

Anatomy and Physiology Terms

Anatomy and Physiology Terms

1. Introduction

- Anatomy terms describe body structures, while physiology terms describe how those structures function.
- A shared vocabulary allows precise reference to locations and processes.

2. Body Organisation

- Levels progress from cells to tissues, organs, and organ systems.
- **Homeostasis:** the maintenance of a stable internal environment.

3. Directional Terms

- **Anterior and posterior:** front and back of the body.
- **Superior and inferior:** above and below a reference point.
- **Medial and lateral:** toward and away from the midline.

4. Body Planes and Cavities

- Sagittal, frontal, and transverse planes divide the body for study.
- The dorsal and ventral cavities house and protect organs.

5. System Terminology

- Each organ system has root words, such as gastro for the stomach and nephro for the kidney.
- Physiological terms describe actions like contraction, secretion, and absorption.

6. Summary

- Directional and structural terms give a common map of the body.
- Linking anatomy with physiology connects structure to function.