



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Fisiologia Umana 2 B

2627-2-H4103D007-H4103D00705

Aims

1. Knowledge and Understanding: It is essential that all medical students receive sufficient exposure to the physiological concepts underlying the functions of the human body that will provide the necessary foundation for further study in pharmacology, pathology, pathophysiology, and clinical medicine and surgery.
2. Applied Knowledge and Understanding: The curricular objectives are primarily focused on the normal function of the organism, however, the material is presented in a context that prepares students for their role as physicians. Therefore, whenever possible, clinical examples will be used to illustrate the basic physiological principles.
3. Autonomy of judgment: Correlate the structure and normal function of the organism as a complex of biological systems in continuous adaptation, interpreting the morpho-functional anomalies that occur in different diseases
4. Communication skills: Acquisition of the set of skills that allow one to interact effectively with others, both verbally and non-verbally.
5. Learning ability: acquisition of the physiological concepts underlying the functions of the human body which will provide the necessary foundation for further studies in pharmacology, pathology, pathophysiology and clinical medicine and surgery.

Contents

The course is based on the systematic presentation of physiological concepts based on the functions of the human body. The mechanism leading to an imbalance of function cannot be appreciated without a deep understanding of the biophysical and physiological basics. Therefore, such mechanisms that ensure the functions at the cellular level, tissues, organs and apparatus and at the integrated level will be introduced. In particular, the course will address the physiology of the nervous system, motor functions and superior nervous functions.

Detailed program

NEUROPHYSIOLOGY

Physiology of nerve cell - cell excitability Plasma membrane. Permeability, diffusion, osmosis, active and passive transport across the membrane. Ion channels. Electrochemical balance and Nernst equation. Resting membrane potential. The Na⁺ / K⁺ pump. Passive electrical properties of the membrane. Action Potential: origins, bases and ionic properties. Conduction of the action potential in unmyelinated and myelinated nerve fibers. Classification of nerve fibers. Elementary interactions between excitable cells. The synapses. General concepts on the synaptic transmission. The neuromuscular junction. The central synapses. Electrical events in postsynaptic neurons (EPSP and IPSP). Synaptic plasticity, LTP and LTD. Neuronal integration of synaptic inputs: spatial and temporal summation. Neurotransmitters, agonists and antagonists in the CNS. The BFCS, memory and aging. Definition and classification of motor units. Modulation of force output by varying the firing rate and recruitment of motor units. The nervous system - Sensory Systems. Organization and general mechanisms. The sensory receptors: definition and classification of receptors. Signal transduction and coding. Adequate stimulus. Adaptation. Receptive fields: mode, location, intensity, duration. Structure of human sensory system: free nerve endings, the nociceptors and thermoreceptors. Ascending pathways of somatic sensibility: the dorsal column-medial lemniscus system, the anterolateral system (spinothalamic tract). Somatosensory cortex. The pain. Nociceptors: anatomical distribution, mechanisms of activation and sensitization Nociceptors somatic, deep and visceral. Central pathways of pain sensibility. Endogenous antinociceptive systems: spinal mechanisms of modulation and supraspinal descending inhibitory systems. Opioids. Special sense organs. Motor system control: neuronal circuits, reflex responses, voluntary movements and rhythmic activities. Organization of motor system: spinal cord, brainstem and cerebral cortex. Cerebellum and basal ganglia. The medial and lateral systems in motor control. Motor functions of the spinal cord: spinal reflexes, muscle spindle and the stretch reflex, inverse stretch reflex, flexor reflex, the spinal preparation. Motor functions of the brainstem and cortex; supraspinal control of the stretch reflex, posture and its maintenance. Vestibular and neck reflexes. Cortical control of movement. Motor areas of the cortex and their functional role. Cerebellum and basal ganglia: general organization and functional role in motor control. EMG. The mirror mechanisms. Autonomic nervous system. Anatomical and functional organization of the sympathetic and parasympathetic system. Chemical mediators. Organization of the autonomic reflexes. Vegetative functions of the brainstem. Central nervous control of visceral functions. The neurovascular Unit and blood brain barrier functions.

Prerequisites

The prerequisite requirements to be fulfilled in order to sit the Human Physiology exam are those indicated in the Teaching Regulations of the Medicine and Surgery degree programme for the 2026/2027 academic year.

Teaching form

48 hours of frontal teaching are planned for the Neurophysiology module and 24 hours of frontal teaching for the Respiratory System Physiology module, carried out in person in delivery mode: the teacher begins with a first part in which the fundamental concepts are exposed (delivery mode) and then an interaction with the students opens that defines the next part of the lesson (interactive mode).

Teaching methods will include frontal lessons, videos and class discussions. When possible, analyses of clinical cases will be proposed for the evaluation of specific physiological parameters.

Textbook and teaching resource

E. R. Kandel, J. H. Schwartz, T. M. Jessel, S. A. Siegelbaum, A. J. Hudspeth, PRINCIPLES OF NEURAL SCIENCE, Mc Graw Hill Medical

Dale Purves, George J. Augustine, David Fitzpatrick, William C. Hall, Anthony-Samuel LaMantia, Richard D. Mooney, Michael L. Platt, NEUROSCIENCE (6th Edition) – eBook - Sinauer Associates (Oxford University Press); 6th edition

Susan E. Mulroney, Adam Myers, NETTER'S ESSENTIAL PHYSIOLOGY, Elsevier

Belfiore et al., FISIOLOGIA UMANA - FONDAMENTI, edi-ermes

D'angelo, Peres, FISIOLOGIA, edi-ermes

Conti, FISIOLOGIA MEDICA, edi-ermes

Guyton & J.E. Hall, FISIOLOGIA MEDICA, Piccin

Allan Siegel, Hriday N Sapru, FONDAMENTI DI NEUROSCIENZE, Piccin

Klinke, FISIOLOGIA, EdiSES

Grassi, Negrini, Porro, FISIOLOGIA MEDICA, Poletto Editore

Miserocchi G. FISIOLOGIA E FISIOPATOLOGIA RESPIRATORIA, CEA

Mc Ardle, Katch, Katch, FISIOLOGIA APPLICATA ALLO SPORT, CEA

Semester

Second year, second semester

Assessment method

For the assessment methods, please refer to the general syllabus of the course.

Office hours

The professors receive by appointment upon agreement by e-mail
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Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES
