on Justice Reform and to achieve the goal of technological legal policy, Minister Tsai of the Ministry of Justice reached an agreement with the Institute of Forensic Medicine of the Ministry of Justice and the National Taiwan University (NTU) to commission the latter to conduct Post-mortem computed tomography (PMCT) to assist in the examination and autopsy program, holding a press conference for cooperation agreement signing on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 10:45 A.M. in the First Meeting Room of the College of Medicine of National Taiwan University. Minister of Justice Ching-hsiang Tsai, Dean of NTU College of Medicine Yen-Hsuan Ni, and Superintendent of National Taiwan University Hospital Ming-Shiang Wu were all present to deliver speeches. Also presented to witness the

ceremony includes the Prosecutor General of the Supreme Prosecutors Office Tai-Chao Hsing, the Deputy Minister of Justice Ming-tang Chen, the Deputy Minister of Justice Chin-Chun Lin, the Chief Prosecutor of the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office Tou-Hui Chang, the Chief Prosecutor of the Taiwan Taipei District Prosecutors Office Ban-Liang Lin, the Chief Prosecutor of the New Taipei District Prosecutors Office Yu-Tseng Mao, the Chairman of the Department of Medical Imaging of the National Taiwan University Hospital Shyh-Jye Chen, the Professors of the Graduate Institute of Forensic Medicine of National Taiwan University Chun-I Lee, Ching-Hua Chiu, Chia-Tung Shun, Mu-Zon Wu, as well as Assistant Professors Chin-Chen Chang and Guan-Yuan Chen. The agreement was signed by Kuan-Ren Hou, Director of the Institute of Forensic Medicine, and Te-I Weng, Director of the Graduate Institute of Forensic Medicine of National Taiwan University, under the witness of Minister Tsai, Prosecutor General Hsing, Dean Ni, and Superintendent Wu.

This press conference is the result of two years of planning and trial operation between the Institute of Forensic Medicine and National Taiwan University on cross-field cooperation between forensic medicine and medical imaging, and it is expected to establish one forensic computed tomography (CT) imaging center each in Northern, Central and Southern regions of Taiwan next year. For the future judicial examination cases, with the consent of the prosecutors, the Institute of Forensic Medicine will appoint special personnel to transport the corpse to CT centers in various regions for scanning. The cases in the northern region will be sent to the Forensic Imaging Center of National Taiwan University College of

Medicine for scanning, and the cases in the central and southern regions will be scanned after being sent to the local forensic medical examiners for examination. Since the Institute of Forensic Medicine still needs to train forensic medical examiners with expertise in image interpretation, the initial phase of image interpretation will be conducted by forensic computed tomography experts at the Forensic Imaging Center of the National Taiwan University College of Medicine. Through the cooperation of government and academia, it is hoped to better assist the forensic medical examiners to determine the cause of death more precisely.

Minister Tsai said in his speech that National Taiwan University Hospital is one of the leading domestic medical centers, while the Graduate Institute of Forensic Medicine of the NTU is the only forensic education institution in Taiwan. The Ministry of Justice has been in close discussion with the Graduate Institute of Forensic Medicine of National Taiwan University during the communication process of the study of the forensic system. Through our collaboration with National Taiwan University, the “PMCT Assisted Examination and Autopsy Program” will not only improve the quality of forensic identification in Taiwan, it has also resulted in cross-field cooperation between the forensic medicine and medical imaging, all of which have achieved the goals of the a more technologically-advanced Ministry of Justice and the implementation of judicial human rights protection. Forensic CT will be officially launched next year: One forensic CT each will be set up in the northern, central and southern regions of Taiwan, with the site for the central region being Chong-De Hall of the Mortuary Services Office, Taichung City and that of

the southern region being the First Funeral Parlor of the Mortuary Services Office, Kaohsiung City. The quality of forensic identification will be in line with the world's advanced countries, completing an important project of making the Ministry of Justice more technologically advanced, and representing the Ministry of Justice's determination to carry out judicial reform.

Dean Ni of NTU College of Medicine explained that due to the radiation-related processes involved in PMCT, the autopsy site of this project will be moved from the funeral parlors to the hospitals. This is not only a milestone in the cross-field cooperation between forensic medicine and medical imaging, but also in agreement with the world trend. The collaboration between the National Taiwan University and the Institute of Forensic Medicine of the Ministry of Justice on forensic CT is the beginning of joint cooperation between law and medicine, as well as the best example of cooperation between government and academia. It is hoped that there will be more cooperation in the field of forensic medicine in the future, so that we can jointly establish a perfect forensic system and implement the protection of judicial human rights.

Superintendent Wu of National Taiwan University Hospital said, "The cooperation between the National Taiwan University and the Institute of Forensic Medicine, Ministry of Justice not only increases the rigor of the examination, but also shows respect and relief to the deceased and their families." He looks forward to collaborating on New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) areas in the future, as well as exploring more milestones in cooperation between legal affairs and medical care.

To express its appreciation that National Taiwan University cooperated with the Institute of Forensic Medicine, Ministry of Justice in conducting PMCT and assisting in the examination and autopsy program, Minister Tsai of the Ministry of Justice presented a certificate of appreciation to the National Taiwan University. It is expected that both sides will work together to improve the quality of forensic identification, strengthen the forensic system, and implement the resolution of the National Affairs Conference on Judicial Reform to protect judicial human rights.