

MEDICAL STUDENT POLICY

Title: Anatomy Lab Policies and Procedures	
Relevant LCME Element(s): N/A	Last approved: 5/3/2023

I. **PURPOSE**

Outlines guidelines regarding the use of cadavers and human body parts in the anatomy lab.

II. **PERSONS AFFECTED:**

Medical students, anatomy curricular leaders, educational deans

III. **POLICY AND PROCEDURE STATEMENT**

Feinberg students are required to abide by the following policy regarding the use of cadavers and human body parts for educational and research purposes:

https://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/compliance/docs/use_of_cadavers_and_body_parts.pdf

[Students will maintain a professional environment in the Anatomy Lab at all times. Students are expected to follow the below guidelines:](#)

- Treat the donors with respect, as if they were a loved one from your own family.
- No unauthorized photography is allowed in the lab.
- No food is allowed in the lab.
- Keep all areas clean and return all instruments and supplies to their proper location.
- Lab clothes should be professional, dignified, and protective. The disposable lab coats are mandatory.
- No visitors (outside of participants in formal approved FSM mentorship programs) are allowed in the anatomy lab to preserve the dignity and respect we have for the donors

Guidelines for the Use of Digital Images of Cadavers or Other Human Material obtained from the Anatomical Gift Association of Illinois

Approved by AGAI Executive Committee 3/31/2020

Several factors make it necessary for the AGAI to issue *Guidelines* to regulate use and storage of cadaver images.

1. The donors and their families did not explicitly consent to use of the cadaver material for anything other than education and research.
2. It is likely that the public would find both the images themselves and their public dissemination to be offensive, inappropriate, and upsetting.
3. Offense at public dissemination of cadaver images could result in significant negative reaction to, and damages to The Anatomical Gift Association of Illinois and all medical schools in Illinois. These damages could include:
 - a. decreasing public respect and confidence in the health professions;
 - b. decreasing donations;
 - c. legal liability.
4. Offense at public dissemination of cadaver images could also affect the responsible

individual, including negative impact on their professional reputation and career, as well as legal liability.

With these considerations in mind, the AGAI is issuing the following guidelines regarding the use of cadaver images.

1. All Universities/Colleges receiving materials from the AGAI should have a policy that:
 - a. refers to and is consistent with these *Guidelines*;
 - b. is approved by the University's/College's Office of Legal Counsel;
 - c. explicitly delineates appropriate collection, use and security of images of cadavers;
 - d. specifies that failure to strictly adhere to these policies may result in disciplinary action.
2. Electronic images can only be made with the knowledge of and under the guidance of an Instructor.
3. Electronic images can only be made using equipment provided by the University/College.
4. Electronic images must:
 - a. be transferred over a secure network
 - b. be stored on equipment and websites owned and/or administered by the University/College or its official designees (e.g., employees/instructors or agents), behind a firewall, encrypted, and password protected following the University/College policies;
 - c. have their access permissions set so as to prohibit download, transfer or copying.
5. Electronic images must only be accessible to current students or employees of the University/College who:
 - a. have a professional interest in the material;
 - b. have acknowledged in writing their understanding that the electronic images may be used only in the applicable course and in accordance with the University/College policies governing their use.

The following uses should NOT be allowed:

1. Making or transferring images of parts of cadavers that might be easily identifiable, including but not limited to undissected faces, scars, tattoos, and finger nails with nail polish;
2. Making or transferring images of cadavers to electronic devices not owned and/or under the immediate control of the University/College, including, but not limited to, students' phones, cameras, and iPads;
3. Making or transferring images of cadavers to electronic devices that are not password protected and encrypted.

IV. **APPROVING BODY:** Curriculum Committee