



The National Library of Medicine is pleased to present our latest traveling exhibition, ***Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature***.

On a dark and stormy night in 1816, Mary Shelley began writing a story that posed profound questions about individual and societal responsibility for other people. To make her point, the young novelist used the scientific advances of her era and the controversies surrounding them as a metaphor for issues of unchecked power and self-serving ambition, and their effect on the human community. Since that time, *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* has become one of the Western world's most enduring myths. The story provides a framework for discussions of medical advances that challenge our traditional understanding of what it means to be human.



The six-banner traveling exhibition explores the Birth of Frankenstein, the life of author Mary Shelley, the scientific search for the principle of life, and the transformation of the “monster” in popular culture.

Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature began traveling around the United States in June 2015. For more information, contact nlmtravelingexhibits@nlm.nih.gov or visit us on the web at: www.nlm.nih.gov/frankenstein.

Credit line: **This exhibition was developed and produced by the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health.**

Curated by Susan Lederer, PhD

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