

Review of Physiology Video

Physiology, An Inside View

One of the problems we physiologists have is explaining to others why we find what we do so exciting and fulfilling. Another problem we have is ensuring that there will be a new generation of physiologists to take our place when we are gone. The new video, *PHYSIOLOGY, AN INSIDE VIEW*, available from the American Physiological Society can help with both of these problems. This 28-minute video was originally produced in Britain by the Physiological Society. The video presents a broad overview of physiology from the cellular to the whole-body level in a format suitable for junior high students to adults. The video focuses on several research projects to present to the viewer a description of what physiology is, what tools physiologists use, and why the study of physiological processes is so important. Segments on the physiology of exercise, a patient with Parkinson's disease, telemetry studies of flying geese, cell culture studies, cold water immersion studies, and the physiology of space flight give a broad overview of modern physiology. The on-camera narrator brings a lot of enthusiasm to his job and is even willing to have himself dunked in cold water to explain the concept of

homeostasis. The production qualities of the video are quite good and the video keeps the viewer interested throughout. I recently showed the video to a group of undergraduate biology students who were involved in a summer research program. Most of the students said that their interest in physiology was increased by viewing the video. Other comments they had regarding the video included that it was the right length, that it was not boring, that the narrator showed a lot of enthusiasm, and that it showed that physiology was a modern science.

Although the video is a good introduction to physiology, it does have a few weak points. The narrator has a heavy accent, which makes understanding some of his speech difficult. In addition, the accent and the narrator's enthusiasm were perceived as somewhat humorous by our students. Other concerns our students had about the video were that no women scientists or scientists who are members of minority groups are shown, although one woman technician is shown briefly, that no mention of informed consent was made in the segment on cold water immersion of a helicopter pilot, and that almost all of the

segments featured the accomplishments of British physiologists. Some American students, particularly women and members of minority groups, thus might have problems identifying with the physiologists shown in the video and seeing themselves as physiologists. This problem could be helped by a short discussion about careers in physiology that should take place after the video is shown. Despite these weak points, the video is quite good and well worth showing to junior high, high school, and college students or any other group whose members may have an interest in physiology. I plan to use the video as an introduction to both my human physiology course and the physiology section of our introductory biology courses. The video is an excellent resource for encouraging young people to enter into a career in physiology and for showing lay people the excitement we experience in our work. A copy of the video is available from APS headquarters for the extremely reasonable cost of \$20.00.

Christopher Barney



APS Winners at Ohio's Science Day. The American Physiological Society sponsored four awards at Ohio's State Science Day program at Ohio Wesleyan University. Shown here are APS members Bruce Biagi (*left*) and Kenneth Hanson (*right*), of Ohio State University, who were judges for the physiology section, and award winners (*left to right*) Jeannine L. Taylor, Cory R. Buford, and Celina M. Loebick. The fourth winner (not pictured) was Douglas K. Dangler. This was the third year APS presented certificates of award at the Ohio science day program.

Ohio Physiological Society Symposium on High-Tech Physiology

The Ohio Physiological Society Third Annual Symposium entitled "High-Tech Physiology" will be held on Friday, November 11, 1988 at Case Western Reserve University. Speakers will include Dr. Britton Chance, University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Fredric Fay, University of Massachusetts; and Dr. Guy Salama, University of Pittsburgh. More information can be obtained by calling (216) 368-5517.

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