

MUMMIES OF THE WORLD THE EXHIBITION

MUMMIES UNDERGO CT SCAN AND ENDOSCOPY AT LANKENAU MEDICAL CENTER

South American Infant Mummy and Hungarian Adult Female Mummy on Loan to Groundbreaking *Mummies of the World* Exhibition, Debuting at The Franklin Institute June 18, 2011



WYNNEWOOD, PA (June 10, 2011) – As part of the groundbreaking *Mummies of the World* exhibition's arrival in Philadelphia, doctors and researchers utilized state-of-the-art medical technology to perform a non-invasive computerized tomography (CT) scan and laparoscopic endoscopy on a South American infant mummy and Hungarian adult female mummy, respectively, at Lankenau Medical Center on Thursday, June 9, 2011.

The scan and endoscopic procedures were organized by American Exhibitions, Inc. in collaboration with The Franklin Institute, Lankenau Medical Center, GE Healthcare, the German Mummy Project (GMP) at the Reiss-Engelhorn Museums (REM), and the

Hungarian Natural History Museum to help seek answers about the mummies and provide insight as to how they lived.

Dr. Harry G. Zegel, Chief of Lankenau Medical Center Department of Radiology and Main Line Health System Chair and Dr. Heather Gill-Frerking, Scientific Research Curator for the German Mummy Project conducted a “virtual autopsy” on the South American infant mummy – approximated to be about 600 years old – using state-of-the art 3D CT Scan technology to more accurately estimate the sex and age at death, as well as determine the extent and type of tumors identified from prior analysis. Results from the scan should help researchers begin to understand how the child may have lived, and why he or she may have died so young.

In conjunction with the CT scan, Dr. Ildiko Pap from the Department of Anthropology for the Hungarian Natural History Museum conducted a laparoscopic endoscopy on the adult female mummy from 18th Century Vac, Hungary—a procedure not often conducted on a mummy. Through this procedure, Dr. Pap examined the abdominal cavity of the Hungarian adult female mummy, and extracted a small sample of tissue from the stomach for further analysis for the possible presence of a bacterium that can cause stomach ulcers or stomach cancer. The examination showed that many of the internal organs of the mummy were better preserved than expected.

Preliminary results of the research findings are currently being analyzed and will be released in more detail in the coming weeks.

Both the Hungarian adult female mummy and the South American infant mummy are part of *Mummies of the World*, the largest exhibition of mummies and related artifacts ever assembled, making its Philadelphia debut at The Franklin Institute on June 18, 2011.

Featuring an astounding collection of 150 real human and animal mummies and related artifacts from South America, Europe, Asia, Oceania and Ancient Egypt, this groundbreaking exhibition, brought to the United States by American Exhibitions, Inc. in association with the REM, reveals how the scientific study of mummies provides a window into the lives of ancient peoples and civilizations from around the world.

"CT scans and other science tools represent the gold standard in studying mummies, helping us to learn much more about how people lived and died," said Dr. Gill-Frerking. "These techniques are also non-destructive and provide a complete three-dimensional archive record, which also allows us to preserve the mummies for future generations."

"We're honored to have been selected by The Franklin Institute and the curators of Mummies of the World to participate in this unique initiative," said Dr. Zegel. "At Lankenau Medical Center we are fortunate to have very high resolution CT technology enhanced by dual energy capabilities. This allowed us, in just a few moments, to obtain thousands of images of the Mummies, and then to reconstruct them in various projections including incredible 3D images without in anyway harming the delicate tissues of these specimens to assess their growth, development, and possibly even cause of death. This is truly an exciting opportunity."

Mummies of the World is a timed-entry ticketed event. Advance reservations are highly recommended. Information and tickets are available online at www.fi.edu or by calling at 1-877-TFI-TIXS.

Located in the heart of Philadelphia, **The Franklin Institute** is a renowned and innovative leader in the field of science and technology learning, as well as a dynamic center of activity. Pennsylvania's most visited museum, it is dedicated to creating a passion for learning about science by offering access to hands-on science education. For more information, visit www.fi.edu.

American Exhibitions, Inc. produces world-class touring exhibitions for science centers and museums that excite, educate, and engage visitors. As a longstanding member of the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) and the American Association of Museums (AAM), American Exhibitions, Inc. is one of the leading exhibit producers in the United States. For more information, visit www.americanexhibitions.com.

Reiss-Engelhorn Museums, an internationally acclaimed complex in Mannheim, Germany, has been one of the major venues for exhibitions in Europe in the realms of archeology and world cultures. With a collection that began in the early 1700s, the museum houses more than 1.2 million objects in its collection, comprising over 300,000 square feet of exhibition space. For more information, visit www.rem-mannheim.de/.

Lankenau Medical Center, a member of Main Line Health, is among the nation's leading centers of excellence in healthcare delivery, education and research. Located in suburban Philadelphia, the 331-bed teaching hospital is joined with the Lankenau Institute of Medical Research, a freestanding biomedical research institute that specializes in cardiac and cancer research, and the outstanding Annenberg Center for Medical Education. With its nationally renowned heart center, the hospital has consistently been honored as a Top 100 Cardiovascular Hospital by Thomson Reuters and was recently named among the Philadelphia region's "Best Hospitals" by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Media Contacts:

Mallory McQuail
Zucker Public Relations, Inc.
(561) 391-5930 x307
mallory@zuckerpr.com

Kat Stein
The Franklin Institute
(215) 448-2375
kstein@fi.edu

###