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## PLASTINATED SPECIMENS

The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago is one of the few museums in the world to have plastinated human specimens—real human specimens from the creators of *BODY WORLDS*—permanently on display as a part of its dramatic health and wellness exhibit, *YOU! The Experience*.

The specimens—from the Institute for Plastination in Heidelberg, Germany—are displayed throughout the exhibit's topic areas, which include *Your Beginning*, *Your Vitality*, *Your Heart*, *Your Mind*, *Your Nutrition*, and are used to reinforce the cutting-edge content within the exhibit's interactive challenges, media presentations and artifacts.

The specimens include healthy and diseased organs, a full vascular system, a leg with a knee replacement and a full “expanded” body that highlights the relationships among the body’s various organs and structures. All of the specimens have been voluntarily donated by individuals who willed that, upon their death, their bodies could be used for the education of others. The specimens have been meticulously preserved using special plastics and a technique called “plastination.” The *BODY WORLDS* exhibits, when on display at the Museum of Science and Industry in 2005 and 2007, mesmerized more than 1.3 million guests.

The plastinated specimens on display in *YOU! The Experience* are:

**Expanded Body:** This whole-body plastinate is displayed with the various parts of the body separated, but connected through a thin support structure. It provides a clear and fascinating look at the relationships among the body’s various structures, organs and tissues.

**Male and Female Plastinated Torsos:** Male and female specimens show the body from the neck to the upper thigh and reveal the internal organs in the torso, including the reproductive organs.

**Digestive System:** A complete digestive system—from esophagus to intestines to colon—is shown isolated from the rest of the body.

**Vascular Body:** This whole-body plastinate shows the incredible network of vasculature that connects all of the body together. All other tissues and structures are stripped away for an amazing look at the human body’s vast network of blood vessels.

**Arterial configuration:** The major blood vessels of heart, kidneys and uterus are displayed; this specimen illustrates how the vessels serve these organs.

**Comparison of Six Organs:** This display shows comparisons of healthy and diseased organs. Guests will view the sobering differences between a healthy heart and an enlarged heart; a normal lung compared to the blackened tissue of a smoker’s lung; a healthy liver and diseased, enlarged liver.

**Comparison of Normal and Obese Legs:** Three specimens are compared. A cross-section from the leg of a person of normal weight is compared with cross-sections from the legs of a moderately obese

person as well as a morbidly obese person. These three specimens illustrate how the muscle tissue can be pervaded by fat.

**Leg with Knee Replacement:** A full leg is shown with the knee area pulled away to reveal an artificial replacement knee.

**Aged Knee Slice:** This thin, sagittal (longitudinal) section of a leg through the knee joint shows signs of arthritis suffered by an aged person.

**Brain and Nervous System:** This specimen shows the intricacy of the brain, spinal cord, and nerves that emanate from the spinal cord, isolated from the rest of the body.

#### **About YOU! The Experience**

A dramatic and unprecedented 15,000-square-foot exhibit, *YOU! The Experience* is a celebration of the body, mind and spirit that explores our personal health and well-being. The exhibit showcases the extraordinary workings of our bodies, the choices we make, the environment in which we live, and the role of medical technology. It opens October 8, 2009 as a permanent experience at the Museum of Science and Industry, in the newly created Abbott Hall, named for the global healthcare company and exhibit donor.

Funded by the Museum's *Science Rediscovered* capital campaign, *You! The Experience* is made possible through the generosity of Abbott; the Abbott Fund, the philanthropic foundation of Abbott; and the Pritzker Foundation. Additional major funding provided by J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family, Mazza Foundation, and Robert S. and Susan E. Morrison. The exhibit is included in general admission.

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