

FAST FACTS ABOUT BRAIN DONATION

- The brain should be recovered within 12 -24 hours after the time of death in order to maximize its research value.
- Brain donation will not delay funeral, cremation, or burial plans and will not interfere with traditional memorial services or open-casket viewings. Funeral/ Memorial expenses remain the responsibility of the donor's family.
- The Brain Endowment Bank covers all costs associated with brain and spinal cord recovery, processing and distribution.
- The Brain Endowment Bank performs a complete neurological assessment (brain autopsy) of each suitable brain recovered. The research diagnosis and summary of this assessment is available to the donor's family usually within one year after the donation.
- All major religions of the world support tissue donation. Please discuss your religion's position on tissue donation for research with your Priest, Pastor, Reverend, Rabbi or other religious leader.

We need your help:

Please consider making a monetary donation.

You can call the Department of Neurology Development office at:
305-243-5198

You can make a check and mail it to:
UM Brain Endowment Bank
1951 NW 7th Avenue, Suite 240
Miami, FL 33136

You can go to our website:
BrainBank.med.miami.edu
Select the Links-Resources tab
and make a secure, online donation

NEUROLOGY EXPERTS FOCUSED ON YOU

The Importance of
**BRAIN
DONATION**

Study # 19920348

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UHealth DEPARTMENT OF
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI HEALTH SYSTEM **NEUROLOGY**

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UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
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BRAIN ENDOWMENT BANK

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Did You Know Brain Donations Help Us Understand The Causes Of Many Diseases

WHAT IS THE UM BRAIN ENDOWMENT BANK?

The University of Miami Brain Endowment Bank is a National Institutes of Health (NIH) NeuroBioBank, one of only six designated biorepositories in the United States.

The Brain Endowment Bank's primary mission is to support medical and scientific researchers who study the human brain to develop means of prevention, better medications and treatments, and cures for diseases and disorders of the brain such as:

- Neurological diseases (Alzheimer disease and other Dementias, Parkinson disease and related movement disorders, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, ALS, Multiple Sclerosis, Huntington's disease, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy and Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury)
- Neurodevelopmental disorders (Autism, Down syndrome, and related brain disorders affecting children)
- Neuropsychiatric or mental health disorders (Schizophrenia, PTSD, Depression and Bipolar disorder)

WHY ARE BRAIN DONORS NEEDED?

Scientists are utilizing donated brain tissue to answer questions about the cause of neurological disorders and diseases, and how the interplay between genes and the environment contributes to the development of psychiatric and degenerative brain diseases. More has been learned about the human brain in the last 20 years than throughout all prior human history because researchers are able to study actual, donated brain tissue. The statistics below clearly demonstrate that the answers cannot come fast enough.

- According to the 2018 CDC reports, the burden of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in 2014 was 5 million people, which is 1.6 percent of the U.S. population in 2014 (319 million people). This burden is projected to grow to 13.9 million, nearly 3.3 percent of the US population in 2060 (417 million people).

- Further CDC findings show that mental illnesses are among the most common health conditions in the United States. More than 50% will be diagnosed with a mental illness or disorder at some point in their lifetime. One in 5 Americans will experience a mental illness in a given year. One in 5 children, either currently or at some point during their life, have had a seriously debilitating mental illness. And one in 25 Americans lives with a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression. That is 13.4 million people living with mental illness.

- According to the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Network (ADDN), 1 in 59 children in the US has been diagnosed with Autism (2014).
- Anyone can develop Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) at any age. This includes war veterans, children, and people who have been through a physical or sexual assault, abuse, accident, disaster or other serious events. According to the National Center for PTSD - 7 to 8 people in every 100 will experience PTSD at some point in their lives.

The costs that will be required to care for the increasing number of those suffering with Alzheimer's and other dementias, mental illnesses, and developmental disorders is estimated to be in the *billions*.

WHO CAN DONATE?

Answering questions about how the brain works and what "goes wrong" when the brain is affected by disease is a new biological frontier. Every brain donor becomes a frontier explorer. You can too! By registering in our Brain Donor Program. Needed are persons who have been diagnosed with a neurological or psychiatric disease/disorder, and persons with no diagnoses as well. Scientists compare tissue in people with disease to tissue from those unaffected by disease. So, we need registrants with healthy brains, too!

The only persons ineligible to register in our program are those who have been diagnosed with HIV, AIDS, Syphilis, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), brain bleeds or hemorrhages, and unspecified dementias with rapid progression of cognitive impairment.

Our primary registration region includes Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, the Carolinas, Virginia, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. If you do not reside in our region, we can refer you to the NIH NeuroBioBank that serves your area.

IF I AM A REGISTERED ORGAN DONOR - DO I NEED TO REGISTER WITH THE BRAIN DONOR PROGRAM?

YES, you do!! The Donate Life program in each state registers people to donate organs, eyes and tissues for transplantation and/or research, most commonly at the Department of Motor Vehicles. However, that does not guarantee recovery of the brain for research. It is best that you pre-register in our program. Your designation to be an organ donor will not be affected by your registration in our brain donor program.

HOW DOES ONE REGISTER?

Registration in our program requires the completion of a packet that can be provided electronically (via email) or through the US Postal Service. Persons capable of signing on their own behalf can register themselves. Persons with dementia or other neuropsychiatric diagnoses who cannot provide consent can be registered by a legally authorized proxy representative.

Contact us **today** to begin the registration process: Call 1-800-862-7246 or Email: UMBE@umiami.edu or visit our website: BrainBank.med.miami.edu

BRAIN DONATION.

Think About It.