

ANATOMY CLASSIFICATIONS - GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SBMS STAFF

Preamble: The School of Biomedical Sciences (SBMS) is an approved and recognized School of Anatomy by the Governor in Council, under the Queensland *Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979*. As such, SBMS holds authority under Part 5 of the same Act [1], namely donations for anatomical purposes, for –

- i) Anatomical examination;
- ii) Use of the body for the study and teaching of the anatomy of the human body.

Superimposed on this framework are The University of Queensland requirements for research to be approved by one of the University's NHMRC-registered Human Research Ethics Committees [2].

The Anatomy Teaching and Research Management Committee (ATARM) recognises the need for clear distinction of all three anatomical pursuits - anatomical examination, teaching and research – given the different responsibilities associated with each and in particular research. Guidance for the jurisdictions of anatomy activities undertaken within the School is herein provided for common understanding of SBMS staff.

Research

There is no simple, single definition of research applicable to all disciplines [3]; however, in the specific context of anatomical research conducted in the School of Biomedical Sciences this scope narrows significantly. Under this context, research can be succinctly defined as: *the systematic testing of hypotheses by observation or experiment, to increase the stock of anatomical knowledge or to devise new anatomical applications and/or techniques.*¹

Characteristic features of anatomical research include:

- testable hypotheses and clearly formulated aims;
- systematic experimental approach;
- systematic collection of data;
- statistical analysis of data;
- interpretation of results (drawing of scientific inferences);
- sharing of study results (often by publication or presentation at scientific meetings).

Prior to any research beginning, anatomical research projects shall be submitted to and approved by:

- 1) [Anatomy Teaching and Research Management Committee](#) (ATARM) (gatekeeper); and
- 2) one of [UQ's Human Research Ethics Committees](#) (ethical clearance).

Research shall not be undertaken without the aforementioned approvals.

Faculty of Medicine
School of Biomedical Sciences
Anatomy Teaching and Research Management
Committee (ATARM)

CRICOS PROVIDER NUMBER 00025B

Notes:

- Research is designated in the Queensland Transplantation and Anatomy Act under 'study...of the anatomy of the human body' (s 31 & 32);
- Teaching-focused research also classifies as research;
- Research does not include:
 - teaching;
 - anatomical examination;
 - once-off illustrative photographs (see anatomical examinations);
 - surgical workshops / training (see teaching);
 - student training in anatomical research methods without any new knowledge; production component (see teaching);
- Research involving or illustrated by photography must be approved by the ATARM at the time of project submission using the [Request for Anatomical Resources / Activities](#) form²;
- Since consent for research is obtained from UQ body donors at the time of donor registration and the research is 'low risk', the UQ Human Research Ethics Committees may expedite review *if a blank body donor consent form is appended to the research ethics application*;
- The ATARM approval on the Request for an Anatomy Study should accompany the UQ Human Research Ethics application as an Appendix.

Teaching

Teaching is defined as any activity used to impart knowledge or to provide instruction as to how to do something.³

Teaching may include but is not limited to:

- learning activities provided to undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled at the University of Queensland;
- professional workshops and training sessions;
- supervised anatomical examinations serving to impart knowledge or provide instruction to another individual;
- instruction provided to visiting external groups.

Notes:

- Student photographs of anatomical specimens ARE NOT permitted under teaching except in special cases (e.g., some dissection or research based courses) authorized by the Head of School and/or the Head of School's delegate for anatomical matters under the Act (The Chief Anatomist).²
- External visits shall be organized through the external workshop delegate.

Anatomical Examination

An anatomical examination is an inspection of the body, often using dissection techniques, but not as a teaching exercise that imparts knowledge to another individual or as a research enterprise.

Anatomical examinations are routinely conducted by anatomy academics, other anatomy staff members, or suitably qualified external professionals. They may also be conducted by enrolled students (e.g., Honours, Masters or PhD level).

Anatomical examinations may be conducted:

- to prepare anatomical reference specimens (e.g., prosected specimens, potted specimens or skeletons);
- to enable academic or professional judging of dissecting skills (e.g., Dissection Prize);
- to allow individuals to practice / improve dissection or surgical skills;
- to obtain photographs of anatomical structures for illustrative purposes (e.g., to compile lecture slides for teaching; deliver presentations at professional conferences; and illustrate anatomical structures and/or text in scholarly works) ²;
- for self-directed revision or education, by anatomy academics or other bona fide individuals including students.

Notes:

- Student photographs of anatomical specimens ARE NOT permitted, except by written authorization by the Head of School and/or Chief Anatomist.²
- Non-routine invasive anatomical examinations SHALL NOT be conducted without approval by the Head of School / Chief Anatomist. Approval for such examinations should be sought using the [Request for Anatomical Resources / Activities](#) form.

References

- [1] *Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979 (Qld)*, current as at 24 March 2016. Queensland Government: Brisbane. https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/Acts_SLs/Acts_SL_T.htm. Last accessed 1 Aug 2016.
- [2] The University of Queensland. The University of Queensland Guidelines for Ethical Review of Research Involving Humans. 2015. The University of Queensland: St Lucia. <http://www.uq.edu.au/research/integrity-compliance/human-policies-legislation>. Last accessed 2 Nov 2015.
- [3] Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council. *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*. 2007. Australian Government: Canberra. <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/r39>. Last accessed 2 Nov 2015.

Endnotes:

¹ Definition is based on the role of a scientist delineated by Popper, K. *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*. 1959. Basic Books: New York and [2].

² Permission for any photography not listed or approved on a [Request for Anatomical Resources / Activities](#) form may be granted in rare instances by the Chief Anatomist or Gross Anatomy Facility Manager. These photographs normally require review by the Chief Anatomists or Gross Anatomy Facility Manager prior to use. Persons approved to record images must be cognizant of the sensibilities surrounding photographs and take appropriate measures to ensure unauthorized release (preferably password protected or encrypted storage on UQ hardware that is in turn stored on UQ premises in locked facilities).

³ Definition from the Online Oxford English Dictionary: <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/teach>. Last accessed: 15 July 2015.