

Consent Statement:

Emotional Preparedness for Human Cadaveric Dissection in Medical Education (IRB# 23-00005)

Principal Investigator:

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You are being contacted to take part in this research study because you are a first-year medical student at WCM-Q. The following are the objectives of this research: 1. How effective is the emotional preparedness intervention in reducing student anxiety? 2. How long do the effects (positive) of the intervention last? 3. What coping mechanisms are students utilizing?

What you should know about this research.

The objectives of this study are explained above. If you need more information, the study PI can provide more details. You are free to ask questions at any time. Participation is voluntary and you can choose not to take part in this study. If you choose not to participate or to withdraw from the study, there will be no penalty or loss of benefits to you.

Who can answer my questions about this research study?

If you have any questions, complaints, or concerns about this research you can contact Mange Manyama using any of the contact methods listed above.

This research is being overseen by the Weill Cornell Medicine in Qatar (WCM-Q) Institutional Review Board (“IRB”).

You may contact the WCM-Q IRB (at +974 4492 8960 or irb@qatar-med.cornell.edu) if:

- Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team.
- You cannot reach the research team.
- You want to talk to someone besides the research team.
- You have questions about your rights as a research subject.
- You want to get information or provide input about this research.

Why is this research being conducted?

This study aims to explore the level of emotional stress associated with students’ multiple exposure to cadaveric dissection. The study will also investigate mechanisms utilized by students to cope with dissection and explore the effectiveness of curricular interventions (*during foundation*) aimed at preparing students emotionally for human cadaveric dissection. Findings from this study will provide information to the specialists in anatomy to better understand student emotions before, during, and after dissection and to help guide them process their emotions.

How long will I be in this research study?

Your participation in this study is limited to the duration of time to complete this survey. We expect that you will need about 30 minutes to read the consent information and complete the survey.

How many people will be in this study?

We expect up to maximum of 120 students will take part in this research.

What happens if I agree to be in this study?

If you agree to participate in this survey, you will be asked to complete a voluntary survey at your discretion. This survey is one of three surveys that you will be invited to participate in throughout the course of your anatomy course. You will be invited to participate in the first survey before the first dissection session. Then, you will receive the second survey immediately following the first dissection session. Finally, you will be invited to participate in a third survey at the end of the anatomy unit. Not completing one survey will not prevent you from participating in the other two. The survey will use the Qualtrics platform and should take about 30 minutes to complete. You will be asked to generate a unique code to be used in all three surveys, as this is a longitudinal study. You will not be asked to share the code with anyone at any stage. This is to protect your anonymity. Whether you choose to complete the surveys during class or outside of class is up to you. While completing the survey, if you feel that you cannot answer a particular question, or do not wish to do so, you may skip that question. As the survey is anonymous, there will be no link between your anonymous survey answers and your identifying information (e.g., email address etc.).

What other choices do I have besides participating in this research?

You can choose not to participate in this study and there is no penalty to you for not participating.

What happens if I initially agree to participate, but then change my mind later?

Since the survey results are anonymous, once you submit the survey, this data cannot be identified or removed from the study. You are free to withdraw by not submitting the survey.

Are there any ways that participation in this study could benefit or harm me?

There are no anticipated risks, discomfort, or injuries for participating in this study. Should any such unexpected event occur, you may contact Mange Manyama using the contacts details provided above.

What happens to the information in this study?

The survey data will be stored in a secure place/resource which is password protected. Scholarly works resulting from this project will utilize aggregated data, so complete anonymity of participants will be assured. To the extent allowed by law, your personal information will be limited to people who must review it. We cannot promise complete secrecy. The IRB and representatives, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, the Ministry of Public Health in Qatar, and the Office of Human Research Protections in the United States will have access to your records. All research records will be retained for minimum of 3 years post study closure, or longer if required by other applicable regulations or institutional policy.

Can I be removed from this study without my knowledge or approval?

It is possible that certain data from this study could be deleted if that data fails to meet the research aims. If this is the case with the data that you supplied, it will not be possible to notify you since the collected data is anonymous.

What if I am injured because of taking part in this research?

It is not anticipated that there are any conceivable ways that your participation in this research study could lead to injury. However, if you believe this to be the case, please contact Mange Manyama for notification and further action.

Will I be paid or otherwise compensated for participation in this research?

There will be no payment for participating in this study.

Please check the box with the appropriate acknowledgement of your consent for this research study:

- Yes: I am at least 18 years old, first year WCMQ medical student, and hereby do grant consent to my participation in the above research study
- No: I am either 17 years old or younger, not first year WCMQ medical student, or I hereby do not grant consent to my participation in the above research study

Survey Questions for Survey #3

Please enter a **unique code**, of your own creation.

It is suggested that you use the first **three letters** of your mother's first name + the **last three digits** of your phone number. e.g., mar123

This step is to preserve your anonymity. The researchers and administrators of the survey will not be given any information that could link you to your responses.

Please remember your generated unique code, as it will be used in each of the three surveys.

