

Reviving The Anatomic Past

Breathing New Life into Historic Anatomical Teaching Tools

Authors

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Findings

- Specimen, models and illustrations that relate unique pedagogical value and historical insights into the teaching of human anatomy were selected for inclusion into our online historic anatomy platform. These include normal and rare specimen displaying, for example, kidney anomalies (Fig. 1), inguinal herniation (Fig. 2), and life limiting developmental abnormalities (Fig. 3). These historic specimen are often unparalleled by modern teaching tools due to their rarity and modern surgical interventions².
- We invite students to experience the anatomy of the past. By breathing new life into these unique and rare teaching tools, the contemporary student can learn through the eyes of their yesteryear peers.
- This historic anatomy platform aligns with existing curricular elements at TCD and yields unique learning episodes to consolidate learning and enhance the student experience.

Impact

- This research will positively impact not only current and future students and teachers of anatomy but discussions surrounding historic teaching tools more broadly.

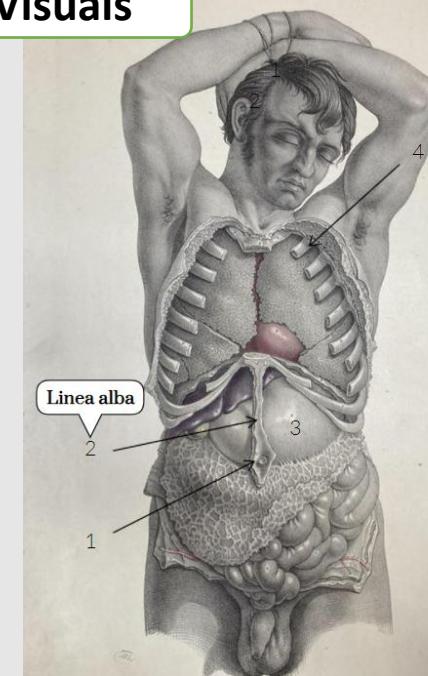


- This research will also resolve issues of provenance and help to immediate the overreliance by students on online search engines to source anatomical information⁴.

Aims

The Anatomy Museum at Trinity College Dublin (TCD) houses an extensive collection of historic teaching specimen, illustrations and models that retain extraordinary pedagogical value ¹. However, due to their delicate nature and potentially sensitive content, these specimen are rarely used for student learning. This project aims to rejuvenate these teaching tools for anatomy students at TCD by developing an interactive online platform which showcases their typical and unique perspectives of the human body, anatomical variations and insightful provenances.

Visuals



Thoracic and Abdominal Relations

Illustration 1

- 01 Superficial Dissection**
The superficial nature of this dissection enables us to appreciate the viscera immediately deep to the cutaneous and muscular coverings of the thoracic and abdominal walls. Note the proximity of the umbilicus and liver. Deep to the linea alba is the ligamentum teres and the paraumbilical veins; remnants of the left umbilical vein which carried oxygen and nutrient rich blood from the placenta to the fetal liver.
- 02 Xiphoid Process**
At what vertebral level is the tip of the xiphoid process?

Fig. 4. An excerpt from the Historical Anatomy Tool. The illustration exhibits the thorax and abdomen in superficial dissection. Students are asked to hover their mouse over numbered arrows to identify the anatomical structure. Accompanied by an outline of the illustrations' pedagogical significance.

Visuals



Fig. 1.

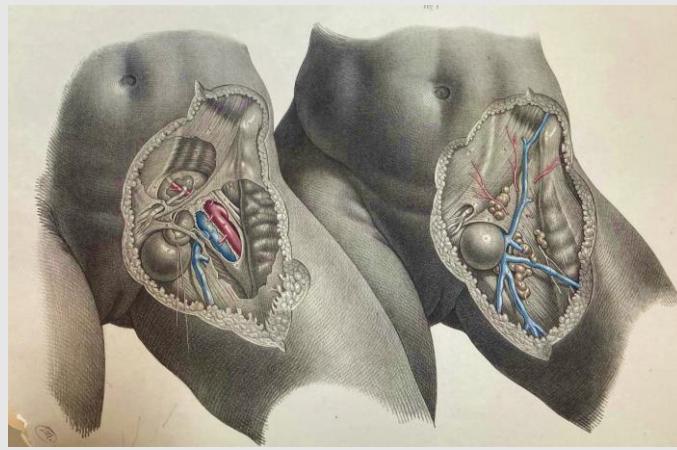


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

References

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