

# HUNTERIAN COURSES IN CLINICAL ANATOMY



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Sir John Hunter, the eminent British anatomist, surgeon, physician to King George III, and founder of the Royal College of Surgeons, taught his students directly from the dissection table, demonstrating as he spoke. A devoted empiricist, he favored observation to book-learning and conceptualization to memorization. The founders of modern comparative anatomy in the English-speaking world, Hunter and his elder brother Dr. William Hunter, both taught Anatomy in London, and pioneered the use of

experimental animals in clinical medicine. Their extensive collection of specimens of different species, including fossils, is preserved in the Hunterian Museum in London. John Hunter's many and varied discoveries include the role of the lymphatics in the body, the anatomy of the placental membrane, the surgical repair of popliteal vein thrombosis (and the consequent naming of "Hunter's Canal"), the discovery of anastomosis between arteries, and the first anatomical description of the gibbon. He trained a generation of surgeons and physicians, including Edward Jenner, whose use of Hunter's experimental methods led to the discovery of vaccination against smallpox, and Sir Richard Owen, who became a paleontologist (coining the term "dinosaur"), published a posthumous volume of Hunter's writings, and became the first director of the British Museum (Natural History).

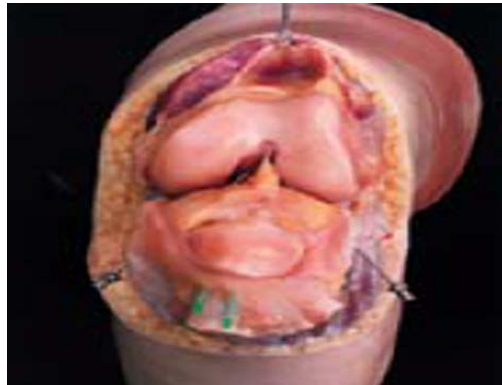
To honor John and William Hunter and to signal a return to first principles in medical education, the Center for Biomedical Education of the Integrative Centers for Science and Medicine will institute the Hunterian Courses in Clinical Anatomy. Courses will employ technologically modern medical educational innovations but will be dedicated to the time-proven teaching methods of small-group, observational, and conceptual learning used by Drs. John and William Hunter.

## STRUCTURE OF COURSES

Hunterian courses will be dissection-based instruction in advanced clinical anatomy for practicing surgeons and residents, lasting two to three days. They will carry CME credit appropriate to their length. A detailed curriculum will be planned in consultation with the sponsoring group. In general each course will begin with a detailed exposition of the anatomy to be studied in the course by the Course Director, Dr. Noel Boaz, an experienced clinical anatomist and professor of anatomy. The second part of the course will consist of presentation and practical demonstration of new surgical procedures of interest by an experienced surgeon chosen or identified by the sponsoring group or recruited, if desired, by ICSM. The third part of the course will be a practicum by course participants of new procedures learned. A collection of readings and an instructional video will be supplied to participants prior to the beginning of the course. Participants' own dissections and practica will be videotaped and made available to them at the end of the course.

Dissections will be performed on soft-embalmed cadavers<sup>1</sup> (Thiel 1994, 2002; Boaz and Anderhuber 2009), the first time that this method of embalming, developed in Austria, has been employed in the U.S. These specimens are comparable to fresh bodies, having no formaldehyde smell, life-like color, and tissue flexibility. This lattermost characteristic makes Thiel-embalmed specimens ideal for training in hand and foot surgery, where flexibility greatly facilitates dissection; plastic and maxillofacial surgery because skin, mucosa, and fasciae remain pliable and life-like; cardiac surgery because the heart and pericardium retain their tissue characteristics as in life, and laparoscopic surgery since the peritoneal cavity remains expandable and can be inflated with gas as in the living patient. Thiel-embalming confers comparable or superior antifungal, antibacterial, and

antiviral properties compared to traditional formaldehyde embalming. A dissected Thiel-embalmed knee joint is presented below in natural color.



## TOPICS OF COURSES

Any anatomical region and clinical specialty can be accommodated by a Hunterian course. Please contact us regarding developing a course for your practice, residency program, or medical school. Surgical courses that are prepared are the foot, hand, knee joint, hip joint, and shoulder joint. All cadaveric specimens are from donors to associated medical school willed-body programs or certified tissue supply organizations.

## COST OF COURSES

Tuition is dependent on course venue and regional anatomy covered, but will be inclusive of all course instructional materials, instruments, cadaveric specimens, accommodations with breakfasts and lunches, a video record of dissections, and CME credit. A minimum of ten participants must be registered for the course for it to be offered. The course can be offered in a setting of your choosing or can be arranged by ICSM.

To schedule a Hunterian Course at your venue call or e-mail Dr. Noel Boaz at 541-488-7926 or [noeltboaz@integrativemedsci.org](mailto:noeltboaz@integrativemedsci.org).

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<sup>1</sup> Thiel, W. 1994 *Die Konservierung ganzer Leichen in natürlichen Farben*. *Annals of Anatomy* 174:185-195.

2002 *Ergänzung für die Konservierung ganzer Leichen nach W. Thiel*. *Annals of Anatomy* 184:267-269.

Boaz, N.T., Anderhuber, F. 2009 *The Uses of Soft Embalming for Cadaver-Based Dissection, Instruction in Gross Anatomy, and Training of Physicians*. Amer. Assoc. Anatomists, Abstract 4453. New Orleans.