

Come one, come all:

The IMHM averages 6,200 visitors annually.

Before it was a museum ... :

- “It was one very small piece of a mental hospital.”
- In 1896, Dr. George Edenharter founded the Pathological Department of the Central Indiana Hospital for the Insane, which opened in 1848 and closed in 1994. The museum was established in 1969.

Medical pioneers:

- An on-site anatomical museum features dozens of specimens from autopsies conducted in the building.
- “The major part of the collection we still have on exhibit is damaged brains. Doctors were picking the best examples of the worst brain damage to study here. At that time, the brain was pretty much unknown territory.”

Enjoy the scenery – but don’t touch:

The IMHM’s medicinal plant garden provides a visual connection between pharmaceuticals and the plant compounds upon which they long have been based.

Three memorable exhibits:

- Medical implements in dentistry and oral surgery from the late 19th/early 20th centuries
- Civil War amputation kits. “More soldiers were dying from disease than from battlefield injuries. The germ theory came onto the scene later.”
- History of nursing in Indiana post-Civil War

Calling all ‘wizards’:

- Who knew making slime (while exploring molecular structure) or holding body organs (to learn about human anatomy and disease) could be so much fun?
- The Wizards Academy, designed for third through sixth graders, takes children out of the classroom and into the laboratory. The event is held annually at the IMHM.

Indiana Medical History Museum

Preserving Pathology’s Past

“There are museums with similar collections, but this one has its own unique category within museums across the state and even the country. We are 99.9% certain that this is the only freestanding pathology building from that early era (late 1800s) that still exists in the United States.”

– Mary Ellen Hennessey Nottage, executive director, www.imhm.org