1. Gender

Female

Male

2. Age (drop down 18-30)

3. Compared to others, do you think your physical health is

better, as good as, worse (Select one)

4. Compared to others, do you think your mental health is

Better, as good as, worse (Select one)

5. Religion

a. Muslim

b. Non-Muslim

c. I do not identify with any religion

6. Do you consider yourself to be a religious person? On a scale of one to five, how religious do you feel you are? (1 not religious. 5 very religious). **Note: This question should appear if the respondent chooses anything other than "c" in the question above.**

7. Did you visit the anatomy lab during foundation year at WCM-Q?

Yes

No

8. Have you ever seen a dead human body before (either outside or inside of a lab setting)?

Yes

No

9. Prior to taking this anatomy class, had you ever touched a dead human body before (either outside or inside of a lab setting)?

Yes

No

10. Have you ever participated in preparing a dead human body for burial?

Yes

No

11. Are you recently bereaved? (Has there been a recent death of someone close to you)?

Yes

No

12. Have you ever slaughtered (killed an animal for food) an animal?

Yes

No

13. Have you ever butchered an animal (skinned an animal and/or cut a whole animal into pieces?)

Yes

No

14. Have you ever cut raw meat within a home kitchen setting?

Yes

No

15. Have you ever dissected an animal as part of a biology class?

Yes

No

16. Please list the animals that you have dissected below:

This question should appear if the respondent chooses “yes” for question 15.

17. Which of the following best describes your initial reactions DURING your first encounter with the cadaver? (Check all that apply.)

Anxiety	Breathlessness	Calmness	Curiosity
Distaste (dislike)	Disgust	Dizziness	Dry Mouth
Fear	Joy	Horror	Interest
Nausea	Nervousness	Heart palpitations	Pleasure
Revulsion	Satisfaction	Tremor	Sadness
Uncertainty	Anger	Worry	Other: _____

18. Which of the following best describes any continuing physical or emotional reactions that you have had throughout the course of dissecting a human cadaver in this class? (Check all that apply.)

Anxiety	Breathlessness	Calmness	Curiosity
Distaste (dislike)	Disgust	Dizziness	Dry Mouth
Fear	Joy	Horror	Interest
Nausea	Nervousness	Heart palpitations	Pleasure
Revulsion	Satisfaction	Tremor	Sadness
Uncertainty	Anger	Worry	Other: _____

19. If you experienced any of the negative symptoms throughout the course of dissecting a human cadaver in this class, what might have caused them? (Check all that apply.)

Smell of the environment
 Seeing the cadaver
 Touching the cadaver
 Fear of infection
 Looking at specific cadaver parts
 Behavior of other students in the lab (Please specify in the comments section at the end of the survey.)
 I did not experience any negative symptoms.
 Other _____

20. How have your first encounters with human cadaveric dissection changed your attitude regarding the practice of human cadaveric dissection?

I have become more accepting towards the practice of human cadaveric dissection.

My attitude towards human cadaveric dissection has not changed.

I have become less accepting towards the practice of human cadaveric dissection.

21. Have you received any initial preparation regarding emotional preparedness or coping strategies for working with human cadavers prior to beginning this class?

Yes

No

22. Do you think some initial preparation regarding emotional preparedness and coping strategies for working with human cadavers would have better prepared you for human cadaveric dissection?

This question should appear if the respondent chooses “no” for question 21.

Yes

No

23. If you experienced stress during your encounters with the cadaver in the anatomy lab, what types of coping mechanisms did you use? (Check all that apply.)

Talking with a close friend

Playing a musical instrument

Writing a journal entry/ reflective piece

Napping

Writing poetry

I did not experience stress

Exercise

Artistic expression through painting, sculpting, etc.

Meditation

Other: _____

Prayer

24. Which (if any) of the following strategies proved to be effective in allaying your anxiety throughout the duration of the course? (Check all that apply) This question should appear if the respondent checks other than, "I did not experience stress" in the previous question.

Talking with a close friend

Playing a musical instrument

Writing a journal entry/ reflective piece Napping

Writing poetry

Artistic expression through painting, sculpting, etc.

Exercise

Other: _____

Meditation

Prayer

25. Upon completing human cadaveric dissection, how emotionally detached did you feel from the cadaver? (i.e.: Felt like the cadaver was more of a tool than a person) (Rather emotionally attached 10- Rather emotionally detached) Place a Likert scale here 1-10 gradation.

26. Overall, did you feel that you were emotionally prepared to dissect a human cadaver?

Yes

No

27. In your opinion, what are the stressing aspects of cadaver dissection? (check all that apply)

- a. Looking at certain parts of the cadaver
- b. Touching certain parts of the cadaver
- c. The smell of the body
- d. Dissection workload
- e. Religious incompatibility
- f. Fear of infection
- g. Thinking of the practical exam
- h. Other _____

28. Which of the following was unpleasant for you in the dissection room? Check all that apply:

Touching the cadaver

Seeing the cadaver's hands

Fear of Infection

Seeing the cadaver's face

The smell

Seeing the cadaver's genitals

I did not experience unpleasant feelings. Other: _____

29. Do you think dissection would have been easier if you had known more about the donor?

- a. Yes
- b. No

30. Do you think dissection would have been easier if you had known less about the donor?

- a. Yes
- b. No

31. Please comment as to the significance of the memorial service for you
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32. Any other comments or concerns?
