

Special Report: Cadavers Leap Into 21st Century with “Game-Changer” Virtual Dissection Tool



Left: About to cut the ribbon that opened NYCPM's new Virtual Anatomy Lab were, left to right: Drs. Eileen Chusid, Dean of Pre-Clinical Sciences; Michael J. Trepal, Academic Dean; David R. Nicolanti, CEO of The Podiatry Foundation and Student Council President Trevell Moxey. Right: The wall screen in the Virtual Anatomy Lab. The skeleton was purchased with a grant received by the library.

On January 20th, a ribbon-cutting ceremony unveiled NYCPM's newest learning tool: the Anatomage Virtual Dissection Table, located within the college's new Virtual Anatomy Lab on the second floor. A generous grant from The Podiatry Foundation enabled NYCPM to obtain one of the latest versions of this Interactive 3D Anatomy and Physiology Table: Table Version 9, released in September 2021. Lorraine Chun Ng, NYCPM's Medical Librarian, was instrumental in obtaining the grant, getting the table to NYCPM, and arranging for installation and trainings. Dr. David R. Nicolanti, Executive Director of The Podiatry Foundation, noted the financial collaboration between the two institutions that made the purchase possible.

This Anatomage Table will allow students to perform anatomy visualization and virtual dissection. The table displays virtual cadavers: through manipulation of the touch screen, a user can reveal all of the body's layers, organs, and systems, focus on a particular item of interest, turn it for a different view and pin it for later reference. What is seen through the table is also displayed on a long screen mounted on the wall of NYCPM's Virtual Anatomy Lab, so that more students can participate at the same time. Academic Dean Michael J. Trepal, DPM, has noted that this tool “augments, does not replace, actual cadaver dissection,” and that students will start using the table in their first year.

At the ribbon cutting, NYCPM's Dean of Pre-Clinical Sciences, **Eileen Chusid, PhD**, compared her experiences studying the cranial nerves by threading 12 different color threads through all cranial foramina. Now with a few hand movements, students can accomplish the same. Dean of Clinical Studies, **Ronald Soave, DPM**, said that the table has a tremendous benefit for clinical education. “All

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Left: Dr. Soave speaks before the ribbon cutting. Left to right are: Dr. Trepal, Dr. Chusid, Dr. Nicolanti of the Podiatry Foundation, COO Joel Sturm and Dr. Soave. **Center:** Trevell Moxey (2024) speaks before the ribbon cutting. **Right:** Lorraine Chun Ng at ribbon cutting.

clinical courses refer to anatomy, so this will enhance students’ education. For example, the professor can use the Anatomage table to view the anatomy while explaining a surgical procedure.” **COO Joel Sturm** described the table as a “game changer,” and **NYCPM Student Council President Trevell Moxey (2024)** said he was “excited to get his hands on it.” Dr. Trepal expressed his profound thanks to the Podiatry Foundation.