HUMAN BODIES TO TEACH ANATOMY: IMPORTANCE AND PROCUREMENT – EXPERIENCE WITH CADAVER DONATION

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This Debate was proposed to provide different points of view and to know the diversity of circumstances involved in the procurement and use of cadavers to teach Anatomy, to pre and post-graduate students, all over the world. A reduced but representative group of professors of Anatomy of all continents were invited to participate. Some guidelines were distributed to give a common orientation to each paper instead authors were able to include whatever they considered to be of reader’s interest. Within the professors from different countries, Prof. Bernard Moxham (IFAA President) supported the Debate with the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists official position. The panelists agreed about the importance of using cadaveric material to teach Anatomy, but the provision, sources and procedures followed to get them are quite different from one to another country and/or university. The experience of European countries, the cultural limitations in Asiatic and African ones, the delay and structural problems in South America, are some of the pointed peculiarities. After this publication we will receive the questions and comments, not only from the Debate participants but also from general readers, which will be answered and both, questions and answers, published in the next issue. Then, the Debate may reach its top point by letting involved people from all over the world to take part and provide additional information.

Key words: Anatomy teaching, cadaveric material, cadaveric dissection, donation of cadavers.