Von Hagens Plastinated Specimen Use

Policy and Procedure

General Information

Plastination is the scientific process invented by Dr. Gunther von Hagens for preserving human tissue, organs and whole bodies by removing water and fat from the tissues and replacing them with certain polymers and resins, thus preventing decay.

The absence of liquid in the specimens prevents decomposition or bacterial growth. Unlike other anatomical specimens, Plastinates will never need to be re-treated and will never have a risk of drying out or attracting pests. Plastinated specimens are therefore permanently preserved and if properly cared for they can be utilized for anatomical teaching for an extensive period of time.

Request Process

1. All GVSU plastinated Specimens are housed in the GVSU Simulation Center and stored in locked and labeled cabinets in DCIH 312.
2. GVSU faculty and staff may request to reserve DCIH 312 and/or specific anatomy specimens for labs, courses, and supervised student practice activities by completing a CHP or KCON Lab Setup Request Form on the GVSU Simulation Center Website.
3. When at all possible, requests need to be submitted prior to the lab request deadline:
    i. *July 1 for fall semester*
    ii. *November 1 for winter semester*
    iii. *March 1 for spring/summer semester*
4. GVSU faculty and staff may request specific specimens to be moved to lab spaces and classrooms in DCIH and CHS that are outside of DCIH 312; requests will be approved within reason as some of the larger specimens cannot be easily transported without risking damage to these specimens.
5. GVSU students may request to reserve DCIH 312 for practice sessions by contacting 616-331-5582 or visiting The Simulation Center Central Storage, CHS 343; however, the student(s) must be supervised by a faculty, staff or Simulation Center team member or have completed a brief training regarding safe handling of the plastinated specimens. Plastinated specimens may not be checked-out to take home.

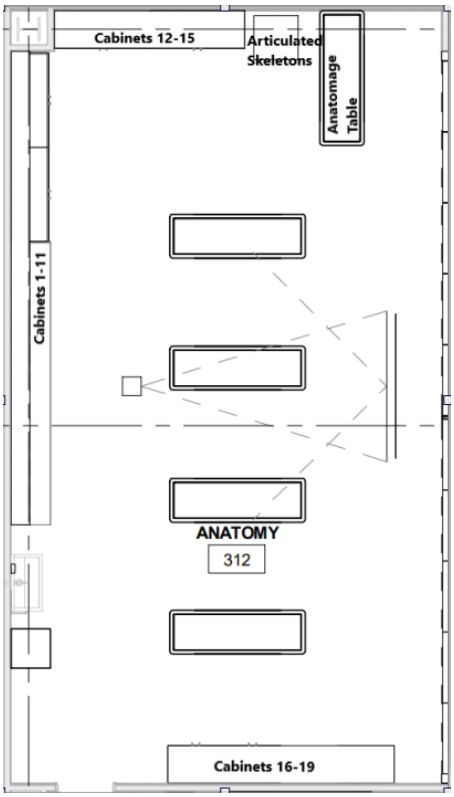
Instructions for Use

1. **Please wash your hands and don exam gloves when handling or moving the plastinated specimens.**
2. Van Hagens high-quality plastinated specimens are, in principle, everlasting if treated with

appropriate care. Silicone specimens are genuine, durable, lifelike, dry, odorless. They can be used for teaching purposes for a very long time, but it is important to handle complex nerve and muscle structures with great care.

3. Puncturing with hard materials/instruments should be avoided, including poking with fingernails. Puncturing and prodding can permanently damage specimens.
4. Fine dissection and dividing of structures (such as separate organs, complex of organs, or body parts) make the specimens very informative. Careful handling of the specimen is required. **Do not try to bind, pull, move, or divide the structures or the body parts with hands.**
5. Use caution when moving specimens. Proper supporting tools for carrying (e.g. stands, rings, etc.) are supplied with specimens. If you have any questions about handling or moving specimens contact the GVSU Simulation Center.
6. **Use laser pointers or soft rubber pointers to illustrate structures.** Additionally, pipe cleaners can be used to point out specific structures and can be wrapped gently around structures to test student's knowledge.
7. Do not use pins, pens, pencils, or needles to poke or label the specimens.
8. Do not allow untrained staff to touch Plastinates. Plastinates can easily be broken by untrained individuals.
9. Do not attempt to clean or repair specimens. Contact a member of the Simulation Team if any specimens or structures need cleaning or repair.
10. Requests for use of Plastinated Specimens outside of DCIH 312 must be granted from the Simulation Center team. See Request Process for instructions.

