**Boston Children’s Museum: A Wonderland for Physiology**

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**Goal**
To teach physiology to children (0 to 12 years) and their grown-ups during their museum visit

**Volunteers**
Students from area colleges volunteer to teach physiology in 4 hour shifts

**Colleges represented:**
- Boston University
- Harvard University
- Harvard Medical School
- Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology Program
- Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Related Museum Activities**
- Play in the Children’s Museum Theatre
  - Being Healthy
  - Eating Right
  - Going to the Doctor
- Laughing Yoga
- Family and Infant Massage

**Teaching Physiology**
- Museum orientation and exhibits
- Hands-on lessons with the activities
- Teaching physiology to different age groups: 0 to adult

**Activities**

### You’re the Doctor
Children explore medical equipment in a non-scary non-threatening environment. Volunteers explain what each tool does and what it is called. Volunteers show the children how the tools work and allow them to try them out on their grown-ups, themselves and each other.

### Circulation
Visitors take a close look at a cow’s heart. Volunteers explain how the heart works and where blood flows. Volunteers help students check their pulse.

### Bones
Volunteers discuss why bones are important. Volunteers talk about keeping your bones healthy by eating calcium-rich foods and exercising. Visitors compare the bones of animals and discuss the similarities and differences with volunteers.

### Inside Out
Visitors learn about the organs inside their body.

### Lungometer and Spirometer
Volunteers explain breathing and talk about lung capacity and how this changes during exercise and at rest.

### X-Rays
Volunteers look at x-rays and ask visitors to guess what part of the body they are looking at and find this part of the body on themselves. Volunteers challenge visitors to figure out what’s wrong (if anything) with the person or animal in the x-ray.

### Clean Me Up, Snotty
Visitors learn about glycoproteins and the components of mucous.

### Eyes have It
Visitors learn about their eyes and find their blind spot.

### Test Your Reaction Time
Visitors learn how fast their nerves and muscles react.

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**Summary and Conclusions**
- PhUn Day is conducted on Friday evening and Saturday all day
- Physiology is experienced by 800 to 1600 museum visitors
- PhUn Day is a great way to engage undergraduate and graduate students in science outreach with the community and to teach the community physiology