Supplementary Materials, S1: Survey tool

Please provide the following information:
Age:
Sex:
Degree for which you are registered:

What activity/activities were you involved with prior to enrolling for this degree?
    At school □   Studying at a higher education institution □
    Employed □   Other □
Please elaborate: _____

Please indicate the number of courses for which you obtained the following marks during your previous year of study (i.e. the first year of your degree or grade 12 year).

>75%		1□	2□	3□	4□	5□ >5□
70-75%	1□	2□	3□	4□	5□	>5□
60-70%	1□	2□	3□	4□	5□	>5□
50-60%	1□	2□	3□	4□	5□	>5□
<50%	1□	2□	3□	4□	5□	>5□

Are you a repeat student?   Yes □   No □

Race: Black □ Chinese □   Person of Colour □   Indian □   White□
             Other □ Do not wish to be classified□

Religion:

How important are your philosophical/religious beliefs to you?
  1□   2□   3□   4□   5□
Not important   Very important

Please categorize your usual place of residence.
                    Urban □   Rural □

1. **Prior** to entering the human dissection laboratory, which of the following emotions did you experience?   Please rate each emotion on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1= not experienced and 5= experienced very strongly.

Fear	1□	2□	3□	4□	5□
Anxiety	1□	2□	3□	4□	5□
Disgust/revulsion 1□	2□	3□	4□	5□	
Apprehension	1□	2□	3□	4□	5□
Excitement 1□	2□	3□	4□	5□	
Interest	1□	2□	3□	4□	5□
Curiosity	1□	2□	3□	4□	5□

2. What other emotions did you experience?

3. If possible, please explain why you felt these emotions.

4. Had you seen a dead body prior to your entry into the human dissection laboratory?
Yes □   No □
If your response to the above question was yes, please describe when/where/how frequently this occurred:_____

Were any of the occasions on which you have seen a dead body traumatic?
Yes □   No □

5. **Following your first dissection session**, which of the following emotions did you experience? Please rate each emotion on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1= not experienced and 5= experienced very strongly.

Fear	1□	2□	3□	4□	5□
Anxiety	1□	2□	3□	4□	5□
Disgust/revulsion 1□	2□	3□	4□	5□	
Apprehension	1□	2□	3□	4□	5□
Excitement 1□	2□	3□	4□	5□	
Interest	1□	2□	3□	4□	5□
Curiosity	1□	2□	3□	4□	5□

6. What other emotions did you experience?

7. If possible, please explain why you felt these emotions.
8. Have you experienced any of the following physical symptoms related to your dissection experience?

Dizziness □	Palpitations □
Sweating □	Trembling □
Nausea □	Loss of appetite □
Insomnia □	Nightmares □

Other (Please elaborate):

9. What was your emotional reaction to cutting the body/dissecting?

10. Did you actively dissect your assigned cadaver in the first two weeks of dissection?
Yes □   No □
Please give a reason/s for your answer above: _____

11. To what extent did the formal dedication ceremony prepare you for the dissection of a human cadaver?

                    1□   2□   3□   4□   5□

Not prepared   Well prepared

12. Do you have specific beliefs that affected your emotional response/attitude to dissection?

Yes □   No □

If so, are these religious/cultural/social/ or other influences? Please elaborate. _____

13. Which of the following coping mechanisms have you used to deal with your response to dissection during this early period?

Discussion with peers   □

Discussion with staff in Anatomical Sciences   □

Discussion with family members   □

Discussion with religious leaders   □

Approached the Office of Student Affairs for assistance/ counselling □

Denial/detachment   □

Focusing on religion (e.g. prayer)   □

Humour   □

Creative activities (e.g. journaling/poetry)   □

Other (please elaborate): _____

14. Discuss interventions (eg lectures/talks/support), if any, you think would have been helpful, prior to your first exposure to the cadaver._____

15. Is it important for health sciences students to dissect a human cadaver?

                    1□   2□   3□   4□   5□

Not important   Very important

 What are your expectations of dissection?_____

16. Describe any other factor that has affected your response to dissection, whether positively or negatively.

17. Would you be willing to participate in a focus group? If so please provide your email address:……………………………………………………

Thank you for participating in this survey!

