



DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSIOLOGY, ANATOMY
AND GENETICS
Medical Sciences Division



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN ANATOMY

At the University of Oxford, human anatomy teaching is offered at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels within the [Medical Sciences Teaching Centre](#).

Oxford is one of the highest rated medical schools in Europe as ranked by both our own medical students

and also independently in, for example, the [recent GMC review](#) published in the last academic year.

We are proud of our Anatomy Department which is active in terms of undergraduate, postgraduate and allied health professional teaching.



UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

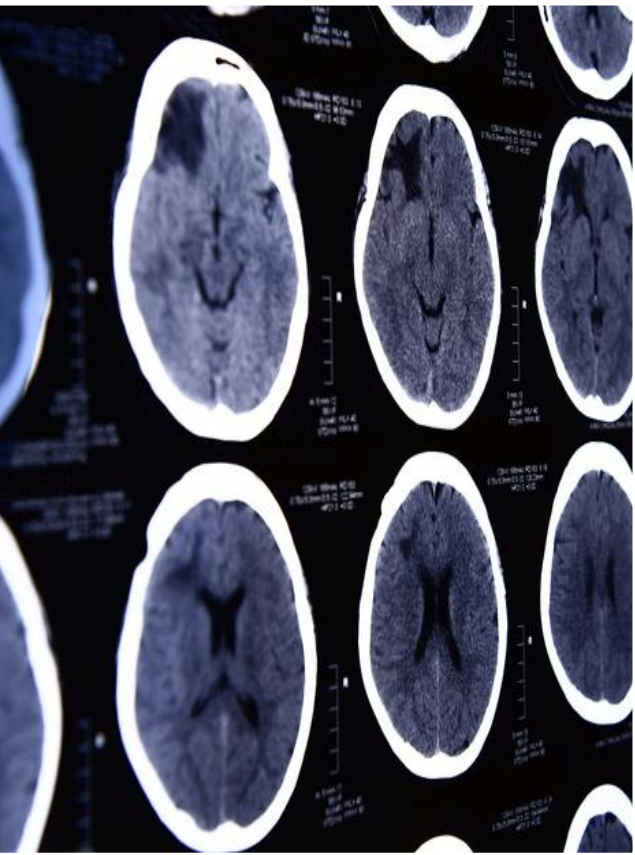
Our undergraduate teaching incorporates a wide range of modalities, both traditional and modern, to support many different learning styles.

Students learn anatomy in small groups from cadaveric prosections, both embalmed and plastinated, in the large

and well-equipped [Demonstration Room](#), located in the Medical Sciences Teaching Centre. We store a large collection of expertly dissected specimens from our own donor programme, which are used as teaching resources during gross anatomy and neuroanatomy classes throughout the year.



LIVING ANATOMY & RADIOGRAPHIC IMAGING



Prosection classes are complemented by “Living Anatomy” sessions, which take place in the seminar rooms adjacent to the Demonstration Room. During these sessions, anatomy is learnt through palpation and visually identifying structures on the surface of the human body. Learning is reinforced through the extensive use of radiography throughout the seminars, enabling students to interpret plain X-ray, MRI and CT images.



From 2015, ultrasound imaging will be used during these sessions, allowing students to gain experience and confidence in its use, whilst simultaneously supplementing their knowledge of anatomy. We believe that radiology is playing an increasingly more important role in the career of a junior doctor, and as such, we aim to provide specialist teaching in this area at the earliest stages of the students’ careers.

The Medical Sciences Teaching Centre also contains a number of [large laboratories](#), equipped with [microscopes](#), used for studying histology and embryology, in addition to a [Computer Assisted Learning Centre](#). Students can use this centre throughout the year to access online study material and test their knowledge in interactive quizzes. Our material is continually being revised and updated, to give us some of the best eLearning resources available.

