



DONALD AND BARBARA
ZUCKER SCHOOL *of* MEDICINE
AT HOFSTRA/NORTHWELL



***Whole Body Anatomical
Gift Program***

Thank you for your interest in helping to further medical education at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell.

Anatomical study forms an essential foundation for the education of health professionals, and your generosity will help establish this base of knowledge.

The need for your donation is great, and your gift will be honored and valued by many. Our Whole Body Anatomical Gift Program holds compassion for donors, professional competence, and adherence to legal and ethical standards as its central tenets. We consider the wishes of donors and their families as primary to our mission.

In this brochure, you will find a description of the donation process, answers to frequently asked questions, and instructions for enrollment in the Whole Body Anatomical Gift Program. If you have additional questions after reviewing this information, please feel free to contact the program administrator, Cira Peragine, at **516-463-7505** or **cira.peragine@hofstra.edu**.

Mission Statement

The Whole Body Anatomical Gift Program of the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell is dedicated to facilitating the medical education and research needs of health professionals and fulfilling the wishes of our donors in an atmosphere of professionalism, scholarship, and reflection.

THE DONATION PROCESS

Establishing a Donation

You must be at least 18 years of age (no maximum age limit) and of sound mind to establish a donation to the Whole Body Anatomical Gift Program. Documentation required for initiating a donation includes completion of the following forms:

- Declaration of Intent to Donate
- Statistical Information for Issuance of Death Certificate
- Authorization for Cremation (New York state requirement)

You should make two copies of each form, one for your records and one that should be given to a family member, attorney, or close friend. The original signed documents should be mailed to the Whole Body Anatomical Gift Program at:

Whole Body Anatomical Gift Program Administrator
Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell
500 Hofstra University
Hempstead, NY 11549-5000

Please be assured that you (the donor) have the right to revoke your intent to donate at any time, and this right also applies to the next of kin or authorized representative after you are deceased.

At the Time of Death

When death occurs, the party responsible for making the arrangements (next of kin or other authorized person) to donate the body should contact the Whole Body Anatomical Gift Program as soon as possible at **516-463-7505**. This is a 24-hour number. If the body is deemed acceptable for donation, arrangements will be made for immediate transfer of the body to our facilities by a funeral director associated with the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell.

We are able to defray the costs of body transportation to the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell only from the counties of Nassau and Suffolk, and the five boroughs of New York City. If death occurs in New York state and outside of our donation area, and donation is still desired: 1) the legal representative may have the unembalmed body transported to the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell the legal representative's expense, or 2) the body may be donated to a medical school within the region in which death occurred.

We require the body to be intact for use in our program. Therefore, embalming, organ donation, or autopsy may preclude acceptance of a whole body donation.

There are several additional reasons why a body may not be suitable for donation. These include, but are not limited to:

- Certain infectious diseases (including, but not limited to, AIDS, hepatitis, tuberculosis, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease)
- Extensive trauma or decomposition
- Extreme obesity

Although most anatomical donations are accepted, donors and their next of kin should plan alternative arrangements in the event that the donation must be declined.

Anatomical Studies

Understanding of human structure is an essential step in the education of health professionals, and your donation allows students hands-on experience with the form of the human body. The majority of donations are utilized directly in the education of medical students at the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. Some donations may also be utilized in research or educational activities conducted by medical professionals associated with the Zucker School of Medicine. Finally, through our participation in the Associated Medical Schools of New York, bodies may occasionally be provided to other member schools to aid in the education of their health professions students. Upon completion of anatomical studies at these institutions, donations will be returned to the Zucker School of Medicine.

Anatomical studies generally take between one and three years, although some donations may be retained for longer periods of time. In some cases, donations may provide such a unique educational opportunity that a portion of the donation may be retained for archival purposes. We reserve the right to retain selected portions of a donation for this purpose. The anatomical gift will continue to educate medical students.

Disposition of Remains

Upon completion of anatomical studies, remains will be cremated at the expense of the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell at a licensed in-state crematory. In accordance with the donor's request, cremated remains (cremains) are either returned to the designated recipient or scattered at sea.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Who can make a donation?

Competent persons at least 18 years of age may arrange to donate their bodies for the purpose of medical education and research. Donations may also be made after death by the next of kin or other legally designated representative. There is no maximum age limit on donation.

Q: Is there any cost to me or my family for participation in the donation program?

There are no costs to the donor or the donor's family, assuming that death occurs within the donation area (Nassau and Suffolk Counties, and the five boroughs of New York City). The Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell will be financially responsible for the removal of the body, transportation of the body to the Zucker School of Medicine facility, permits for transportation and cremation, cremation of remains, and scattering or return of remains to family. We are not financially responsible for funerals, obituaries, or other services not specifically mentioned here.

Q: Will any payment be received for my donation?

No. The National Organ Transplantation Act and laws of New York state specifically prohibit giving of "anything of value" to donors or next of kin in exchange for bequeathal of organs or bodies.

Q: Should I include information about my donation in my will or notify my family prior to my death?

It is not required that instructions regarding your donation be included in your will or as a codicil to your will. It is advisable that you discuss your intent to donate your body with family members, an authorized representative, your personal physician, or an attorney.

Q: What if I change my mind?

Please be assured that you are free to change your mind and revoke your statement of intent to donate at any time.

Q: What is a Registry of Intent?

Your completion of the Registry of Intent form does not represent a legal contract. The donation of one's body after death is taken as an expression of one's personal wishes and does not represent a commitment to donate. Please be aware that the right to revoke the intent to donate also applies to the next of kin after the donor is deceased. After the death of the donor, the donor's next of kin will complete a Consent for Whole Body Donation form.

Q: Is a viewing or wake permitted before donation?

In order for donations to be utilized by our program, it is essential that the body be received by our facility within 24 hours of death. Because of this, the body will not be available for a viewing or wake. Of course, a memorial service without the presence of the body is an option.

Q: How will my body benefit the education of health professionals?

Understanding of human structure is an essential step in the education of health professionals, and your donation allows students hands-on experience with the form of the human body. The majority of donations are utilized directly in the education of medical students at the Zucker School of Medicine. Some donations may also be utilized in research or educational activities conducted by medical professionals associated with the Zucker School of Medicine. Finally, through our participation in the Associated Medical Schools of New York, bodies may occasionally be provided to other member schools to aid in the education of their health professions students. Upon completion of anatomical studies at these institutions, donations will be returned to the Zucker School of Medicine.

*We thank you for your interest in this
most precious and altruistic gift.
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you
have any questions.*

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Donald and Barbara
Zucker School of Medicine
at Hofstra/Northwell

500 Hofstra University
Hempstead, NY 11549-5000

Telephone: **516-463-7505**

Email: **cira.peragine@hofstra.edu**

Web: **medicine.hofstra.edu/agp**



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