Whole Body Donation Program

Anatomical Resource Clinical Training Center
Center for Applied Learning
Wake Forest School of Medicine
Medical Center Boulevard
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27157-1039

Your Legacy Gift to Improve Health Care for Future Generations

The Whole Body Donation Program serves the instructional needs of thousands of students and health care providers through all of the medical courses or studies at Wake Forest using donated human bodies or donated human tissues. Our mission is to improve patient care and outcomes through hands on training for our students, our hospital professional staff, and health care professionals that travel to Wake Forest from around the world for applied learning courses. The human body is a learning resource provided by generous donor families to Wake Forest School of Medicine. These donations enable courses, procedure training events and research studies that save lives, develop or advance new therapeutic procedures, new medical devices and new methods of treatment to lengthen and improve the quality of life of many patients. Whole body donations are fundamental requirements for learning anatomy by students in health care professions. They are also vital to develop or practice clinical skills and procedures for experienced doctors and other health care providers. First responders for medical aid for local and regional law enforcement teams as well as military personnel and medics all benefit from hands on training in the center. In the age of computerization, active learning with authentic human tissues is still the most valuable asset for applied learning that makes a difference in patient care. On behalf of all of our learners and all of their patients we want to thank you for considering this significant way of leaving a legacy to improve the health care of future generations.

General Information Regarding Our Donation Program:

The Whole Body Donation Program of the Wake Forest School of Medicine has been authorized by the North Carolina Commission of Anatomy and State Law to receive whole bodies donated for medical education. Anyone desiring to donate his/her body prior to death may do so by completing both copies of the enclosed Wake Forest School of Medicine Donation Form.

Complete and return one copy of the Consent Form to:

Whole Body Donation Program
Center for Applied Learning
Wake Forest School of Medicine
Medical Center Blvd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27157-1039
336-716-2447 (fax)

The other copy is to be retained for your personal records by the donor or donor family/legal representative. Upon receipt of the completed form, you will receive an acknowledgement and an identification and instruction card which should be carried in a purse or wallet.

Donations are subject to the approval of the next of kin (or verified Health Care Power of Attorney), who must sign a release of the body (postmortem) to the Wake Forest School of Medicine. This matter should be discussed with the individual or family member who has final authority in the disposition of the body.

At the time of death, the family is responsible for making the arrangements through a local undertaker or a transport service for transportation of the body to the Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. They are also responsible for payment of the transportation costs. Should the family want to hold memorial services or make particular requests to the undertaker, then they are responsible for any related charges for these professional services. The transportation service selected must call the Program to coordinate the paperwork and arrival time. We require a release signed by the next-of-kin and a copy of the completed and signed death certificate.

At the conclusion of the study, the remains will be cremated. Our program will assume the cost of cremation and transportation of the ashes as requested on the body release form. The ashes from the cremation can be returned to the designated family member or to a funeral home where ashes may be received in privacy. As stated above, any memorial arrangements should be considered in advance and are the responsibility of the donor and family. Information regarding the disposition of ashes will be obtained from a family .member (or Health Care Power of Attorney) at the time of delivery of the body to the Medical Center. **Please note that the time frame for the return of ashes could vary anywhere from one-to-two weeks or for a period of up to two years** (the average time is 1 year or less). This is influenced by the structure of the medical school teaching schedule and resource needs. We will make every effort to contact the person or designated funeral home prior to returning the ashes.

