

Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine

Gross Anatomy Lab Manual



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Introduction

The Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine is committed to the ethical treatment of body donors provided for instructional and/or research purposes by ensuring that body donors are treated in a dignified, respectful, and professional manner. The opportunity to study anatomy using human specimens is a privilege made possible by the anonymous donors and their families through willed body programs. By signing a Pledge of Respect form and joining anatomy laboratory sessions, you acknowledge the value of this opportunity and affirm this commitment by offering donor bodies and specimens the utmost respect and gratitude.

Purpose

The Gross Anatomy Lab Rules and standards have been established for the appropriate management and utilization of donor bodies and gross lab operations at the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine. The procurement, care, maintenance, use, and disposition of cadavers, the handling of hazardous chemicals and biohazardous waste, and the training regarding those procedures are conducted safely and respectfully in compliance with applicable national and state legal standards, and the requirements of the states/commissions that have oversight of the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine Gross Anatomy Laboratories. Violation of the rules and standards stated herein may result in disciplinary action in accordance with College policies and procedures.

Responsibility

Primary responsibility of the Gross Anatomy Lab resides with the Director of the Gross Anatomy Lab at each campus the College operates. The Director of the Gross Anatomy Lab is a member of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology. Please visit the [Gross Anatomy](#) webpage for contact information.

Rules and Standards

Security and Access

1. Individuals who have been given permission to access the Gross Anatomy Laboratories are required to sign and date the "Pledge of Respect" form. The signed form is an acknowledgement of the responsibilities of the person utilizing human cadavers for educational and/or research purposes and their commitment to treat donor bodies with utmost respect.
2. Only authorized personnel are permitted inside the laboratory facilities via electronic ID card. This includes all currently enrolled Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine students and authorized faculty/staff.
 - i) Authorized students, faculty, and staff must use their ID card to badge into the lab. Access to the lab is recorded in the College ID card access database.
 - ii) Sharing of the electronic ID card is not permitted. Do not share your ID with anyone to allow access to the anatomy lab.
 - iii) See [SOP AN.001 Card Access](#) to the Gross Anatomy Lab.
3. Students are not permitted to access the gross lab on their own; at least one other authorized student or faculty member is required to be present.

4. Visitors may not enter the lab at any time without an academic purpose. All visitors must have the prior permission of the Director of the Gross Anatomy Laboratory. Furthermore, any such visitors must be provided an orientation to the lab and always accompanied by authorized Burrell personnel while in lab.
5. Doors of the laboratory facilities must remain securely closed at all times.
6. Students, faculty, and staff will be made aware of the hours of the Gross Anatomy Lab by the Director of the Gross Anatomy Lab.

General Gross Anatomy Laboratory Rules

1. All lab materials must remain within the confines of the lab at all times and are not to be removed.
 - i) Removal of body tissues from the laboratory is strictly prohibited.
 - ii) Donors may not be removed from their assigned table at any time.
2. Attire and PPE
 - i) Long pants and closed-toe shoes are required in the lab at all times. Scrubs are recommended.
 - ii) Disposable gloves must be worn by any individual participating in or observing dissection. Disposable gloves are not to be washed or reused. Do not wear gloves outside the lab. Do not touch electronics, doorknobs, models, etc. with dirty gloves.
 - iii) Protective goggles or safety glasses are required when manual and electric saw are used in performing certain procedures.
 - iv) Contact lenses are not recommended because of possible irritation of the eye. Students are encouraged to use goggles or safety glasses if contact lenses are worn.
 - v) All personal protective equipment (PPE; gloves, safety goggles, etc.) must be removed prior to leaving the lab.
3. NO cell phones or imaging devices of any kind are permitted in the lab.
 - i) Recording of lab sessions or lab material in the Gross Anatomy Lab through photography, video, audio, phones, etc. is strictly prohibited.
4. Food and beverages (opened or unopened) are prohibited in the lab. Eating (including gum and hard candy), drinking, and applying cosmetics are not permitted in the lab.
5. Personal belongings shall be stored in lockers provided outside the lab and not in the lab.
6. Improper behavior in the lab will not be tolerated. Immediately report improper behavior to the faculty supervisor or the Director of the Gross Anatomy Lab. Unprofessional behavior in the laboratory will be documented and may result in dismissal from the gross anatomy lab or additional disciplinary action in accordance with College policies and procedures.

