Affordable Resources for Teaching Human Gross Anatomy
Participant in Textbook Affordability Summer Symposium 2020

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BACKGROUND

The Human Gross Anatomy course consists of a lecture (3 cr., HSC 475/575) and co-requisite cadaver dissection laboratory (3 cr., HSC 457/557). The courses are required for students in the BS in Health Sciences pre-Physical/Occupational Therapy tracks and are taken as electives for other pre-professional students.

Traditionally, textbooks were required for both lecture (Agur & Dalley 2018, $80) and lab (Rohen et al. 2006, $100). However in the course evaluations, students reported not using the textbooks or not purchasing them in the first place.

OBJECTIVE

The goal in participating in the 2020 Textbook Affordability Summer Symposium was to explore the possibility of using openly-licensed resources in the teaching of Human Gross Anatomy.

Figure 1. *Anatomy & Physiology: OpenStax. (Fig 11.7)* Free, open-source but lacks detail for upper/graduate-level course.

RESOURCES ASSESSED

- *Anatomy & Physiology: OpenStax (DeSaix et al. 2018).* (Figure 1) The free, open-source text suggested by the Symposium. It is a great comprehensive textbook at the lower-division undergraduate level but as a whole it does not meet the level of detail needed for an upper-division or graduate level course.
- *https://anatomytool.org/anatomy-learning-resources-which-are-open.* A good compilation of open graduate-level anatomy resources.
- *Complete Anatomy* software (Motsinger 2020). (Figure 2) At $35/year license, this interactive 3D anatomy platform serves as an affordable replacement for both lecture and lab texts. It is engaging, detailed, and accessible on smartphones, tablets, and computers.

CONCLUSIONS

Through the symposium, I gained knowledge of the regulations of Open Access learning materials and the meaning of copyrighted materials and Creative Commons licenses. I am encouraged by the possibility of using open resources in my Human Anatomy course. However, it is also clear that publishers material is superior for this course that is required for graduate professional schools.

