

**Physician Information Packet
for
potential donors for the
Mercer University School of Medicine
- Anatomical Donor Program
to be given to your Medical Doctor***

*** to be completed by your doctor. When you give this packet to your medical doctor, don't forget to include the physician's copies of your completed *Certificate for Bequeathing Human Remains* and *Alternative to Donation* forms.**

**This packet also contains the list of
“EXCLUSIONARY CONDITIONS RELATED TO ANATOMICAL DONATION.”**

Mercer University School of Medicine

Anatomical Donation Program

(478) 301-2433 (Weekdays)

(478) 301-2970 (24 Hours)

FAX: (478) 301-5489

To: Primary-Care Physicians

From: Daniel V. Hagan, Ph.D., Professor & Director of the Anatomical Donation Program
Mercer University School of Medicine
1550 College Street, Box 173
Macon, GA 31207

Voice: (478) 301-2433

Fax: (478) 301-5489

Re: Donation of Human Remains

Mercer University School of Medicine accepts donations of human remains to augment teaching, training, or instruction in the anatomical sciences, provided these donations are free of exclusionary conditions and that their medical history can be documented. One of your patients has indicated an interest in bequeathing her/his remains to the School of Medicine, and we, in turn, are supplying you with this *Physician Information Packet*. Your patient will provide you with copies of her/ his *Certificate for Bequeathing Human Remains* and *Alternative to Donation* forms.

Please review the accompanying forms and then place them in your patient's file so that they will be available at the time of donation.

- A. *Physician's Protocol*. This form provides step-by-step instructions for donation following the donor's death.
- B. *Exclusionary Conditions*. This is a list of medical conditions which would prohibit your patient from donating her/his remains to Mercer University School of Medicine.
- C. *Death Notification*. Following the donor's death, this form must be completed and faxed to the School of Medicine (see *Physician's Protocol*).

Should you have any questions regarding Anatomical Donation at Mercer University School of Medicine or regarding the status of your patient as a donor, please contact me at (478) 301-2433.

Thank you for your assistance.

Enclosures

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Physician's Protocol for the Anatomical Donation Program

The following steps should be taken following the death of an individual who is enrolled in the Anatomical Donation Program at Mercer University School of Medicine:

1. Check the patient's records for three important documents:

Certificate for Bequeathing Human Remains (provided by the Donor)

Alternative to Donation form (provided by the Donor)

Death Notification form (provided herewith)

2. Check the *Exclusionary Conditions* list (provided herewith) and verify that the donor is free of all of the indicated conditions.
3. Complete the *Death Notification* form.
4. Contact Mercer University Police [(478) 301-2970 (24 Hrs.)] to pick up the remains **within 2 hrs. of death.**
5. FAX the completed *Death Notification* form to:

ATTN: Daniel V. Hagan, Ph.D., Director, ADP

Mercer University School of Medicine

Anatomical Donation Program

Fax (478) 301-5489 (24 Hrs.)

NOTE: Anatomical donations will **not** be accepted unless the *Death Notification* form is filled out in its entirety and is faxed to Mercer University School of Medicine.

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EXCLUSIONARY CONDITIONS RELATED TO ANATOMICAL DONATION

VIRAL AND BACTERIAL INFECTIONS

Mercer University School of Medicine will **not** accept the remains of those individuals who have ever tested positive for **human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)**, for any of the **hepatitis viruses**, or for **tuberculosis** during their lifetime. Remains of individuals recently diagnosed with **antibiotic-resistant bacteria** also must be refused. These stringent precautions are necessary because little research has been done on the capability of these viruses and bacteria to survive within embalmed tissues. As these organisms are highly pathogenic, it is incumbent that we eliminate even the slightest risk of exposure to students or faculty.

DEMYELINATING DISEASES AND DEMENTIA

Mercer University School of Medicine will **not** accept the remains of those individuals who have had a history of any progressive demyelinating disease associated with motor disorders and/or dementia. Those neurological diseases which would prohibit an individual from donating their remains include:

1. Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease
2. Kuru
3. Gerstmann-Straussler Syndrome
4. Fatal Familial Insomnia

These conditions are known to be caused by chemical- and heat-resistant infectious agents, so the potential for exposure and contamination by way of embalmed tissues is a very real possibility.

MISCELLANEOUS CONDITIONS

Because of their physical effects upon the anatomy, the following conditions, depending upon their severity, may also disqualify an individual from donating her/his remains for medical education:

Autopsy	Major Trauma
Cachexia (extreme wasting of the body)	Tumor laden
Decubitus ulceration (bedsores)	Rigor mortis in fetal position
Obesity (greater than 250 lbs)	
Organ Donation (other than eyes)	

