

ANATOMY OF AN ANATOMIST: IMAGING MODALITIES IN TRANSLATIONAL ANATOMY TEACHING AND RESEARCH

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Clinical anatomy is one of the most valuable subjects to any medical practitioner and is often defined as 'anatomy applied to patient care'. Despite this, human anatomy is a discipline that has gone through many transitions brought on by the exponential expansion of medical knowledge, increasing student numbers, decreasing dissection time, moving to an integrated clinically-based curriculum, and increased access to advanced imaging modalities in the clinical setting. To produce anatomical research that can translate into the clinical spectrum, anatomists will have to employ more advanced imaging modalities in anatomy teaching and research. Therefore, this address aims to present imaging modalities—both conventional and modern—for anatomical research. The focus will be on current studies that employ real-time ultrasound imaging, computed tomography (CT) imaging, and micro-CT to create 3-dimensional person-specific anatomical models and the value of paired cadaveric and imaging studies. The current impact—especially during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic—and prospects of using these imaging modalities will also be addressed. Therefore, this address will reflect upon the critical role that clinical anatomical research plays in the clinical arena, how this research is driven by collaborative anatomy teaching and how the teaching is guided by the research.