***The Cambridge University Virtual Museum Project: From the rib cage to the web page***

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Methods used to teach anatomy at medical schools have varied considerably over the years, particularly with an increasing provision of information technology. The anatomical collection at the University of Cambridge contains a plethora of specimens dating back to the nineteenth century, among which some valuable Beauchene skulls and a rare specimen of a bound foot—yet they remain within the confines of the human dissection room. The *Virtual Museum* project is a solution we put forward in order to bring these specimens closer to contemporary audiences – whether they be they students in medical training or the general public. 9072 images were taken of various osteological specimens, with an array of normal and pathological features—including tumours, fractures and evidence of operative intervention. These were labelled with the most salient features and uploaded for display on the University website, along with captions that contextualise the presented specimens. Complex specimens were enhanced with techniques that enabled viewing in 360-degrees. Care was made to ensure the design of the website was in concordance with well-recognised principles of multimedia learning. By emphasising the unique history and exemplifying pathology through the ages, the *Virtual Museum* project will foster interest in anatomy and the history of the collection amongst students, trainees and the general public alike.

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