



## SYNTHETIC BLOOD

This is the site of Edinburgh's Anatomical Museum. Inside are all kinds of anatomical artifacts, including a note written using the blood of serial murderer William Burke (1829).

Today, researchers are exploring the potential of synthetic human blood. They use stem cells (rapidly growing and flexible cells) to develop blood, specifically O negative red blood cells which are compatible with all blood types. This work is based out of the Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine and involves researchers from universities, blood transfusion services and the private sector.

Potential advantages of laboratory-cultured blood include: increased supply, decreased risk of transmitting disease, and reduced reliance on volunteer blood donors.

Potential disadvantages include: higher costs, loss of community goodwill created by volunteer donors, reliance on pharmaceutical companies, and introduction of profit motives into the blood supply system.

NEXT ANATOMICAL MUSEUM OPEN DAY

SAT NOV 24, 10-4pm