The Mütter Museum

America’s finest museum of medical history, the Mütter displays its beautifully preserved collections of anatomical specimens, models, and medical instruments in a 19th century “cabinet museum” setting. The museum helps the public understand the mysteries and beauty of the human body and to appreciate the history of diagnosis and treatment of disease.

The Collection began as a donation from Dr. Thomas Dent Mütter, who was determined to improve and reform medical education. At the time Mütter was a student at University of Pennsylvania’s medical school, students were not allowed to work with patients or assist with medical surgical procedures. His disappointment with American teaching techniques drove him to Paris to receive hands-on training. Upon his return to the States, Mütter assembled the collection and offered it to the College with a $30,000 endowment. The donation stipulated that the College had to hire a Curator, maintain and expand the collection, fund annual lectures and erect a brick building to house the collection. The College has held true to its promise to Dr. Mütter. Today the museum enjoys a steadily rising reputation with attendance exceeding 117,323 in 2010. Enjoying international popularity, the museum has been featured in a recent documentary on the Discovery Channel and is the subject of two best-selling books.

The College’s Museum Education program is geared towards middle school and high school students of diverse socio-economic backgrounds, and partners with area schools to expose students to the wide variety of careers in healthcare and biosciences, as well as to introduce them to the history and culture of medicine.

Features of the collection:
- Soap Lady
- Dr. Joseph Hyrtl’s human skull collection
- Plaster cast and conjoined liver of “Siamese twins” Chang & Eng
- Specimen from John Wilkes Booth’s vertebra
- Jaw tumor of President Grover Cleveland
- Rotating exhibits of photographic art and illustrations
- Tallest skeleton on display in North America
- Einstein’s Brain