the and molecules. Indeed, comparative physiology may deal with all degrees of reductionism, from molecule to whole organism. Although one can divide physiol- ogy according to varying degrees of reductionism, it is also possible to define a branch of physiology--for example, com- parative physiology--that focuses on differences and similari- ties among different species. Although physiology is not primarily concerned with structure--as is the case for anatomy, histology, and structural biology--structure and function are inextricably linked because the living structures perform the functions. For many practicing clinicians, physiology may be the function of an individual organ system, such as the cardiovascular, respiratory, or gastroin- testinal system. For centuries, the discipline of physiol- ogy has been closely intertwined with medicine. Physiology is the mother of several biological sci

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