

Departmental Policy

CADAVER and ANATOMICAL SPECIMEN USE

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Approval Authority Associate Dean, UME	
Implementation Authority Manager, UME	
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- Purpose** 1 Policy has been created to describe the Medical Doctor Program requirements of student behavior when dealing with the cadaveric anatomical specimens used in the MD Program.
- Scope** 2 This policy applies to all students and instructors involved with cadaveric and anatomical specimens in the Cumming School of Medicine.
- Definitions** 3 In this policy
- a. UME means the Undergraduate Medical Education program with the University of Calgary, Cumming School of Medicine
 - b. ATSSL means Advanced Technical Skills Laboratory with the University of Calgary, Cumming School of Medicine
 - c. Approval Authority means the office or officer responsible for approving Undergraduate Medical Education policy and procedures
 - d. Implementing Authority means the office and officer responsible for implementing Undergraduate Medical Education policies and procedures.
 - e. Cadaver and anatomical specimens refers to any human remains, whole or in part, that are prepared for study and examination as part of the anatomy or pathology training within the Cumming School of Medicine
 - f. MD – Medical Doctor

- Policy Statement** **4** The policy of the Cumming School of Medicine will be to treat donated specimens with respect at all times. Upon the first introduction to cadaver specimens in the Undergraduate Medical Program the policy and appropriate behaviors will be explained. As well, the following statement will be included in the Core Document of the MD Program. Photography of specimens is prohibited except for special situations outlined in section 5 below.
- Special Situations** **5** Photography can be allowed for the purposes of generating educational material (photos or videos) in accordance with the Alberta Human Tissue and Organ Donation Act provided the anonymity of the subject is protected and the Cumming School of Medicine has been assured of the disposition/use of the material.
- Approval will have to come directly from the faculty member(s) directly in charge of the Body Donation Program.
- Responsibilities** **6** **UME will ensure adherence to this policy.**
- Procedures** **8** Cadaver Handling and Treatment Policy – Undergraduate Medical Education
- At various times over the course of the medical education program educational events will involve the use of human cadaver and cadaveric specimens. These materials are utilized as a real life representation of human anatomical features including the inherent variation present in individuals making up any community. Although these cadavers and specimens serve as an important learning resource, it is critical that every student not lose sight of the source of these resources and how they come to be available within the program.
 - The cadaver and anatomical specimens utilized within the Cumming School of Medicine are provided through the gracious generosity of individuals from families in Southern Alberta who agree to have their remains used for educational purposes at the time of death. As such, ALL cadaver and anatomical specimens (including skeletal preparations, and individual organs) must be treated with the same regard and respect as would be appropriate for any patient (recognizing that these specimens represent an individual, like any other you may interact with during the course of your medical education).
 - Due to the requirements of demonstrating specimens for study, these individuals may be present in a manner that would be disturbing to their families or non-medical members of the general public. In order to protect everyone involved and to demonstrate our regard for these gracious individuals who have entrusted us with such sensitive and personal material, it is absolutely critical that no photographs be generated that include these specimens, even inadvertently. Therefore, the Cumming School of Medicine has the following strict regulations:
 - a. Not to leave specimens unattended: please replace as you found it.
 - b. Do not damage, alter or disrespect the cadavers and/or anatomical specimens.
 - c. Use gloves and proper attire when handling cadavers and/or anatomical specimens.