Supplementary Table S1: Emotional responses of respondents according to demographic variables of dissection opportunity, sex, population affinity, religious affinity, importance of beliefs, usual place of residence

Category	Subgroup	n	Overall score of emotions Before	Overall After	Overall Wilcoxon Sign Rank p-value	Fear Before	Fear After	Fear Wilcoxon Sign Rank p-value	Anxiety Before	Anxiety After	Anxiety Wilcoxon Sign Rank p-value	Disgust Before	Disgust After	Disgust Wilcoxon Sign Rank p-value	Apprehension Before	Apprehension After	Apprehension Wilcoxon Sign Rank p-value	Excitement Before	Excitement After	Excitement Wilcoxon Sign Rank p-value	Interest Before	Interest After	Interest Wilcoxon Sign Rank p-value	Curiosity Before	Curiosity After	Curiosity Wilcoxon Sign Rank p-value
Dissection opportunity	Dissector	355	3 (-1:7)	5 (0:8)	0.00	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	3 (2:4)	1 (1:2)	0.00	1 (1:2)	2 (1:3)	0.00	2 (1:3)	2 (1:3)	0.00	3 (2:4)	3 (2:4)	0.26	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.74	4 (4:5)	4 (3:5)	0.00
	Non-dissectors	115	4 (-1:7)	4 (0:7)	0.06	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	1 (1:2)	1 (1:2)	0.33	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	3 (2:4)	3 (2:4)	0.17	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.69	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.03
	Kruskall Wallis p-value		0.72	0.51		0.46	0.3		0.00	0.28		0.69	0.00		0.00	0.06		0.25	0.13		0.20	0.12		0.85	0.67	
Sex	Male	120	5 (2:8)	6 (3:8.5)	0.12	1 (1:2)	1 (1:1)	0.00	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	1 (1:2)	1 (1:3)	0.06	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.08	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.06	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.56	4 (4:5)	4 (3:5)	0.08
	Female	359	3 (-2:6)	4 (-1:7)	0.00	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	3 (1:4)	2 (1:3)	0.00	1 (1:2)	1 (1:3)	0.00	2 (1:3)	2 (1:3)	0.00	3 (2:4)	3 (2:4)	0.36	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.25	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.00
	Kruskall Wallis p-value		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.10		0.00	0.00		0.51	0.31		0.00	0.07		0.00	0.00		0.01	0.76		0.09	0.22	
Population affinity	SAB	158	4 (-2:8)	4.5 (0:8)	0.00	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	1 (1:2)	1 (1:2)	0.19	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2.5)	0.01	3 (2:4)	3 (2:4)	0.24	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.32	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.15
	SAW	161	3 (-1:7)	5 (0:8)	0.00	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	3 (2:4)	2 (1:3)	0.00	1 (1:2)	2 (1:3)	0.00	3 (2:3)	2 (1:3)	0.00	4 (3:4)	3 (2:4)	0.05	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.43	4 (4:5)	4 (3:5)	0.02
	Other	115	3 (-1:7)	4 (0:7)	0.08	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	1 (1:2)	1 (1:3)	0.02	2 (1:3)	2 (1:3)	0.00	3 (2:4)	3 (2:4)	0.24	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.16	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.05
	DNI	46	6 (0:8)	6 (1:7)	0.65	1 (1:3)	1 (1:1)	0.00	2 (1:4)	1 (1:2)	0.00	1 (1:2)	1 (1:2)	0.04	2 (1:3)	2 (1:3)	0.53	4 (3:4)	3 (2:4)	0.04	4 (4:5)	4 (4:5)	0.68	4 (4:5)	4 (4:5)	0.09
	Kruskall Wallis p-value		0.19	0.71		0.37	0.63		0.01	0.03		0.62	0.33		0.00	0.13		0.06	0.73		0.02	0.03		0.40	0.67	
Religious affinity	Christianity	302	3 (-2:7)	4 (0:8)	0.00	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	2 (1:4)	1 (1:2)	0.00	1 (1:2)	1 (1:3)	0.01	2 (1:3)	2 (1:3)	0.00	3 (2:4)	3 (2:4)	0.38	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.71	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.00
