

# ***Health and Safety Rules for Students in the Anatomy Laboratory***

*There are some rules that are enforced for the safety of the staff and students, while others are concerned with the need for care and respect of the prosection material.*

## **General courtesies**

- Students are required to attend **each lecture and the assigned tutorial/laboratory class** unless given special permission. Provision of an appropriate medical certificate to the course authority will be required for any Special Consideration.
- You may **enter and view** specimens in the Gross Anatomy Laboratory **only** in the presence of your tutor and/or during your designated tutorial/laboratory class hours. You are **not permitted** to take visitors into the Gross Anatomy Laboratory.
- **The use of electronic device is strictly forbidden** in the laboratory unless you are acting under the direction of an Academic Staff member.
- **Photography of any teaching materials in the anatomy laboratory is strictly forbidden.**

## **Health and Safety Rules**

*A detailed risk assessment for student activities in the Gross Anatomy Laboratory is provided in your course handbook/practical manual.*

When in the Gross Anatomy Laboratory, you are required to:

- **always put on your laboratory coat** when you enter the lab. If you have forgotten to bring your lab coat, purchase a disposable coat from vending machine on the ground floor in Biological Sciences (D26) building or the Union shops on campus. Lab coats must not be worn in the hall or anywhere outside the laboratories.
- **wear covered shoes that completely enclose your feet (including heel and dorsum of the foot)**, never thongs or sandals.
- **wear gloves** when touching wet specimens (gloves are provided).
- **never eat or drink.**
- **never put anything in your mouth.** For example, pens or pencils that you may have picked up from the table.
- **avoid inhaling** preservative solutions for prolonged periods. If you feel in need of fresh air, ask permission to leave the laboratory for a few minutes.
- **report all accidents** or incidents immediately to a staff member for assessment without exception. Injuries involving sharps or needle-stick will require a blood test as soon as possible.

At the end of your laboratory class:

- **cover wet specimens** with the towels provided. Make sure that towels do not hang over the edge of the table, because this allows fluid to drip onto the floor. Fluids on the floor are a major safety hazard and should be reported to staff immediately.
- **replace stools** under the tables in your cubicle.
- **remove your gloves** and dispose in the biowaste bins provided.
- **wash your hands** and instruments thoroughly with the soap provided and dry your hands with the paper towel.
- **remove your laboratory coat** when you leave the anatomy laboratory.

### **Preservative solution**

There are 3 main chemicals used as preservation fluids in the Gross Anatomy Lab:

**phenoxyethanol** (2% in solution); **methylated spirits** (10%) and **formalin** (5%)

The material safety data sheets (MSDSs) for these chemicals are located in the dissecting room, ask a staff for assistance. Most anatomy specimens are stored in 2% phenoxyethanol, which is classified as relatively non-toxic, the brain tissues are stored in 10% methylated spirits. You should always wear gloves when handling specimens and must avoid ingestion of this chemical and contact with your skin or eyes. Some undissected prosection may be stored in 5% Formalin. Women of reproductive years, and especially those who know they are pregnant, should note that all of these are suspected human reproductive and developmental toxins and therefore may pose a hazard to the unborn child. In addition, formalin (**formaldehyde** solution) is a human carcinogen. Avoid these chemicals coming into contact with your eyes and skin and they should not be ingested. Formaldehyde is reported to cause allergic skin and respiratory effects. The potential for adverse health effects, however, is markedly reduced at the concentrations used for embalming and storage of specimens in the Gross Anatomy Laboratory, i.e., the "formalin" solution is 5% of a 37% solution of formaldehyde. The teaching spaces are well ventilated using a combination of air extraction and conditioning to ensure the level of chemical fumes are kept well below the acceptable health and safety levels.

### **First Aid**

Anatomy Laboratory staff can provide First Aid during office hours and a list of other safety personnel is located beside the building lifts. First Aid Kits are located on the bench near the computers in each laboratory (look for the green cross). All incidents must be reported.

### **Emergency evacuation**

In the case of a fire or other emergency the evacuation alarm will sound. When it sounds for the first time this indicates that everyone should get prepared in case it is necessary to evacuate. When it sounds for the second time, an announcement will be made over the speaker system - **follow these instructions**. Staff will be on hand to supervise any evacuation. There are two emergency exits for the laboratory, please follow the instructions given by the Anatomy Staff. Do **not use the lifts**. The evacuation assembly area is the landscaped space immediately to the east of the Chancellery and adjacent to the Clancy Auditorium. **Do not assemble anywhere else** and do not leave this area until instructed.

### **Additional Safety Information**

If additional safety information is required, you can ask the course convenor or the Gross Anatomy Laboratory Manager (Mrs Nikol Herrera Vranova).

## Care and respect of prosected material

You are learning from human material prepared from people who have generously donated their bodies for the benefit of science. Skilled staff members have dissected the specimens to allow you, the student, to see anatomical structures in fine detail. Apart from caring for the specimens, it is important for all students learning Anatomy to have and show **utmost respect** for the specimens at all times, in the Gross Anatomy Laboratory, and in the Anatomy Museum (Room G09). **Great care** should always be exercised when handling specimens, in order to preserve their delicate structure.

### Some specific points:

- **Always use only blunt forceps** to handle specimens and **probes** to point to structures, i.e. **never pull** at any parts of the specimen.
- It is **illegal** for any anatomical material to be removed from the premises of the Department of Anatomy for any purpose whatsoever (except of course, for the funeral). All anatomy specimens are micro-chipped for identification and record keeping.
- Photography and video recording are not permitted in the Gross Anatomy Laboratory, or the Anatomy Museum.

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Reviewed by Nalini Pather:

23 February 2017, 23 February 2018

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12 January 2024