Interactive 3D software is being explored as an attractive, affordable option for students in Spring and Fall 2021.
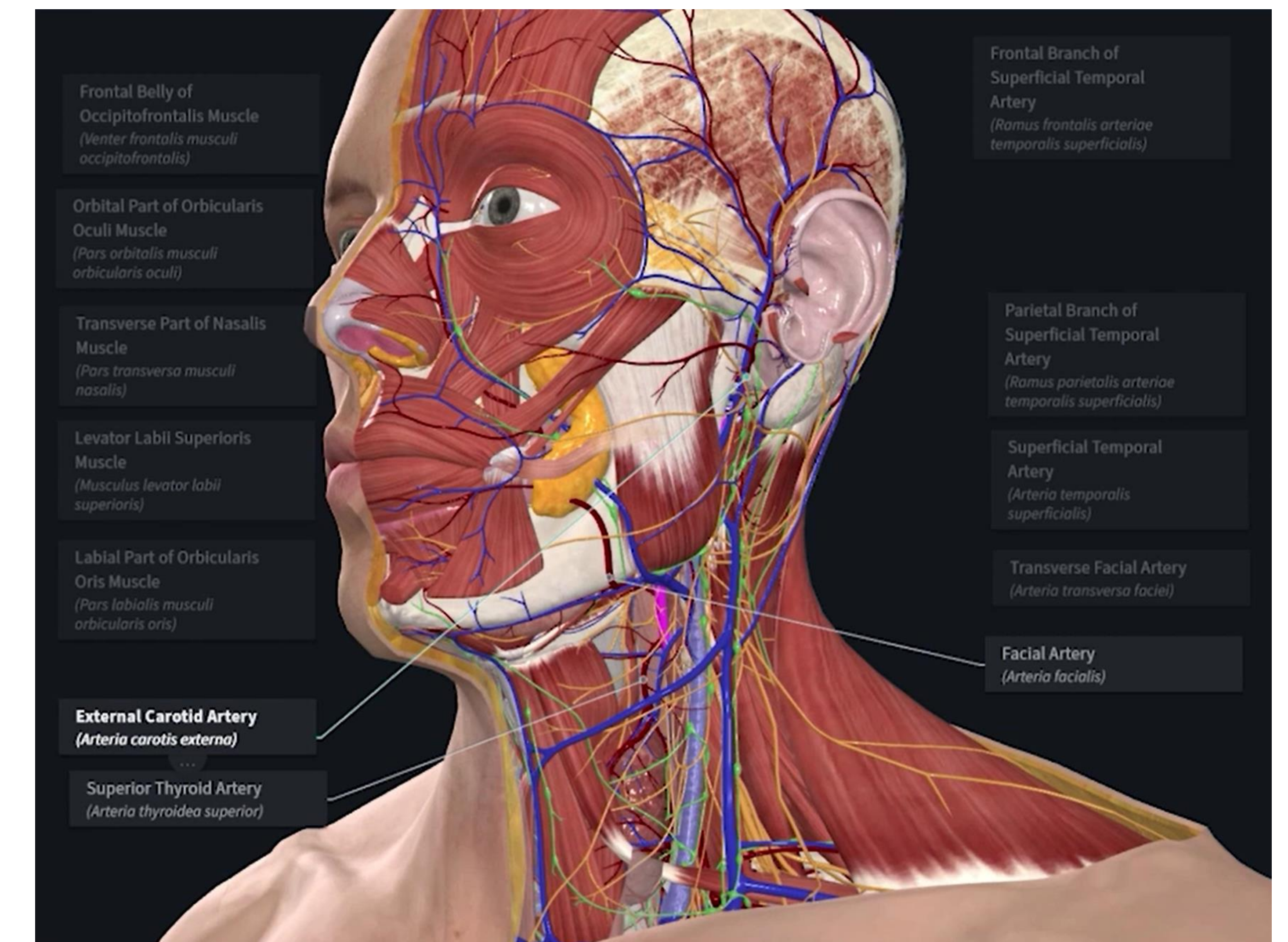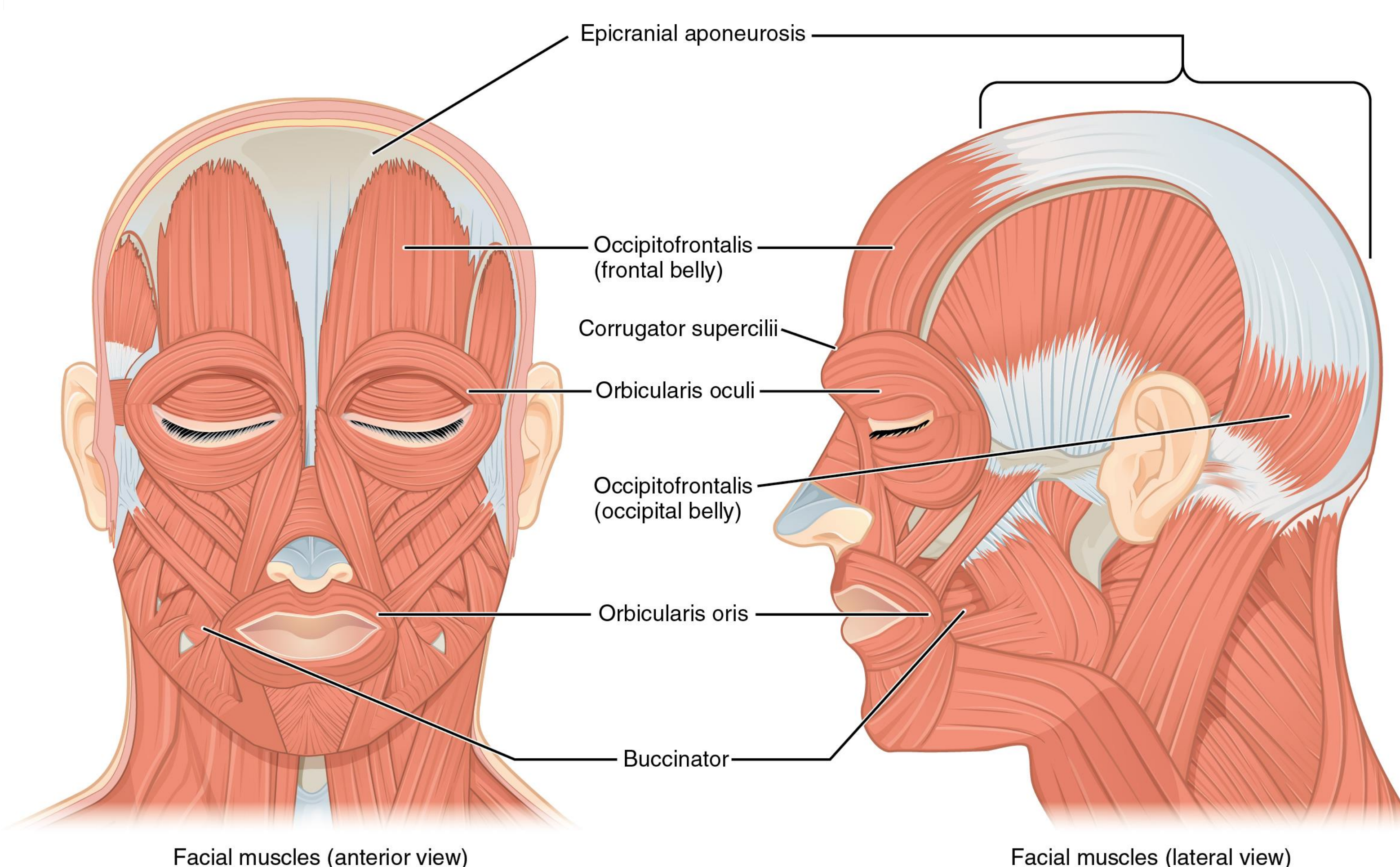

Figure 2. Complete anatomy software (3d4medical.com) is an affordable, interactive, alternative to traditional anatomical textbooks.

WORKS CITED

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