Body Donation and Organ Donation:

The Wake Forest Donation Program only receives whole body donations rather than specific organ donations. Bodies which have been autopsied *are not suitable and will not be accepted.* Any concerns about the suitability of a body for donation following surgery, autopsy or organ donation should be directed to our program prior to the donation by the donor or at the time of death by the donor family. Donation of eyes for corneal transplantation is very common and does not interfere with studies or present any problems for donation. Persons wishing to make organ or tissue donations at the time of death may contact Carolina Donor Services at (336) 774-4450 or 1-800-200-2672. Those wishing to make donation of eyes only may contact the North Carolina Eye Bank at (336) 765-0932. Please call our program if you have any questions

Bodies Excluded from Donation:

A number of diseases or body conditions may make the body no longer suitable for study.
We cannot accept bodies if any of the following conditions are present at death:

- bodies where donors have been diagnosed with any of the following pathogens:
  - viral hepatitis, HIV or Aids, prion pathogens, (CJD) Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease, mad cow, tuberculosis or MRSA
- bodies which are morbidly obese (in general males that exceed 250 pounds and females that exceed 200 pounds)
- bodies which are emaciated (under 100 pounds)
- bodies which are severely damaged by burns or trauma beyond suitable use
- bodies which have decomposed or deteriorated

Center for Applied Learning Mission

Our mission is to partner with donors and their families to enable our students and professional learners to improve patient care. You can be assured that whole body donations will be treated respectfully, carefully and sensitively. The doctors, students and healthcare professionals at Wake Forest School of Medicine are mindful of your serious and generous intention to enhance their opportunity to study human anatomy. They are aware of their debt to you for offering them such a priceless source of learning. Their patients will benefit by receiving better health care because of the more thorough and extensive training received. The beneficial results of your donation will be most sincerely appreciated by the physicians you “helped” to train.

Questions?

Please feel free to contact the Whole Body Donation Program during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday by calling the Program Coordinator, Jennifer Dutrow at 336-716-4369 or ask for the Director of the Anatomy Donation Program, Dr. Tom Perrault at 316-716-2187. If you need to speak with someone after normal business hours, on holidays or on weekends, contact the main operator at 336-716-2011, select “option 7” and a staff or faculty member with the donation program will be paged to respond to your needs.

Thank you for considering this significant gift of whole body donation. Please discuss this option with your family. Providing this valuable learning resource will save lives and allows you and your family to have a legacy – a lasting gift that improves the health care of future patients.

Whole Body Donation Pre-Registry Application Form

Anatomical Resource Clinical Training Center
Center for Applied Learning
Wake Forest School of Medicine
Medical Center Boulevard
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27157-1039
336-716-4369 / 336-716-2447(fax)

Date _____

I, (☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms.)_____, do
Please Print

hereby express my wish to bequeath my body to the Wake Forest School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as authorized by North Carolina State Law, for use after my death for medical education and training. My closest relatives have been told of my wish to give my body. At my death they agree to notify immediately the Anatomy Donation Program, Wake Forest School of Medicine. If for some reason I (or my family) decide to withdraw my application for Donation, I will notify your office so that the records may be kept up to date.

Signed _____

Address _____

_____

Telephone # _____

Email Address _____

Birthday: _____ Last 4 digits, Social Security # _____

Witnesses: (There must be two unrelated witness signatures; neighbors, friends, or church members etc.)

_____ Address _____

_____ Address _____

_____ _____
(Name of Spouse) (Address)

_____ _____
☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. (Address)
(Name of Next of Kin, if no spouse)

This Donation is accepted with the agreement that the family or estate pays all costs involved in transporting the body to Wake Forest School of Medicine. Wake Forest School of Medicine will assume cost of cremation and delivery of the cremains as requested on the release form at the completion of our learning studies.

Thank you for considering this significant gift of whole body donation. Please discuss this option with your family. Providing this valuable learning resource will save lives and allow you and your family to have a legacy – a lasting gift that improves the health care of future patients.

Name and Addresses of Children 18 years or older: (If known indicate who will be responsible for disposition of remains.)

1. _____ Address/Phone _____

_____

2._____ Address/Phone _____

_____

3. _____ Address/Phone _____

_____

4. _____ Address/Phone_____

_____

Names and Addresses of Parents (if living):

Father: Address _____

_____

Mother: _____ Address _____

_____

List below any additional information concerning your medical history, i.e., surgical removal of organs that might be helpful in our study. (Individual surgeries/organ removals are not exclusions to participation.)

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