

# SCIENCE MUSEUM

# GALLERY GUIDE

## MEDICINE: THE WELLCOME GALLERIES

### INFORMATION



Ages

11-14  
14-16

Topics


HEALTH AND MEDICINE,  
HISTORY

Location

LEVEL 1, SCIENCE MUSEUM, LONDON




**5**  
**Faith, Hope  
and Fear**




LIFT E

STAIR E

**3**



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**Medicine and  
Treatments:  
The GSK Gallery**


**Medicine and  
Communities**

**2**  
**Exploring  
Medicine**

STAIR D



**1**  
**Medicine  
and Bodies**



LIFT C

STAIR C

# ***Medicine: The Wellcome Galleries* tells the story of how medicine and health care have shaped our lives over the last 500 years.**

Over 3,000 medical artefacts from the extraordinary collections of Henry Wellcome and the Science Museum Group are on display. From early surgery to microscopic imaging, these galleries explore how medicine has enabled us to better understand our bodies and helped us and our communities live longer, healthier, more pain-free lives. *Medicine: The Wellcome Galleries* is made up of five connected galleries.

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## **Medicine and Bodies**

This gallery reveals attempts to measure and understand the body and examines our understanding of medicine on the microscopic scale.

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## **Exploring Medicine**

A thousand medical artefacts are on display, celebrating the scale, diversity and significance of the Science Museum Group's and Henry Wellcome's collections.

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## **Medicine and Treatments: The GSK Gallery**

This gallery examines the core purpose of medicine, treating people, with a focus on personal experiences. It reveals a range of treatments that save, alter and extend lives.

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## **Medicine and Communities**

This gallery examines health challenges faced by groups, cities and populations, from deadly epidemics to the provision of health services.

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## **Faith, Hope and Fear**

This contemplative gallery explores the trust we place in medicine, and features cultural and religious items that represent hopes and fears about our health.

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# Art and medicine

The Science Museum has commissioned several works of art to illuminate the themes of *Medicine: The Wellcome Galleries*.

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## ***Self-Conscious Gene* by Marc Quinn, 2019**

*Located in Medicine and Bodies. Feel free to touch this artwork.*

Marc Quinn has combined street-art-style tattoos and traditional medical imagery in this sculpture of Rick Genest, better known as Zombie Boy, which helps us to think about how academic and popular culture shape what we think of as a 'normal' body.

Following treatment for a brain tumour in his youth, Genest was inspired to tattoo anatomical images over most of his body. Genest worked with tattoo artists to transform his skin into an anatomical work of art.

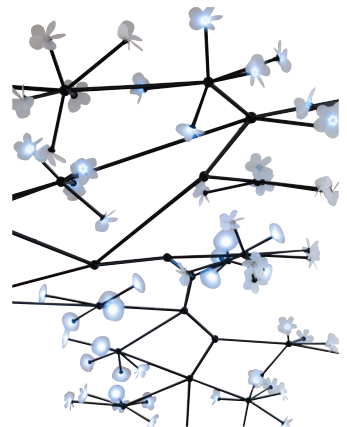


## ***Bloom* by Studio Roso, 2019**

*Located in Medicine and Communities.*

This hanging sculpture represents the spread of infectious diseases. Imagine each propeller is a cough or a sneeze; watch the display and see what happens.

*Bloom's* design is based on the diagrams we use to track the movement patterns of disease. It uses moving air to suggest how something as simple and invisible as breath can spread infection. As you watch the changing lights and propellers, you might think about how the health of one person can affect the health of their whole community.



## ***Santa Medicina* by Eleanor Crook, 2019**

*Located in Faith, Hope and Fear.*

*Feel free to touch this artwork.*

The symbols on the figure's clothing are both medical and spiritual: is *Santa Medicina* holding a string of prayer beads or a stethoscope, or both?

*Medicina* is both a surgeon and a saint, a mix of science and faith. The vulnerable figure within the skirts helps us to ask a series of questions. What makes a good life? What makes a good death? And when we are ill, where do we put our faith?



# Gallery highlights

## 1 Medicine and Bodies

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### Studying the dead

Ancient philosophers developed theories about the body by dissecting animals. These theories were believed for over a thousand years. It was not until the 1500s, when human bodies were dissected, that mysteries about ourselves were uncovered, paving the way for medical breakthroughs.

**Don't miss... Wax anatomical model, 1818**

This waxwork was made to teach students about the body.

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### Imaging the body

*This section is generously supported by the Wolfson Foundation*

Being able to see inside a living body without making a single cut was a huge advance in medicine. The invention of X-rays, MRI and endoscopy meant we could see our bones, brain and other organs like never before.

**Don't miss... Jedi helmets, 1980**

These MRI scan helmets were named after the Jedi knights in the *Star Wars* films to encourage children to wear them and to feel brave.

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### Measuring the body

The ability to measure and track our bodies helps us understand what is healthy and what suggests we might be unwell. The development of effective diagnostic tests has revolutionised the diagnosis and treatment of many diseases.

**Don't miss... Urine furnace, 1760–1900**

Human urine was heated and examined by early chemists. This process showed that urine was made up of different chemicals that could be used to diagnose illness.

