

GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

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Haller, Victor Albrecht von

1708 - 1777

DEGREE: MD

DATE: 1727

PLACE: Leiden

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Duvernoy

professor of anatomy, botany, and medicine; poet; one of the most prolific writers and experimentors in the history of medicine; studied digestion, respiration, embryology, and the anatomy of blood vessels and the nervous system; demonstrated that muscles can contract independently of the nervous system; first to describe exactly the alternate contraction of the atria and ventricles of the heart; recognized role of bile in the digestion of fats; described several anatomical structures that have since been named for him, including Haller's isthmus, Haller's cones, Haller's network, Haller's venous circle, Haller's plexus, Haller's tunica vasculosa, Haller's arterial circle, and Haller's fibrous circle.

FOOTNOTE: Haller's MD thesis was written under Duvernoy's direction at Tübingen, but was awarded at Leiden, where Haller was especially influenced by his teachers Boerhaave and B. S. Albinus.

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