

Video System

Lynne D. Williams, medical school information

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Imagine, for a moment, that you can go inside the human body and, in great detail and color, look at organs and tissues. Imagine being able to project video pictures of this detail onto a large screen and freeze frames for study and discussion.

Students at University of Nevada School of Medicine don't have to imagine this scenario. It happens every day in their anatomy lab with a video system that is revolutionizing the approach to teaching this subject, according to Dave Melarkey, anatomy and pathology instructor.

The system consists of high resolution equipment including a camcorder, VCR, color video printer and microscope.

Melarkey and his students use the system to record and review studies in "gross" (whole body) anatomy and histology (the microscopic study of the structure of tissues).

Projecting pictures on large screens in the classrooms enables all students to see clearly. The high resolution equipment also shows more detail than can be seen with the naked eye and reproduces accurate color, according to Melarkey.

Student response to the new system has been enthusiastic and test scores have been higher since its inception in October, says Melarkey.

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"This is the greatest thing since sliced bread because we can see more details and we don't have to look over people's shoulders," says second-year student Jeff Roth.

The study of anatomy is an integral part of the medical school curriculum, giving students experience with the intact body before they study the effects of disease during their pathology course.

Total cost of the system was \$21,000. A \$12,000 donation from Keith Bassett, Washoe County deputy coroner, made the purchase possible.

Dr. Greg Highison, associate professor of anatomy, and Dr. Lawrence Schneider, chairman of the department of anatomy, were also instrumental in obtaining the system.

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Written by Jeanne Lauf

Attention Media: This system provides a good opportunity for still photographs as well as video.