

Changing Dimensions of Anatomy Teaching and Learning

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Dear Editor,

"*Mortui Vivos Docent*," which implies The Dead Teach the Living. This old-style statement is seen in numerous medical institutions concerning corpses, which are fundamental in getting Anatomy. Along these lines, it isn't shocking that Anatomy and analyzation have become synonymous¹. In any case, a large portion of the medicos and surprisingly non-medicos neglect to imagine the excellence of Anatomy, thinking it a DEAD subject.

Anatomy resembles a first letter set "A" for any medical or allied health student who begins their medical education. Without the knowledge on this foundation subject, the comprehension of the disease process becomes obsolete. In such manner, various Anatomists and fundamental subject researchers have colossally contributed and as yet adding to the tremendous knowledge of this subject. Undoubtedly the branches like Radiology, Nuclear medicine, and so forth, have their underlying foundations dependent on the fundamental information or roots based on the basic knowledge on Anatomy^{2,3}.

The historical backdrop of Anatomy traces all the way back to antiquated Egyptian progress, where there are slivers of proof of portrayal of different human organs. Due to the untiring endeavors of energetic anatomists, even with winning limitations over physical analyzations, they had the option to add to the development of the subject. In such manner, with the highest level of regard, we should bow our heads to age-old specialists who forfeited their lives in investigating the subject. It is even fascinating to know that people would travel to far-off places just to study anatomy. It was later in the 19th century the developmental anatomy/ embryology gained moment. And again, the study of embryology has gained momentum in the form of GENETICS, where the disease factor and even its therapy have gone to the

gene level. With modern technology, we have various assisted reproduction techniques which are helping humanity. The role of embryology/ anatomists is off course, significant in this noble technology^{4,5}.

Now there is a paradigm shift from gross anatomy towards molecular biology. Even the researchers are focusing at the cellular & molecular level for a better understanding of human anatomy and, in turn, the disease process. In this modern era, with advanced technology and collaboration with other departments, there have been revolutionary discoveries going on in this field. To mention a few, we have a demonstration of lymphatics in the brain, proposal of the mesentery as an organ, new pair of salivary glands have all given new dimensions in the understanding and treatment of diseases⁶.

During COVID 19 lockdown there was significant pause in teaching and learning anatomy. Thanks to modern technology, which aided the stakeholders with innovative tools like 3D software and stimulators etc. Many institutes had declined cadaver acceptance in view of covid crisis, in long run this can result in reduced availability of cadavers for teaching. The advanced technologies like virtual dissection table, synthetic cadavers, complete anatomy studio etc can complement to overcome the shortage of cadavers in learning anatomy across the globe. Gross anatomy and even embryology have been made accessible by creating various animations to understand development better. Using virtual platforms, Anatomy teachers are serving their best to teach the much complicated yet essential anatomy to budding doctors⁷.

Also, despite various shortcomings and with RESEARCH as passion, anatomists are contributing significantly to the field of surgery and orthopedics, which will aid in treatment options and the betterment of humanity and the advancement of humankind.

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