The teaching programme at Medical Sciences Division is supplemented by Oxford's unique tutorial system, provided by the students' college tutors, in which individual attention is given to each student. During these sessions, students are encouraged to think more broadly, in an integrated manner, about topics they are learning, engage with contemporary and seminal papers of medical research and develop skills in critical analysis.



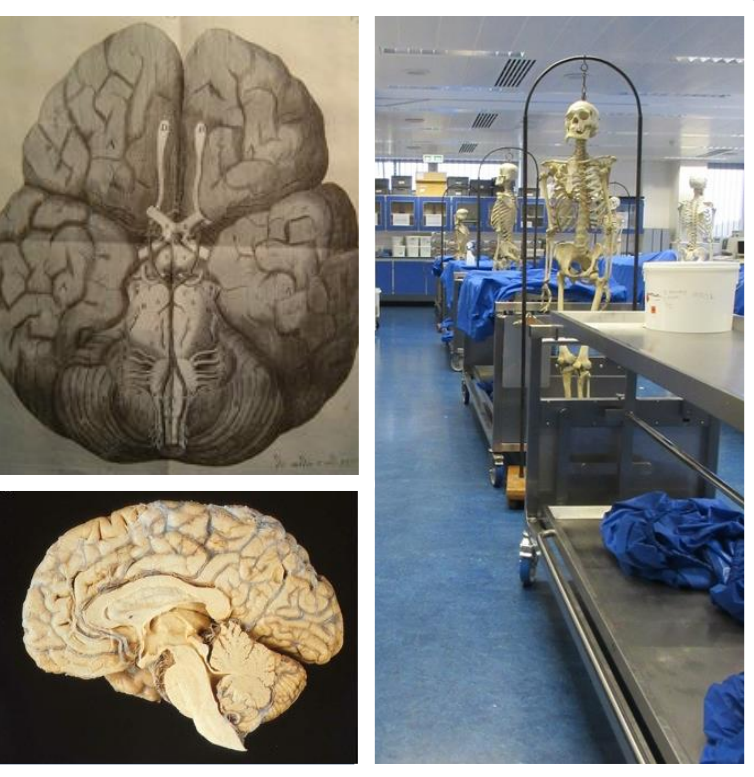
We are also proud to offer the use of our facilities for the undergraduate study of allied healthcare practitioners, including nurses, physiotherapists, osteopaths and more.

POSTGRADUATE COURSES

Postgraduate courses at anatomy department are focussed on developing surgical skills at all levels. We offer surgical level anatomy sessions for trainees in their first year studying for their MRCS examinations, where we have achieved a very high success



rate. We also offer basic surgical skills training, for skills such as suturing, to allow trainees to learn in an unhurried environment before putting their skills into practice in the operating theatre.



Our Demonstration Room is equipped to allow for fresh tissue dissection, and as a result, we can regularly host courses for consultant surgeons wanting to develop new surgical techniques, who are building their educational platforms. Some of the techniques recently developed in our facility will set new Gold Standards in patient care. We are currently acquiring surgical microscopes, which will enable the Demonstration Room to be readily transformed from an undergraduate teaching facility into a virtual surgical theatre.

For students who want to explore anatomy in greater detail, at any stage in their career, we offer the opportunity to undertake a variety of Special Study Modules, electives and other periods of study.

Examples of work recently completed by students include studies investigating:

- The variation of the anterior interosseous nerve.
- The blood supply of the coracoid process.
- The variability and consistency of the intra-articular stabilising ligaments of the shoulder joint.
- The course and function of the obturator externus tendon.
- The variability in the distribution of the facial nerve.





