



Australia's
Global
University

Medicine / Biomedical Sciences

Donor Information Statement

You are invited to donate your body to UNSW Sydney for the purpose of anatomical study and medical research. Your donation will make possible the training of health care professionals and benefit the entire community. The University accepts bodies in accordance with the provisions of the *Anatomy Act 1977* and the *Human Tissue Act 1983*. Please take time to read the following points relating to the donor program before completing the Consent Form.

Discussing your wishes with your next-of-kin or executor

To ensure that your wishes in this matter are observed, it is desirable that you discuss your intentions with your next-of-kin or executor. The University requests that the consent form be co-signed by your senior next-of-kin or executor to ensure that they are aware of your intentions to donate after death. The order of seniority of next-of-kin for an adult is as follows: spouse or domestic partner, son or daughter, mother or father, brother or sister. If you do not have an available next-of-kin, or executor, you may contact the NSW Trustee & Guardian, as they can be assigned as your executor:

NSW Trustee & Guardian: Telephone: 1300 364 103 Website: www.taq.nsw.gov.au

It is also desirable that you discuss your intentions with the executor(s) of your will. Inserting a provision in your will to the following effect will assist in drawing the attention of your executor(s) to this matter:

"I have expressed the wish for and consented to the anatomical examination of my body at the School of Medical Sciences of UNSW Sydney and the removal of tissue from my body to be used for medical and scientific purposes and that consent has not been withdrawn or revoked by me."

Letting your health care professional or next-of-kin know of your wishes

Any doctor/ nurse in attendance or next-of-kin should also know of your intentions; so that in the event of your death, they can inform the University as soon as possible. Telephone calls should be made to the UNSW Bequeathal Program on **(02) 9385 2480** during business hours.

*Note: If your death was unexpected and/or at a private residential address; unless the treating physician is willing to issue a death certificate immediately, police must be first point of contact.

Memorial ceremony at the time of your death

If your next-of-kin so desire, they may arrange at the expense of your estate, a private memorial ceremony however, your body would not be present as donors are usually delivered to the University within 24 hours.

Responsibilities of the University when we are advised of your death

Immediately upon notification of your death, and subject to circumstances which allow the University to accept your donation (next section), the University will make all necessary arrangements and meet all expenses in connection with the removal and transport of your body within the Sydney metropolitan area. We will undertake tests on blood from your body to confirm you have not acquired an infectious disease. This is to protect staff working with your body. The UNSW Bequeathal Program will not disclose the nature of the results with any third party. However, you should be aware that if testing reveals a reportable infectious disease (such as HIV), then we are legally obliged to report this to public health authorities, who may then contact your close family contacts if they consider it is in the interest of public health to do so.

When anatomical examination has been completed, the University will arrange for your remains to be cremated and will meet the expenses of these arrangements. Please be aware that when the ashes become available for your loved ones, arrangements should be made by your next-of-kin to have the ashes collected from the crematorium. The University does not undertake to erect a headstone or memorial plaque. If in any case, your next-of-kin is unable to be contacted, the ashes are returned to and retained at UNSW Sydney for three years. After this period, the ashes will be scattered in the memorial garden at the crematorium.

Circumstances which may prevent the University accepting your donation

The University welcomes your valued offer of donation, **but some circumstances may prevent the acceptance of your body**. Some circumstances which will prevent the acceptance of your donation include:

- Obesity or emaciation (extreme slenderness)
- Tuberculosis (TB), HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (CJD), antibiotic resistant bacterial infections such as MRSA, Dementia of unknown cause, or a suspected communicable disease
- Have resided in the UK between 1980 and 1996 for a total time of six months or more or have received blood transfusions in the UK since 1 January 1980
- If death occurred more than 24 hours before notification to the University
- If your body has been significantly altered by certain medical conditions including recent amputation surgery within weeks prior to death, organ donation and autopsy
- When there is too great a distance for body transportation, as donations can now only be accepted from areas within the Sydney metropolitan area
- Limited storage within the University facility
- Planned University shutdowns (e.g. Christmas/New Year break)

Please note that due to these factors and possibly others, a signed Consent Form intending donation, does **NOT guarantee acceptance of your body at the time of death**. Therefore, UNSW Bequeathal Program cannot be held liable for any costs incurred through the rejection of a donation for any reason.

Possible use of your donation by another Medical School or Teaching Hospital

Medical Schools or Teaching Hospital in less populous areas do not receive as many offers as this Medical School and as a result their work is sometimes hampered. If we are unable to use your body in this University, and you have no objection to your body or tissues being used in another Medical School or Teaching Hospital in Australia, where there is a shortage of donors, we may transfer your body or tissues to one of these Medical Schools or Teaching Hospitals. Please note that this will only occur if UNSW Bequeathal Program has accepted and received the donation. The Consent Form makes provision for you to express your wishes on this matter. When anatomical examination has been completed, the other Medical School or Teaching Hospital would return your cremated remains to UNSW Sydney.

Complaints can be made to an independent ethical committee

Should you have any complaints concerning the arrangements for donation consent, or your next-of-kin have any complaints about the procedures involved in donation, these should first be resolved with the Head of Anatomy Department/ Anatomy Licensee on (02) 9065 1340. Failing that complaints may be directed to the HREC Coordinator, contact UNSW Sydney on (02) 9385 6222 or email humanethics@unsw.edu.au.

Lodging your Consent Form and your right to revoke your consent

The completed Consent Form must be lodged with and accepted by the UNSW Bequeathal Program prior to your death. Please be aware you are free to withdraw your consent to donate your body in writing at any time prior to your death without prejudice. Please feel free to request a Revocation of Consent Form by contacting UNSW Bequeathal Program (See Contacts).

Any further questions

If you have any further questions, please feel free to ask us. If you have any additional questions, Aarathi Venunadan (See Contacts) would be happy to assist you.

Contacts

Aarathi Venunadan

Phone: (02) 9385 2480 (Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm)

Email: bequeathal@unsw.edu.au

Address: Bequeathal Program
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