Dear Incoming First-Year Medical Students,

Congratulations and welcome to Medical School!

As Director of the Medical Gross Anatomy & Embryology course, I want to give you a heads-up on what to expect for the start of the course.

I speak for the faculty when I express our enthusiasm to help you build a strong foundation in anatomy and Embryology in order for you to be the best physician that you can be!

Anatomy and Embryology will begin this year with the course orientation on Tuesday, Aug 28th from 8:00 to 11:00 am (more on this in a moment). The first laboratory (dissection) will be Thursday, Aug 30th from 8 am to noon. The course finishes with exams on Friday of final exam week (Dec 14th).

Anatomy meets two mornings per week for 16 weeks. These meetings will be laboratory dissection. You will be expected to prepare for lab in your Independent Learning Time (ILT). The course management system called “Blackbag” will contain all necessary assets: pre-recorded lectures, lecture notes, etc. In addition, the textbooks for gross anatomy and embryology will be critical in this capacity. There will be many additional review sessions (lecture and lab) during the course.

The course provides the opportunity to learn every structure in the human body. In addition, it includes coverage of radiographic anatomy and Embryology. I am confident that you will find your courses interesting, challenging, and clinically relevant.

The Embryology course will consist of 13 lectures given throughout the semester. The course begins with a lecture from a physician on the importance of embryology in the practice of medicine. It then addresses first weeks of embryonic development. The next series of lectures cover the development of the various systems of the body. These are aligned with the Gross Anatomy that is being covered in the laboratory. The goal of the embryology course is to build a solid foundation of Embryology and explain the difficult definitive (adult) morphology discovered in dissections.

The Orientation session on Tuesday, Aug 28 will begin with an introduction to the Gross Anatomy & Embryology course and laboratory procedures/ regulations. One goal of the orientation is to provide you with an opportunity to have your questions answered regarding Gross Anatomy and Embryology. The course syllabus, grading, textbook requirements, etc will be covered.

There will also be an address from the Anatomy Bequest Program on the donor procurement process, as well as, your professional obligations and responsibilities of working with the generous donors. You will also pick-up your locker assignment and meet your three body buddies after the session.

In preparation for your first dissection, you will need to bring a few things.

First, you will need a change of clothes appropriate for dissection lab. This means, old clothes or scrubs, and old shoes to wear in the lab. Much of what you have heard about the fragrance of the
dissection lab is true. So bring clothes and shoes that you won’t mind parting-with after the course. You can store these clothes in your locker during the semester. You will be provided with lockers and locks – located on 5th floor of Jackson Hall.

Note that University Laboratory policy requires coverage of thighs, legs, and feet. Thus, you will not be allowed in the labs wearing shorts or open-toed shoes.

You will also be provided with dissection tools. Tools, lab notes, Anatomy Atlas, and Dissection Guide will be at your dissection table when you arrive for dissection.

Also, please plan to bring gloves to the first, and every lab. (Sorry, we do not have the personnel or time necessary to supply gloves for everyone). No latex please. Many individuals have strong allergies to latex gloves – anywhere, in any of the labs. For this reason, we do not allow latex gloves anywhere in any lab. We highly recommend nitrile gloves. Nitrile gloves provide the best protection for your hands.

Course Materials:

If there are any questions about the following materials, it will be quite acceptable to attend orientation before purchasing anything.

Books

Required:


   This text is required. It will be necessary to read this text to do well in the course - and to prepare yourself for the embryology component of the Step-I board exam. Any edition will be fine. The 12th edition might just be the best edition and the cheapest.


   An anatomical atlas is absolutely required for the study of anatomy. Each student should have one. For supplementation, this is also available as an E-Book through the Biomedical Library: [https://www.lib.umn.edu/get?url=https://www.clinicalkey.com%2F%23!%2Fbrowse%2Fbook%2F3-s2.0-C20100686068](https://www.lib.umn.edu/get?url=https://www.clinicalkey.com%2F%23!%2Fbrowse%2Fbook%2F3-s2.0-C20100686068)


   This text is required. It will be necessary to read this text to do well in the course. This is an awesome reference and will also be valuable as you prepare yourself for the Step-I board exam. In fact, it will be a valuable reference for your entire professional career.

Other course materials:

Lecture and Laboratory materials in Gross Anatomy and Embryology will be made available in both digital and hard copy.
The digital versions will be presented as an asset in each of the course sessions. It will also be presented as a comprehensive file. Both of these in Black Bag.

The hard copy collections of Gross Anatomy lecture and lab and also embryology lecture will be for sale in the University of Minnesota Bookstore in Coffman Union.

You will have access to Blackbag 10 days prior to the start of your fall courses.

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**** Please prepare for the start of the course by completing the following things !!! ***

All of the following are assets found in the course Blackbag session for Tuesday, Aug 28.

Please view the following videos.

1. “Lecture to introduce the Anatomy by Systems – put the pieces together”
   This is a series of very short videos and are excellent
   They serve as an introduction to all of the Anatomical systems of the body.

2. "Orientation to Dissection--Instruments & Techniques (AAMC)"
   This video was made for the Am Association of Medical Colleges and is used by many med schools.

3. “Anatomical Terms and Conventions”.
   This short video serves as an introduction to the Terms and conventions used immediately in the anatomy course.

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You might be eager to get started on other material. However, I would suggest simply flipping through your Netter Atlas, Clinical Anatomy text, and Embryology text to get comfortable with the organization.

We hope you have an excellent experience in your Anatomy studies!

See you in August,

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