Curiositas

RESEARCH

Medical knowledge is always changing. However, one would be forgiven for supposing that the normal anatomy of the human body is fully understood. Students of the discipline memorise anatomical terminology, origins, insertions and relations for the most intricate of body structures. Modern medical imaging modalities allow the demonstration of minute structures that bring memories from the dissection room and anatomy textbooks to life. The ligaments of the knee have always been fundamental in the study of the function of this large joint. Indeed the integrity of the cruciate and lateral collateral ligaments are tested during the routine physical examination of the lower limb musculoskeletal system. A recent report by Claes et al suggests that future anatomy students will have more to learn about the knee than their predecessors, since the researchers have identified another ligament. In a cadaveric dissection study, 40 out of 41 knees studied had an extra ligament present. The appropriately-named ‘anterolateral ligament’ was shown to consistently run obliquely from the lateral femoral epicondyle to the anterolateral aspect of the proximal tibia. It may have a role in the control of internal tibial rotation. The precise role of the ligament, how it is damaged in injury and how its repair might influence recovery remain to be investigated.

This recent research paper should serve to remind us all of the dynamism of medical knowledge. What we consider to be medical fact today might well be challenged by the research of tomorrow.

Claes, S., Vereecke, E., Maes, M., Victor, J., Verdonk, P., Bellemans, J. Anatomy of the anterolateral ligament of the knee. Journal of Anatomy 2013; 223(4)321-8.

MEDICAL STUDENT QUIZ

This young adult male patient presented to his GP with shortness of breath and a mild cough. He has no past medical history. What is the diagnosis?

Dr Ian Bickle, Consultant Radiologist, Raja Isteri Penigran Anak Saleha Hospital, Bandar seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

POSTGRADUATE QUIZ

A female patient had blood taken shortly after undergoing a surgical procedure. When the blood sample was centrifuged the laboratory staff were surprised to note an unusual appearance to the serum. What procedure has the patient had, and what would account for the distinctive colour? The photograph shows the patient’s sample (right) alongside a normal sample (left).

Dr Paul Hamilton (Specialty Registrar, Chemical Pathology), Mr David McBride (Biomedical Scientist), Mr Stephen Kirk (Consultant Surgeon), Ulster Hospital Dundonald, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, Northern Ireland.

AND FINALLY…..

This long standing neurology patient underwent a cystogram as part of their care with respect to ongoing urinary symptoms. What festive description is given to this bladder and what is the usual cause?

Dr Ian Bickle, Consultant Radiologist, Raja Isteri Penigran Anak Saleha Hospital, Bandar seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

ANSWERS See overleaf.

CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING TO CURIOSITAS?

Please refer to ‘Curiositas: Guidelines for contributors’ http://www.ums.ac.uk/curiositas.html and email curiositas@ums.ac.uk with your ideas and submissions.
**Book Case**

Dr Tony O’Neill considers six of his favourite poets.

**LOUIS MACNIECE, AUTUMN JOURNAL**
(Faber and Faber, 1939)

“In a journal or a personal letter a man writes what he feels at the moment.” This is how MacNiece refers to his approach to this lyrical journal written at one of the most pivotal times in European history. The book is full of personal reflections on the mundane issues of teaching classics in to undergraduates in Birmingham as well as the unfolding events across Europe. It has a strong sense of place, England between the wars. It also reveals a lot about MacNiece personally and his perspectives remain remarkably modern and pertinent.

**PATRICK KAVANAGH, SELECTED POEMS.**
(Penguin Classics, 2000)
Kavanagh is the great rural poet of Ireland and he writes about people and lifestyles that are easily recognisable to anyone who grew up in the Irish countryside in the last century. He is also spiritual with being evangelical and there is a refreshing sense of an innocence. His long poem, the Great Hunger, is one of landmarks of Irish literature. He was subsequently the scourge of the literary elite of Dublin and some of his best later poems are about his frustration with his lack of recognition and romantic failures.

**THE ESSENTIAL BRENDAN KENNELLY: SELECTED POEMS**
(Bloodaxe, 2012)
This is a collection of poetry from a man despite being a Professor of English at Trinity College is often described as anti-intellectual. His poems are very direct and visceral and lack poetic artifice. He writes in blank verse and the poems can seem deceptively simple. His poetry is also a strange mixture of the modern and the sentimental. Like Kavanagh, his story is of a journey from rural Ireland to urban Dublin

**SEAMUS HEANEY, DISTRICT AND CIRCLE**
(Faber and Faber 2006)
Seamus Heaney was one of the 20th century’s most successful poets. This was the twelfth collection of Heaney poems. It reflected his preoccupations at a later stage in his life with many of the poems featuring personal loss. He threaded the line between accessibility and literary complexity, as always, with skill.

He was terrific at evoking the sense of place, this includes London without this book underground in London without this book coming into my mind.

**PAUL MULDOON, COLLECTED POEMS 1968-1998.**
(Faber and Faber, 2001)
Paul Muldoon is more urbane than rural. His poems are at first glance a little more angular and perhaps at times a bit self consciously clever. A more postmodern poet, he used language to heighten dramatic impact. An example is the poem ‘They that wash on Thursday” where the word hand is used repeatedly with powerful effect. This is my favourite book.

**LEONTIA FLYNN, PROFIT AND LOSS.**
(Cape Poetry, 2011)
An accessible group of poems about how the places we live, particularly student flats and apartments, reflect the narrative of our lives. There is also a sense of reassessment that the title implies. The poems also illustrate how the mundane objects we collect can have powerful emotional charge and become intensely personal despite their banality.

**Curiositas: Answers**

**POSTGRADUATE QUIZ**
This patient underwent breast surgery and a sentinel node biopsy performed shortly before the blood was taken. As part of the biopsy procedure, a dye (Patent Blue®) is injected into the lymphatic system. After injection, pa-
sionately before the blood was taken. As part of the biopsy procedure, a dye

was subsequently the scourge of the literary elite of Dublin and some of his best later poems are about his frustration with his lack of recognition and romantic failures.

**MEDICAL STUDENT QUIZ**

The sign of left lower lobe collapse to identify is the triangular shaped den-

sity in the left retrocardiac position, representing the lobe collapsed towards the midline. The triangular shape, given the term 'sail sign' lies in its resemblance to the sail of a yacht. The origin of the term ‘sail sign’ has its straight edge medially, with the base inferiorly and the apex towards the hilar re-

gion. The origin of the term ‘sail sign’ lies in its resemblance to the sail of a yacht.

Follow this link for further information about this clinical case:
[www.ums.ac.uk/curiositas/083/1cur.pdf](http://www.ums.ac.uk/curiositas/083/1cur.pdf)

**AND FINALLY…..**

Christmas comes only once a year, but this bladder pathology is observed even less frequently - the 'Christmas tree bladder’. The description is self-

explanatory with the bladder having the appearance of a Christmas (or fir/-pine-cone) tree. The bladder has an elongated shape with a pointed dome, along with diverticular out-pouchings due to a trabeculated bladder wall that appear like barbells hanging on the tree. It is almost always the result of a severe long-standing neurogenic bladder.

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(Art work kindly produced for Curiositas by Dr Matthew Skalski, Diagnos-
tic Imaging Resident, Southern California University of Health Sciences, USA. Radiographic images courtesy of Dr Ian Bickle)

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