

LABORATORY CONDUCT & CARE

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES

CONDUCT IN THE LABORATORY

1. It should be remembered that as a medical student, you are specially privileged to be able to dissect the human body. A large proportion of the cadavers in this room were willed to the Medical School so that you may learn the structure of the body and thus be able to treat the sick. **THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE GIVEN OF THEMSELVES SO THAT YOU MAY LEARN.** Please respect the material that you are dissecting and always wear clean coats.
2. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY HUMAN MATERIAL BE REMOVED FROM THE LABORATORY.** Questions of public and legal relationships are involved. For the same reasons, visitors are denied entrance to the laboratory unless they have specific permission from the Chairman or a Faculty member of the Department of Anatomy.
3. **GENERAL CLEANLINESS** We ask your cooperation in maintaining cleanliness in the laboratory. The unique nature of your work requires this. Be sure that your hands are clean before using, door knobs, chalk boards, and audio-visual materials. Disposable gloves should always be worn while dissecting. Clean your dissecting tables at regular intervals and dispose of scalpel blades in appropriate red containers. Do not leave your belongings, such as lab coats, books instruments, etc. scattered around the laboratory. Launder your lab coat when necessary.
4. **DISPOSAL OF WASTE** All scraps of human anatomical material should be placed in the appropriate containers provided. Loose fatty immediately and the floor mopped immediately.
5. **FIRST AID** Any cut or small injury should be attended to promptly and thoroughly washed with soap and water. An instructor should be notified of any accident.
6. **CARE OF SKELETONS, MODELS, AND AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS** Handle models and skeletons with extreme care. These items are fragile and expensive and, in some cases, not easily replaced. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU DISFIGURE/ DISARTICULATE THE MOUNTED SKELETONS.** Do not handle these materials with soiled or greasy hands. Please report any damage of teaching materials to the Anatomical Curator. Plastic models and other audio-visual aids must not leave the Gross Anatomy Laboratory.
7. There will be **NO SMOKING, DRINKING, EATING IN THE LABORATORY.**

CARE OF THE CADAVER

Students assigned to a cadaver are held responsible for its care once the dissecting program has commenced. The following methods for preservation of dissected specimens have been found to be successful and should be strictly followed:

1. Whenever possible preserve the skin and superficial fascia, as these are ideal covering for the part under dissection.
2. Never expose more of the cadaver than necessary for study. Keep the remainder, especially dissected area, covered with moist cheesecloth. The cheesecloth is provided by the Anatomical Curator.
3. While dissecting, keep the part moist, (but not soggy) by spraying with a wetting solution which will be available in the laboratory.
4. When leaving at the end of the day make certain that all parts are properly wrapped in wet cheesecloth and that the table lids are closed and latched as applicable. Cadaver tissue should remain inside the closed table at all times.
5. Periodically inspect the entire cadaver for fungus growth. This occurs only occasionally but should be reported to the Anatomical Curator when noticed so that proper measures may be taken.

DO NOT JEOPARDIZE YOUR WORK NOR WASTE THIS IMPORTANT MATERIAL BY NEGLECTING TO FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS.



Nicole Bennett

Anatomical Curator

School of Medicine
& Health Sciences

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