



Parkland School District
1210 Springhouse Rd.
Allentown, PA 18104
Contact: Nicole McGalla,
Phone: (610)351-5630 Mobile: 484-951-3779
Email: mcgallan@parklandsd.org



For Immediate Release: April 22, 2019

Parkland High School Students to Dissect Human Shoulder with Help of St. Luke's Doctors *News media invited.*

(ALLENTOWN) - Assisted by St. Luke's doctors, Parkland High School Students will dissect a human shoulder at 11 AM, Wednesday, April 24. Daniel Heckman, MD, orthopedic surgeon, St. Luke's Orthopedic Care, and members of his staff will be leading the dissection. The cadaver specimen was donated by the Venel Institute in Bethlehem.

"Shoulder pain and injury are a big part of our practice with about 25 percent of people over the age of 50 suffering from some kind of shoulder pain," said Dr. Heckman. "Many of these students represent the future of surgical and rehabilitative medicine so it's important for them to have this kind of early exposure. By the time they are practicing in the field, the technology and surgical instruments could be quite different, but the anatomy and physiology of the human body will be the same."

Parkland students participating in the sessions include those who want to pursue a career in the medical field and are participating in the Project Lead the Way[®] Human Body Systems class, which is part of a national curriculum. The class examines the interactions of human body systems as they explore identity, power, movement, protection and homeostasis and take on the roles of biomedical professionals to solve real-world medical cases.

Throughout the year, these students are involved in rigorous, hands-on, biomedical course curriculum including content and activities that immerse them in medical scenarios and situations, like dissections of a fetal pig and the heart, brain, kidney and eye of other organisms.

Eighty students will be directly involved in the live dissection. Dr. Heckman and his team will explain shoulder exams, review treatments, demonstrate a rotator cuff repair and review pathology including X-ray, MRI and scope images.

Additional students who are interested in pursuing a medicine-related profession, such as those taking Anatomy and Physiology or other Project Lead the Way[®] Biomedical courses or participating in Club Med at Parkland High School, will watch the event via livestream with St. Luke's athletic trainers who will answer questions during the live event.

Prior to the event, a St. Luke's committee interviewed and selected six students (who applied for the position through a written letter) to serve as the "Surgeon Sidekicks" during the dissection. These six students will assist Dr. Heckman prior to and during the dissection. Additionally, two St. Luke's Athletic Trainers visited Human Body Systems classes to provide expert information during a lesson on the anatomy and physiology of the shoulder. The athletic trainers also visited advanced placement art class students with shoulder models and explained the musculature of the shoulder to assist in a sketching assignment.

“The students are really excited to be in the presence of a cadaver specimen and to actually see, firsthand, the inside of the human body,” says Laura Kowalski, Parkland High School biology teacher. “These honors-level students are extremely dedicated to the sciences, especially as it relates to their interests in attending medical school or pursuing a career in the medical field, so this event will make a big impact on their futures.”

Media is welcome to attend. Please sign in at the front desk of Parkland High School between 10:45 and 11 AM to be escorted to the dissection classroom.

Media Contacts:

- Sam Kennedy, Corporate Communications Director, SLUHN, 484-526-4134, samuel.kennedy@sluhn.org
- Nicole Mehta McGalla, Director, Community Relations & Development, Parkland, 610-351-5630, mcgallan@parklandsd.org

About Project Lead the Way (PLTW)

Project Lead The Way is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for PreK-12 students and teachers across the U.S. Parkland PLTW Biomedical Science teachers begin their professional development tracks by completing pre-requisite courses that introduce educators to PLTW and provide them with essential foundational knowledge. Then, through Core Training – delivered on-site at an accredited college – teachers are empowered to develop the skills and tools they need to inspire students. This training experience is focused on pedagogy and in-depth exploration of the PLTW Biomedical Science coursework teachers lead in their classrooms. Following Core Training, PLTW teachers have access to ongoing learning opportunities that help them progress and flourish through online continuing education.

About St. Luke’s

Founded in 1872, [St. Luke’s University Health Network](#) (SLUHN) is a fully integrated, regional, non-profit network of more than 15,000 employees providing services at 10 hospitals and over 320 outpatient sites. With annual net revenue greater than \$2 billion, the Network’s service area includes 10 counties: Lehigh, Northampton, Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Montgomery, Monroe and Schuylkill counties in Pennsylvania and Warren and Hunterdon counties in New Jersey. Dedicated to advancing medical education, St. Luke’s is the preeminent teaching hospital in central-eastern Pennsylvania. In partnership with Temple University, St. Luke’s created the Lehigh Valley’s first and only regional medical school campus. It also operates the nation’s longest continuously operating School of Nursing, established in 1884, and 28 fully accredited graduate medical educational programs with 226 residents and fellows. St. Luke’s is the only Lehigh Valley-based health care system with Medicare’s five- and four-star ratings (the highest) for quality, efficiency and patient satisfaction. St. Luke’s is both a Leapfrog Group and Healthgrades Top Hospital and a Newsweek World’s Best Hospital. In 2019, three of IBM Watson Health’s 100 Top Hospitals were St. Luke’s hospitals. St. Luke’s University Hospital has earned the 100 Top Major Teaching Hospital designation from IBM Watson Health seven times total and five years in a row. St. Luke’s has also been cited by IBM Watson Health as a 50 Top Cardiovascular Program. Utilizing the Epic electronic medical record (EMR) system for both inpatient and outpatient services, the Network is a multi-year recipient of the Most Wired award recognizing the breadth of the SLUHN’s information technology applications such as telehealth, online scheduling and online pricing information. St. Luke’s is also recognized as one of the state’s lowest cost providers.