The Growing Role of the University of Michigan’s Plastination Lab in Offering Plastinated Specimens for Anatomy Education Over the Past Two Decades

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UM Plastination Lab History

• Established in 1989
  - Focus: providing plastinated human anatomical specimens to UM courses, and to other medical and health programs throughout the U.S.

• Educational mission outlined in 2004

• Cost for service
Mission of the UM Plastination Lab

I. Provide Plastinated Specimens to anatomy courses at the UMMS

II. Provide plastinated specimens to other departments within the University

III. Offer student research opportunities

IV. Conduct the Summer Science Academy and provide tours to visitors.
Plastinated Specimens
Student Involvement

• Offer research opportunities to medical and undergraduate students

• Growth in student participation:
  • Medical students (11)
  • Summer Science Academy (since 1999)
  • MedSOAR: Summer Opportunities for Apprenticeships in Research (14)
  • Undergraduate (55)
192 institutions received over 1,100 plastinated specimens for educational use
Completed Specimen Requests

Total number of specimens: 1,182

*Brains: any CNS specimen including heads and spinal cords
*Limbs: limbs, joints, hands, feet, pectoral girdle, pelvic girdle, and other appendicular skeletal specimens
*Whole Bodies: torsos and whole bodies
*Other Viscera: anything not included in given categories
*Lungs: includes lung slices
*Heart: includes aortas
Institutions That Received Specimens by State

Total number of Institutions: 192

*Overseas: Institutions outside of the U.S. before 2004
Requests Across the Nation

UM Plastination Laboratory

You are here

Total number of States: 36

1992
Plastinated Specimens per Year

Plastinated Specimens per Year

Plastinated Whole Bodies Completed per Year

The 10th International Interim Conference on Plastination - University of Toledo, OH
July 9th – 12th 2011
Future Expectations

- Facilitate anatomy comprehension
- Increase student involvement
- Conduct more symposia and seminars on the importance of plastinated specimens in anatomy education
- Loan more specimens to other institutions
- Use of plastinated specimens as an adjunct to dissection
Thank You!