

Bioethics in Anatomy Education Resources:

Use of Eponyms in Health Care Education

Description:

These PowerPoint slides provide information on the use of eponyms in health care education. Feel free to use or modify the text.

The topics covered by this resource include:

Eponyms

Anatomy

Histology

Neuroanatomy

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Further reading:

Winkelmann, A. Should We Teach Abernethy and Zuckerkandl? *Clin Anat.* 2012;25:241-245.

Four articles in *Clinical Anatomy*, 2014, 27:1137-1148.

Use of Eponyms in Health Care Education

What is an eponym?

A structure or procedure given an individual's name as its description.

What is a medical eponym?

Usually a structure, disease or procedure named after the person who first described it.

Who are these persons?

Generally, they mirror the history of “western” medicine: white and male.

Klumpke's paralysis, 1885
Lower brachial plexus paralysis



Augusta Dejerine-Klumpke
1859, San Francisco – 1927, Paris

Use of Eponyms in Health Care Education

Why are eponyms still a part of health care education?

Pragmatism: They are frequently used in clinical settings, although educators can help shift that use by putting less reliance on eponyms.

Epistemology: They can be used as a teaching moment in education:

How was this knowledge gained?

Who were the actors?

Why these actors?

Why not other actors?

Frey's syndrome, 1923
Gustatory sweating and flushing



Lucja Frey MD

1889, Lwow, Poland (Lviv, Ukraine) –
1942, Lemberg Ghetto or Belzec Death Camp

Use of Eponyms in Health Care Education

Questions to consider:

Should eponym use be discouraged?

Is education / pedagogy better off without eponyms?

Will historical appreciation of medicine be lost with the loss of eponyms?

Should eponyms be removed from those who obtained the eponym unethically (eg, Clara Cells)?

Is there justification for the continued use of eponyms?

For a long list of medical eponyms, visit: whonamedit.com



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References:

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- Gest, Thomas R. 2014. "Anatomical Nomenclature and the Use of Eponyms." *Clinical Anatomy* 27:1141.
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- Olry, Regis. 2014a. "Anatomical Eponyms, Part1: To Look on the Bright Side." *Clinical Anatomy* 27:1145-1148.
- Olry, Regis. 2014b. "Anatomical Eponyms, Part2: The Other Side of the Coin." *Clinical Anatomy* 27:1142-1144.
- Winkelmann, Andreas. 2012. "Should We Teach Abernethy and Zuckerkandl?" *Clinical Anatomy* 25:241-245.
- Internet dictionary of medical eponyms: whonamedit.com
- Lucja Frey: http://upandrainingnetworks.com/files/C146_4.pdf
- Augusta Dejerine-Klumpke: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422\(18\)30141-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422(18)30141-8/fulltext)