	Islam	54	3 (0:7)	4 (0:6)	0.30	1 (1:2)	1 (1:2)	0.04	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.01	2 (1:2.5)	2 (1:3)	0.39	2 (1:3)	2 (1:3)	0.01	3 (2:4)	3 (2:4)	0.97	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.37	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.18
	Judaism	22	1 (-5:6)	4 (-4:7)	0.02	2 (2:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	3.5 (2:4)	2 (1:3)	0.00	1 (1:2)	2 (1:4)	0.40	3 (2:4)	2 (2:3)	0.25	4 (3:4)	3 (3:4)	0.24	4 (3:5)	4.5 (3:5)	0.53	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.48
	Hinduism	25	4 (-1:5)	6 (4:8)	0.01	2 (1.5:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	3 (2:4)	2 (1:2)	0.00	1 (1:2)	1 (1:2)	0.40	3 (2:3)	2 (1:3)	0.00	4 (3:5)	4 (3:4)	0.96	4 (3:5)	4 (4:5)	0.53	4 (4:5)	4 (4:5)	0.59
	Tamil	2	0 (-7:7)	-1.5 (-6:3)	-	2 (1:3)	3 (3:3)	-	3 (1:5)	4 (3:5)	-	1.5 (1:2)	1 (1:1)	-	3.5 (2:5)	3.5 (2:5)	-	1.5 (1:2)	1.5 (1:2)	-	4.5 (4:5)	4.5 (4:5)	-	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	
	Atheism	9	6 (2:10)	7 (7:10)	0.50	1 (1:2)	1 (1:1)	0.18	2 (2:4)	1 (1:3)	0.35	1 (1:1)	2 (1:2)	0.22	2 (1:4)	2 (1:3)	0.79	5 (4:5)	4 (4:5)	0.72	5 (4:5)	5 (4:5)	1.00	4 (4:5)	5 (4:5)	0.69
	Agnosticism	8	8 (6:8.5)	7 (5:8.5)	1.00	1 (1:1)	1 (1:1)	-	2 (1:3)	1 (1:1.5)	0.11	1 (1:2)	1 (1:2)	1.00	2.5 (2:3)	1.5 (1:3.5)	0.89	4 (4:5)	4 (3.5:5)	0.35	5 (5:5)	4.5 (4:5)	0.07	5 (5:5)	4.5 (4:5)	0.07
	None	18	7 (1:8)	4 (0:9)	0.14	1 (1:2)	1 (1:2)	0.00	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.17	1 (1:2)	1 (1:3)	0.21	1.5 (1:3)	1 (1:3)	0.88	4.5 (3:5)	3 (2:5)	0.00	4 (4:5)	4.5 (4:5)	0.01	5 (4:5)	4.5 (4:5)	0.39
	No response	37	4 (-3:8)	4 (-1:7)	0.26	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	2 (1:4)	1 (1:3)	0.00	1 (1:2)	1 (1:2)	0.03	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.03	3 (2:4)	3 (2:4)	0.54	4 (3:4)	4 (3:4)	1.00	4 (3:5)	4 (2:4)	0.11
	Kruskall Wallis p-value		0.12	0.22		0.09	0.30		0.08	0.25		0.57	0.25		0.27	0.47		0.01	0.09		0.08	0.37		0.10	0.58	
Importance of belief system	Very Important	234	2 (-2:6)	4 (0:7)	0.00	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	2 (1:4)	1 (1:2)	0.00	1 (1:3)	1 (1:3)	0.03	2 (1:3)	2 (1:3)	0.00	3 (2:4)	3 (2:4)	0.39	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.03	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.40
	Important	102	4 (-2:8)	4 (0:7)	0.27	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	2 (1:4)	1 (1:3)	0.00	1 (1:2)	1 (1:2)	0.06	2 (1:3)	2 (1:3)	0.06	3 (2:4)	3 (2:4)	0.07	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.33	4 (4:5)	4 (3:5)	0.01
	Neutral	76	4 (1:7)	5.5 (1:8)	0.15	1 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	1 (1:2)	1.5 (1:2)	0.01	2 (1:3)	2 (1:3)	0.00	4 (3:4)	4 (3:4)	0.31	4 (4:5)	4 (3:5)	0.51	4 (4:5)	4 (3:5)	0.03
	Not important	65	5 (1:8)	6 (1:7)	0.90	1 (1:2)	1 (1:1)	0.04	2 (1:4)	1 (1:2)	0.00	1 (1:2)	1 (1:2)	0.01	2 (1:3)	1 (1:3)	0.00	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.03	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.13	4 (4:5)	4 (3:5)	0.02
	Kruskall Wallis p-value		0.01	0.51		0.02	0.52		0.63	0.49		0.04	0.68		0.19	0.94		0.00	0.17		0.11	0.94		0.14	0.91	
Usual place of residence	Urban	423	3 (-1:7)	5 (0:7)	0.00	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	2 (1:4)	1 (1:2)	0.00	1 (1:2)	1 (1:3)	0.07	2 (1:3)	2 (1:3)	0.00	3 (2:4)	3 (2:4)	0.00	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.00	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.02
	Rural	57	4 (1:8)	5 (1:8)	0.54	2 (1:3)	1 (1:2)	0.00	2 (1:3)	1 (1:3)	0.00	1 (1:3)	2 (1:2)	0.86	2 (1:3)	2 (1:3)	0.35	3 (3:5)	4 (2.5:5)	0.00	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.01	4 (3:5)	4 (3:5)	0.11
	Kruskall Wallis p-value		0.47	0.89		0.86	0.78		0.16	0.83		0.75	0.85		0.31	0.58		0.59	0.11		0.74	0.31		0.85	0.57	