FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ANATOMICAL DONATION PROGRAM

Prior to Enrollment:

You must have completed and signed the anatomical donation form

Designation or placement of the body to a program or an institution:

The donor, in advance, should state in their will to have his body donated to an anatomical donation program or to a medical school.

Is there payment made for the donation of the body?

No.

Shared donated bodies?

The willed body, a great resource, may be used in any of the NYU School of Medicine Anatomical or Surgical Programs.

Reasons for the rejection of bodies:

Although, not an absolute, the following is a guide for not accepting a bequeathed body -
- Autopsied body
- Embalmed body other than NYU’s own procedures
- Infectious diseases
- Other conditions: recent operations where the wound has not healed, obesity, gangrene, organ donation, or any conditions which may make the body unsuitable for anatomical study.

Is a funeral ceremony allowed before donation of the body?

No, the body must be transported to the School of Medicine as soon as possible, following death, for immediate embalming. A memorial service, without the presence of the body, is suggested.

Is there a cost to the family, heirs or estate?

All costs related to the transportation, cremation of the body and disposition of the cremains will be assumed by the School of Medicine if the donor died in either the City of New York or Long Island. The school will not be responsible for the cost of transportation of remains outside the mentioned areas. All other expenses, including burial, will be the responsibility of the family, heirs or estate.

How long will the donated body remain at the NYU School of Medicine?

Approximately 24 months.

How will the family, heirs or estate be notified that the remains have been received?

An acknowledgment letter that the donor’s body was received by the School of Medicine will be sent to the family.

What happens with the donor’s remains?

The School of Medicine will cremate the body and bear all costs associated with cremation and return of the remains to the family. The cremated remains will either be returned to the family or scattered at the
Garden of Remembrance at Rosehill Cemetery. The School of Medicine is **not**, however, responsible for burial costs when the remains are returned to the family.

When the Anatomical study nears completion, the School of Medicine will contact either the next of kin or the executor of the estate for the return of the donor’s ashes. If the ashes remain unclaimed by the next of kin for more than **90 days** from the date on the letter, the School of Medicine reserves the right to spread the ashes at the Garden of Remembrance at Rosehill Cemetery.

**If you have any questions concerning our Anatomical Donation Program please contact us at:**

Office of Medical Education  
545 First Avenue, GBH Suite 6H  
New York, NY, 10016-6497  
Tel: (212) 263-5378  
Fax: (646) 501-0017  
Email: Body.Donation@nyumc.org