

# A Human Body Analogy for Equipment Asset Management

Much like equipment assets, there's no single element that makes for a healthy human: One must take a system approach. This article connects that same type of analogy to the key players in our quest for reliable plants.

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## The Soul of Asset Management

### MAINTENANCE & RELIABILITY LEADERS

More abstract than other parts of the body, the soul represents one's dreams, goals, value systems, and principles. If guided by a steady set of values and principles that are applied to achieve worthy dreams and goals, one can look back on his or her life with a sense of peace and self-actualization. However, a mercurial soul can lead us in the direction of short-term gains that can be destructive and, accordingly, compromise long-term achievement and success. Similarly, maintenance and reliability leaders represent the soul of equipment asset management. When managed with a clear vision and a steady hand, the assets deliver on the organization's production, profits, safety, and environmental goals.

## The Hands of Asset Management

### MAINTENANCE TRADES & TECHNICIANS

Managing human health requires action. It's not enough to think about and plan to eat appropriate amounts of healthy food, get sufficient exercise, and seek medical advice and intervention when required. You have to execute. Similarly, world-class reliability engineering, planning, and supervision won't deliver plant reliability if tradespeople aren't adequately educated, trained, and motivated to deliver how and where it counts most: with precision, at the equipment and on the plant floor.

## The Brain of Asset Management

### RELIABILITY ENGINEERS

The human brain integrates sensory information, experiences, knowledge, and learnings to guide the body to preserve, restore, or enhance its existence. In the plant, the reliability engineer plays a similar role. Leveraging tools such as failure modes and effects analysis (FMEA), reliability engineers determine when and how to redesign equipment, deploy duty-standby or shared-load redundancy, apply proactive and precision equipment care, and implement other strategies and tactics to reduce operational, safety, and environmental risks to the organization. However, like the human body, analysis must be put into action to deliver value.

## The Heart of Asset Management

### MAINTENANCE SUPERVISORS

The human heart serves the rest of the body by delivering oxygen and nutrients that are necessary for survival, good health, growth, and vitality. Maintenance supervisors play a similar role in your plant. Supervisors are critical as gatekeepers to ensure work that is most important to reliability gets done, and that it's done correctly. Just as a healthy heart is essential to human health, maintenance supervisors are essential to the health and reliability of your plant.

## The Liver of Asset Management

### MAINTENANCE PLANNERS

In the human body, the liver converts food and drink into the nutrients necessary for survival and detoxifies unhealthy inputs, such as alcohol. In the plant, the planner serves a similar function. He or she absorbs inputs from inspections and monitoring, control-room data, and time-based maintenance schedules, and works with operations, maintenance, and reliability engineering to develop weekly maintenance plans and/or shutdown events. Risk-based plans must be converted into the 'nutrients' required for equipment reliability, including clear work instructions, bills of materials (BOMs), etc. that are necessary to execute high-quality maintenance.