Specimens and Storage Locations



Specimen Name	ID Number	Storage Location
Body No. 2 Left Half	LST0012421	Cabinet 17
Body No. 2 Right Half	LST0011768	Cabinet 16
Brain Demonstration Model	LST0012588	Cabinet 2/Shelf A
Brainstem	LST0011794	Cabinet 2/Shelf D
Cecum & Vermiform Appendix	LST0011758	Cabinet 8/Shelf B
Central Nervous System	LST0011795	Cabinet 3/Shelf B
Cubital Region	LST0011762	Cabinet 6/Shelf A
Disarticulated Human Skeleton & Case	LST0011941	Cabinet 19/Shelf D
Disarticulated Human Skeleton & Case	LST0011942	Cabinet 19/Shelf D
Disarticulated Human Skull & Case	LST0011953	Cabinet 19/Shelf B
Disarticulated Human Skull & Case	LST0011954	Cabinet 19/Shelf C
Female Lower Extremity Let with Reproductive Organs	LST0011790	Cabinet 15/Shelf A
Female Pelvis & Perineum	LST0011792	Cabinet 8/Shelf D
Female Pelvis Model with Ligaments	LST0012605	Cabinet 10/Shelf A
Female Reproductive Organs	LST0011844	Cabinet 10/Shelf C
Foot, Deep Dissection	LST0011788	Cabinet 7/Shelf A
Foot, Superficial Dissection	LST0011787	Cabinet 8/Shelf A
Gluteal Region	LST0011793	Cabinet 5/Shelf C
Half Head & Neck, Shoulder and Axilla	LST0011774	Cabinet 4/Shelf B
Hand, Deep Dissection	LST0011783	Cabinet 5/Shelf A
Hand, Superficial Dissection	LST0011782	Cabinet 5/Shelf A
Head & Neck Slice	LST0011767	Cabinet 3/Shelf C
Head Specimen	LST0011776	Cabinet 2/Shelf B
Heart – Coronary Arteries Injected with Polymer	LST0011796	Cabinet 5/Shelf D
Heart – Ventricles Opened to Expose the Valves	LST0011797	Cabinet 5/Shelf D
Human Sagittal Cut Half Skull	LST0011950	Cabinet 1/Shelf D
Human Sagittal Cut Half Skull	LST0011951	Cabinet 1/Shelf D
Kidney – Cut into Two Halves	LST0011759	Cabinet 8/Shelf C
Larynx	LST0011763	Cabinet 2/Shelf D
Liver	LST0011766	Cabinet 10/Shelf B
Lower Extremity with Muscle Dissection	LST0011784	Cabinet 12/Shelf A
Lower Extremity with Muscle, Arteries, Nerves & Femur	LST0011786	Cabinet 11/Shelf B
Lungs with Partially Dissected Bronchial	LST0011841	Cabinet 4/Shelf C
Male Lower Extremity with Reproductive Organs	LST0011789	Cabinet 12/Shelf A
Male Pelvis & Perineum	LST0011791	Cabinet 10/Shelf D
Male Reproductive Organs	LST0011843	Cabinet 10/Shelf C
Male Urinary System	LST0011903	Cabinet 8/Shelf C
Replica 5-Year Old Human Child Skull	LST0011934	Cabinet 1/Shelf C
Replica Human Articulated Foot 1	LST0011939	Cabinet 9/Shelf A
Replica Human Articulated Foot 2	LST0011940	Cabinet 9/Shelf A
Replica Human Female Skull with Calvarium Cut	LST0011935	Cabinet 1/Shelf A
Replica Human Articulated Hand 1	LST0011936	Cabinet 9/Shelf A
Replica Human Articulated Hand 2	LST0011937	Cabinet 9/Shelf A
Replica Human Male Skull with Calvarium Cut	LST0011938	Cabinet 1/Shelf A

Segment of Small Intestine	LST0011757	Cabinet 8/Shelf B
Shoulder and Axilla	LST0011781	Cabinet 5/Shelf B
Sternoclavicular Joint	LST0011755	Cabinet 5/Shelf B
Stomach - Closed	LST0011764	Cabinet 8/Shelf B
Stomach - Open	LST0011765	Cabinet 8/Shelf B
Temporal Bone	LST0011756	Cabinet 1/Shelf D
Tongue	LST0011902	Cabinet 2/Shelf D
Torso Specimen 1	LST0011778	Cabinet 18
Torso Specimen 2	LST0011914	Cabinet 18
Ultraflex Functional Hip Joint	LST0012673	Cabinet 11/Shelf A
Ultraflex Ligamented Elbow	LST0012652	Cabinet 6/Shelf A
Upper Extremity – With Arteries and Nerves	LST0011779	Cabinet 7/Shelf B
Upper Extremity – With Arteries, Veins and Nerves	LST0011780	Cabinet 9/Shelf B
Upper Extremity – Without Arteries and Nerves	LST0011760	Cabinet 6/Shelf B
Whole Health and Neck Slices – Horizontal Sets	LST0011777	Cabinet 2/Shelf 2C
Whole Head Specimen	LST0011775	Cabinet 1/Shelf B