## Accepted Manuscript

Title: Alarming decline in recognition of anatomical structures amongst medical students and physicians

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PII: S0940-9602(18)30123-7

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aanat.2018.09.004

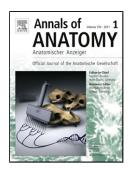
Reference: AANAT 51304

To appear in:

Received date: 21-5-2018 Revised date: 10-9-2018 Accepted date: 12-9-2018

Please cite this article as: Hołda, Mateusz K., Stefura, Tomasz, Koziej, Mateusz, Skomarovska, Oksana, Jasińska, Katarzyna A., Sałabun, Wojciech, Klimek-Piotrowska, Wiesława, Alarming decline in recognition of anatomical structures amongst medical students and physicians. Annals of Anatomy https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aanat.2018.09.004

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**TITLE**: "Alarming decline in recognition of anatomical structures amongst medical students and physicians"

**Running title:** Competency in recognition of anatomical structures

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**ABSTRACT: Background:** Insufficient anatomical training can put patients' safety at risk.

The aim of this study was to assess the proficiency of medical students and physicians in

identifying labelled anatomical structures. The second aim of the study was to evaluate factors

that can affect this recognition. **Methods:** An internet-based survey where participants had to

correctly identify labelled anatomical structures on cadaveric specimens was designed.

**Results:** The study group included 1186 participants (58.7% females): 931 medical students

and 255 medical graduates from all twelve Polish medical schools. The mean total survey score

for the entire study group was 65.6%. Students gained significantly higher results than

graduates (total: 67.3% vs. 59.5%, P<0.001); 331 (27.9%) participants did not pass the test

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