



ORAL PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

1.5. "How to Adapt a Space to Transform It Into a Plastination Laboratory? Our Experience". "¿Cómo Adaptar un Espacio para Transformarlo en un Laboratorio de Plastinación? Nuestra Experiencia".

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Introduction: Plastination implies the need to have an enclosure that meets certain structural characteristics. The objective of this work is to report our experience at the Universidad Nacional del Sur, for which a space was modified to transform it into a laboratory suitable for this purpose. **Material and Method:** A space belonging to the University was used, which is separated from the other facilities. The original door was replaced by another hermetic and anti-panic one, made of aluminium. The electrical circuit was modified, removing outlets and installing LED lighting and touch switches (explosion proof). Extractors with filters for organic vapors were installed. For the forced impregnation phase, an epoxy-coated iron chamber with a reinforced glass lid was built. The motor of a horizontal freezer was extracted, which was installed in an external shed with ventilation, together with the vacuum pump of the chamber. A hot/cold air conditioner was also installed to carry out the plastination process at constant room temperature. **Results:** The adaptation of the space has allowed to successfully carry out the dehydration stage of the technique, in small organs (heart, kidneys and testicles of Wistar rats). It is expected to have the first cured samples for the second half of the current year, which will be used for research and teaching.

Discussion: In recent years, our University is in the process of reducing the number of formalized specimens. In this sense, the establishment of a plastination laboratory that allows quality, safe and durable materials to be obtained is essential. **Conclusions:** The construction of a plastination laboratory implies a considerable expense, so the adaptation of pre-existing spaces in the institutions results in significant reductions in costs and time required. Our experience shows that alternatives in this regard are possible.

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