



Royal College  
of Physicians

27 April – 26 October 2012

# ‘Curious anatomys’: an extraordinary story of dissection and discovery

An exhibition revealing the hidden history of the Royal College of Physicians’ anatomical tables – some of the oldest surviving human anatomy preparations in the world



Image: anatomical instruments – woodcut illustration, *On the fabric of the human body*, Andreas Vesalius, 1543.



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## ‘Curious anatomys’: an extraordinary story of dissection and discovery

The Royal College of Physicians holds a rare set of six anatomical tables. The tables are visually spectacular – displaying human veins, nerves and arteries dissected at the University of Padua’s famous anatomy theatre in the 17th century, skilfully arranged on to wooden panels, recreating the systems in the body.

For the first time in their history, the tables are on full public display, alongside beautifully illustrated, rare anatomy texts by Andreas Vesalius and William Harvey and loans from the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons, The Gordon Museum of Pathology, and Christ’s College, Cambridge.

‘These interesting remains  
[trace] the first steps by which  
physic was elevated to the  
dignity of a science’

Sir Henry Hallford, RCP president, 1823

Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place,  
Regent’s Park, London NW1 4LE.

Open: Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm, free entry.

### Evening and weekend visiting

Monday 21 May, 5pm–7pm

Saturday 7 July, 11am–4pm

Saturday 22 September 11am–4pm

Monday 8 October, 5pm–7pm

### Library, Archive and Museum Services

Tel: +44 (0)20 3075 1543

Email: [history@rcplondon.ac.uk](mailto:history@rcplondon.ac.uk)

[www.rcplondon.ac.uk/museum-garden](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/museum-garden)

Step-free access. Closed weekends, public holidays and for RCP ceremonies – see website for details.

Underground stations: Great Portland Street, Regent’s Park and Warren Street.



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