We are also pleased to announce that we are expanding on our range of external courses offered to postgraduate students and doctors. Recent examples of courses include:

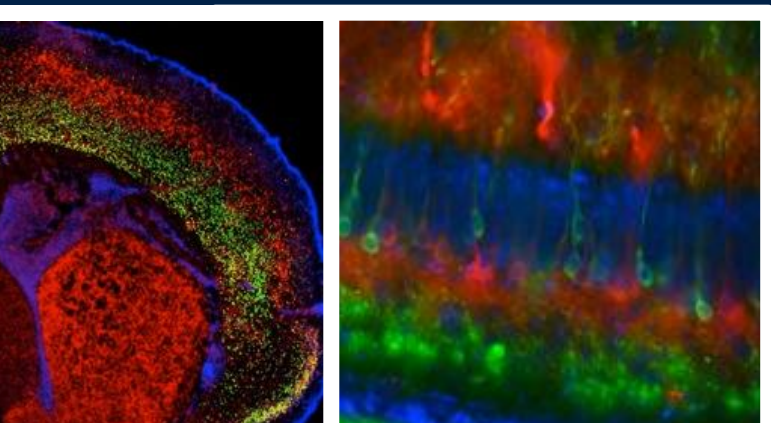
- Flaps courses for Plastic Surgeons.
- Advanced Knee Arthroplasty courses for Orthopaedic Surgeons.
- Base of Skull course for Maxillofacial & ENT Surgeons
- Gynaecology course
- Microscopic Anastomosis course for Plastic Surgeons.
- Total Ankle Replacement course for Orthopaedic Surgeons.

ANATOMICAL RESEARCH AT OXFORD

Anatomy is integrated into the research of a large number of research groups at Oxford. It is almost impossible to separate anatomy from other topics underlying medical science, including embryology, histology, molecular biology, genetics, neuroscience, systems physiology and endocrinology.

Institutions actively involved in research in anatomy at Oxford include:

- Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics
<http://www.dpag.ox.ac.uk>
- The Oxford Centre for Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Brain (FMRIB)
<http://www.fmrib.ox.ac.uk>
- MRC Brain Network Dynamic Unit
<http://www.mrcbndu.ox.ac.uk>
- Neuropathology and Ocular Pathology
<http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/services/departments/neurosciences/neuropathology>



We review the research interest of the staff who are particularly involved in anatomy education or if their post is specifically related to anatomy. Most preclinical teaching of anatomy is associated to the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics (<http://www.dpag.ox.ac.uk>)

- Dr Thomas Cosker (Director of Human Anatomy)
<http://www.dpag.ox.ac.uk/team/thomas-cosker>
- Professor Dame Kay Davies (Dr Lee's Professor of Anatomy)
<http://www.dpag.ox.ac.uk/research/davies-group>.
Previous holders of the Chair of Anatomy include Professor Ray Guillery, Professor Sir Wilfrid Le Gros Clark and Professor Arthur Thomson.
- Professor Jeremy Taylor (Preclinical Director of University of Oxford Medical School; Associate Professor of Human Anatomy)
<http://www.dpag.ox.ac.uk/team/group-leaders/jeremy-taylor>.
Responsible for the organisation of preclinical medicine teaching and directly responsible for a significant amount of teaching on all levels.
- Professor Zoltán Molnár (Professor of Developmental Neuroscience)
<http://www.dpag.ox.ac.uk/team/group-leaders/zoltan-molnar>.
Responsible for the organisation and running of neuroanatomy practical classes at Oxford since 2000. For a review, please see:
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25810129>)
- Professor Jo Begbie (Associate Professor of Developmental Biology)
<http://www.dpag.ox.ac.uk/team/group-leaders/jo-begbie>.
Involved in the organisation and running of neuroanatomy practical classes with Professor Zoltán Molnár.
- Professor Helen Christian (Associate Professor of Endocrinology)
<http://www.dpag.ox.ac.uk/team/group-leaders/helen-christian>.
- Professor John Morris and Professor Gillian Morriss-Kay (Active Emeritus Professors in Anatomy).

Find out more about the history of anatomy at The University at Oxford:
<http://www.dpag.ox.ac.uk/about-us/a-brief-history>
<https://history.medsci.ox.ac.uk/>