Care and Ethical Treatment of Human Anatomical Materials

1. The body donors must be treated with respect at all times in accordance with the Pledge of Respect and the College's Code of Professional Conduct.
2. The privacy of the donors must always be respected. Discussion of donor information is only permitted for academic and/or instructional purposes.
 - i) Any identifying information about the cadaver, including but not limited to ethnicity, age, appearance, identifiable characteristics is confidential and is not to be discussed or disclosed outside of the gross anatomy laboratory.
3. Anatomical materials, including human remains, plastic models, etc. may not be removed from the lab.

4. All anatomical materials, including donor specimens, must be properly cared for and maintained during lab usage.
5. All ID tags must always stay with their respective donor/specimen. If a tag becomes lost or damaged, notify the Director of the Gross Anatomy Lab or the Anatomy Lab Tech immediately.
6. Any suspicion of tissue deterioration such as decomposition or mold must be reported to the Director of the Gross Anatomy Lab or the Anatomy Lab Tech immediately.
7. Cadavers must be appropriately draped at all times. All regions not being studied must be draped.
8. Research - Students wishing to engage in research involving the donors must follow the appropriate procedures with the Office of Research. Additional consents may be necessary and may include the approval of the state/commission that has oversight of the gross anatomy lab.

Safety

1. All procedures are to be performed carefully to minimize the creation of splashes or aerosols.
2. Wash hands in the designated hand wash sinks before leaving the laboratory.
3. Sharps/blades
 - i) A high degree of precaution must always be taken with any contaminated sharp items, including needles and scalpels.
 - ii) After arming a scalpel blade, immediately notify all members of your dissection team, so that everyone is aware of the sharp object.
 - iii) If a blade becomes detached from the scalpel handle during a dissection, notify all members of the dissection team immediately, stop and attempt to retrieve the blade using forceps. If this is unsuccessful, close the body bag / dissection table, alert faculty and place a warning notice on the specimen.
 - iv) Do not wave or point with scalpels or other sharp objects. Always keep scalpels in plain view.
 - v) Broken glassware must not be handled directly by hand but must be removed by mechanical means such as a brush and dustpan, tongs, or forceps. Place in sharps waste containers for disposal.
4. Chemical Hazards
 - i) Embalming fluid is the primary source of fumes and odor in the anatomy laboratory. The Director of the Gross Anatomy Lab and the Anatomy Lab Tech maintain a list of chemicals used in the preservation of the body donors and is available upon request.
 - ii) Students who are pregnant, breast feeding, or uncertain of their current pregnancy status, may consider requesting reasonable accommodation for the gross anatomy lab coursework through the Office of Students Affairs.
 - (1) Students acknowledge and agree that any decision to participate in these activities is the decision of the student and that the College is not liable for any health-related concerns for those who choose to participate in the gross anatomy lab and related activities. All students are required to sign a Waiver and Release of Liability prior to entering the Gross Anatomy Lab.
 - (2) Any student who, for health-related reasons, is unable to participate in activities required by the curriculum that include a risk of exposure to hazardous chemicals or materials should notify the Office of Student Affairs in advance of the scheduled event.
5. Waste Disposal
 - i) All waste must be disposed of in its designated containers per direction of the Director of the Gross Anatomy Lab.
 - (1) Human material - the assigned tissue containers beneath each table
 - (2) Blades/sharps - sharps containers located throughout the lab

- (3) All other waste (gloves, paper towels, etc.) - regular trash can
6. Illness and First Aid
- i) If serious injury or illness occurs, dial 911.
 - ii) If you begin to feel ill, notify the faculty member or lab staff so that they may assist you.
 - iii) If you cut yourself then use direct pressure immediately applied with a clean paper towel directly on the laceration. Go to a nearby sink and flush the open wound with copious amounts of water. Apply additional direct pressure until the bleeding has stopped. If necessary, visit your primary care provider.
 - iv) A puncture wound should instead be made to bleed immediately to better wash out the wound. Go to a nearby sink, wash the puncture and repeat the process to encourage more bleeding. If necessary, visit your primary care provider.
 - v) Report ALL injuries to the faculty supervisor and Director of the Gross Anatomy Lab and submit an **Incident Report**. All information is kept strictly confidential. Follow up with your primary care provider, if necessary.

Helpful Links

1. [Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology](#)
2. [Gross Anatomy Lab Webpage](#)
3. [Biological Safety Manual](#)
4. [Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan](#)
5. [Chemical Hygiene Plan](#)
6. [Spill Response Procedures](#)
7. [MSDSOnline](#)

Contact Information

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For any complaints regarding the anatomy lab, please contact the Director of the Gross Anatomy Lab. Environmental health and safety concerns can be directed to the College's Environmental Health and Safety Officer at 575-674-1761 or compliance@bcomnm.org.