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### Revealing our building blocks

*This section is generously supported by the Vitabiotics Foundation and the Lavani family*

Technology has allowed us to zoom in and see what we are made of. By looking at building blocks such as our cells and our genes we can both understand our bodies better and treat diseases more effectively.

**Don't miss... Human stones, 1960–1990**

These stones were found inside human organs by Kathleen Lonsdale. Lonsdale's work examined how age and gender affected the type of stones that formed.



## 2 Exploring Medicine

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There are over a thousand objects on display in this four-sided cabinet of curiosities, many of them from Henry Wellcome's personal collection.

### **Don't miss... Medical collection cabinet**

Some of the objects have a clear link to medicine or health, while others have a less obvious connection.



## 3 Medicine and Treatments: The GSK Gallery

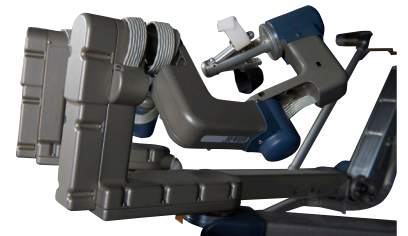
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### **Inside surgery**

Surgery has been used for thousands of years to help repair and treat our bodies. New technologies have revolutionised our experience of surgery; what used to be a brutal, painful procedure is now highly technical and precise.

### **Don't miss... da Vinci Classic Robot-Assisted Surgical System, 1999–2001**

These robotic arms are controlled by a surgeon sitting in the operating theatre. Professor Ara Darzi used this system to perform the first da Vinci robot surgery in Britain.



### **Rethinking treatments**

In the 1900s our knowledge about the body and how we could treat it changed dramatically. Radiotherapy, light therapy and electrical therapy were discovered to treat the body; play therapy and talking therapies were introduced to treat the mind.

### **Don't miss... Margaret Lowenfeld's play therapy, 1930s**

This sandbox contained toys and was used by children to communicate their thoughts and feelings. The arrangement of the toys helped a therapist understand the children's emotions.



### **Our journey with drugs**

Innovations in drug therapy have helped us live longer, more comfortable and more pain-free lives. Drugs became more accessible through shops such as Gibson & Son's, a real chemist's shop from 1834 on display in the gallery.

### **Don't miss... Genoese medicine chest, 1600s**

The 126 small bottles and boxes in this family travelling medicine chest hold ingredients from cinnamon to 'unicorn horn'.



## 4 Medicine and Communities

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### Centres of care

Hospitals have been central to our health care for hundreds of years. Over time hospitals have changed from being cramped and unhygienic places to clean, sophisticated hubs of medical innovation. Today the National Health Service (NHS) is a fundamental part of our communities.

#### Don't miss... The King's Fund miniature hospital, 1932

This model hospital was made before the establishment of the NHS.

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### Factors for health

There are many factors that have an impact on our health and wellbeing, from what we eat and our lifestyle choices, to where we live. We strive to live healthier lives, but our changing environment and lifestyles continue to provide new health challenges.

#### Don't miss... Public health posters, 1945–2018

Posters have long been used to spread messages to the public about health. Some of the posters on display here use a gentle approach while others attempt to shock.

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### Fighting infectious disease

Infectious diseases can easily spread through our communities. This can be something minor such as a cold, or something more serious needing time in hospital. Controlling the spread of infection through vaccination, education and cleanliness is important in the fight against disease.

#### Don't miss... The 'bug van' (fumigation van), 1925–1935

This van was used in Lambeth, London, to collect and disinfect clothing and belongings from homes infested with pests or where disease had struck.

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### Medical isolation

Occasionally, medical interventions have isolated people, to protect their own health and safety or that of others. This could be because the presence of a highly infectious disease poses a risk.

#### Don't miss... Isolation trolley, 1976

This trolley was used by patients with diseases such as Ebola.





## 5 Faith, Hope and Fear

When we are unwell it can be a difficult time for us and our families. We place our hopes in the science of medicine to make us better. Many of us also turn to social, spiritual or emotional sources for comfort.

### Don't miss... Amulets and charms, 100 BC – 1940

These tokens are symbols of the many faces of faith – faith in science, in medical practitioners, in religion, in loved ones and in oneself – during times of illness.



### Talk about...



As you explore these galleries, or back at school or at home, think about how medicine, science and technology affect our everyday lives.

- What interests or surprises you about what you've seen in the galleries?
- Have you, or anyone that you know, benefited from any of the medical advances you've seen today?
- What does it mean to be medically 'normal'?
- How is each one of us responsible for the health of those around us?

### Make the most of your visit

You can have digital experiences throughout the galleries. These range from trying out surgical instruments to controlling the spread of a pandemic disease.

Throughout the galleries you will also find touch objects giving you a chance to feel and connect more deeply with these parts of medicine.

More information about the objects on display can be found in the large-print books displayed throughout the galleries.

### Explore more...

Visit the amazing *Who Am I?* gallery to further your experience of how medicine affects our lives. This gallery is interactive and explores the question: what makes you, you?

The Science Museum website features many different hands-on activities, films and games to continue your experience back at home or in the classroom.

For more ideas and activities visit **learning-resources.science-museum.org.uk**