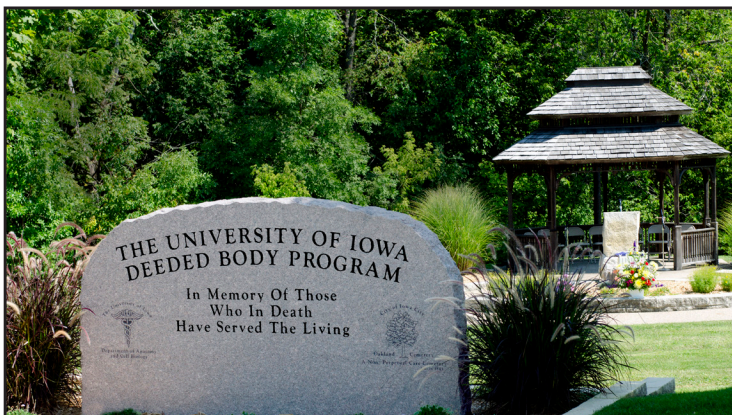


# The University of Iowa Deeded Body Program



## Gift to Education

A guide on how to support  
excellence in medical education,  
toward improving the quality of life



UNIVERSITY OF IOWA  
CARVER COLLEGE  
OF MEDICINE

University of Iowa Health Care



## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Deeded Body Program is sincerely committed to establishing a dignified, compassionate, and comforting relationship with each of its donors and their families.

## OUR GRATITUDE TO DONORS AND THEIR FAMILIES

*The astounding generosity of your family members ensures that doctors for years to come can look back on their time in medical school and remember the epiphanies and humbling moments like the ones I had my first year. They will, for every single patient they see or medical image they assess, remember what it felt like to understand how the body worked in anatomy lab.*

Gregory Woods, Medical Student

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*The University of Iowa offers an opportunity to professional students that many other establishments are unable to. They offer us a chance to work intimately with the human body to truly understand how things work and illustrate how each individual is complex and inherently different. However, it is not the university making this possible but rather your loved ones. Your family members selflessly chose to leave themselves as a gift for future learning, one that can never be quantified or repaid, and for that we are eternally grateful.*

Kaitlin Breitbach, Physician Assistant Student



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*You gave us the gift of education and perspective; the gift of sacrifice and of love. You taught us humanity, empathy, and the fragility of human life. You were our first patients and our greatest teachers. Certainly, you will live on through the knowledge that you've bestowed upon us.*

*In working with you daily, we got to know you. We forged relationships with you. Life leaves its mark upon the body, and through this, we became familiar with your life. We would often wonder: were you a tennis player? A poet? A fisherman? Did you like to travel? Did you have a large family? We did not see you as a donor, but as a mentor – and as a person. We saw you as someone to look up to. We saw you as someone to honor.*

*You were undoubtedly loved in life, and in death you are also loved and respected. It is through you that we may approach medicine with open hearts, with learned minds, and with able hands. It is through you, your actions and your example, that we, too, may make our mark upon this world. And for that, we are eternally grateful.*

Matthew Starks, Physician Assistant Student

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## **THE IMPORTANCE OF ANATOMICAL GIFTS**

Anatomical donations are indispensable to medical education and research. Anatomy courses rely on anatomical donations to give students first hand-knowledge of the anatomical structures of the human body. These courses are among the first and most important in the education of physicians, dentists, nurses, physical therapists, and other health care professionals.

Anatomical donations are also essential to advanced anatomy studies and research. Physicians in residency training programs, practicing physicians, biomedical scientists, and others depend on anatomical donations to support new advancements in medical science.

All members of the medical community who rely on anatomical donations, from students in core anatomy courses to professionals in advanced research areas, are greatly indebted to anatomical donors and their families for making their work possible.

## **ANATOMICAL GIFTS AND THE LAW**

The State of Iowa has enacted legislation governing anatomical donation to ensure the legal rights of donors and all parties involved.

Any competent person over 18 years of age may donate his or her body for medical education and research. A person may live outside of Iowa and still donate to the UI Deeded Body Program. By law, a medical college may not purchase any human body.



### **PROCEDURE FOR MAKING AN ANATOMICAL GIFT**

The Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology requires that a Deed of Disposition be on file in the department prior to the donor's death. The department will provide the legal forms, which require some basic information, the donor's signature, and the signatures of two witnesses. A brief medical history form, donor information sheet, and a final disposition option form must be completed and returned to the department with the original completed Deed of Disposition. The Deed of Disposition and all other Deeded Body Forms are available on our website ([www.anatomy.uiowa.edu/pages/deeded.html](http://www.anatomy.uiowa.edu/pages/deeded.html)). Following receipt of these documents the department will review the information based on set criteria. Once the review process has been completed the department will acknowledge the potential donor in writing. If the donor meets the necessary criteria a University of Iowa Donor Identification Card will accompany the acknowledgment letter.

The completed Deed of Disposition form is a legal document of donation that may be amended or revoked. The gift becomes effective immediately upon death but is subject to conditions at the time of death.

It is always advisable to notify the donor's family and legal representative of the intent to make an anatomical donation of the donor's body so that it may be carried out at the time of death. The reading of the will or the discovery of the Deed may otherwise come too late to accommodate the donor's wishes.

## COORDINATION OF ANATOMICAL GIFTS

A donor may wish to donate their organs for transplantation and their body for education and research. Although we recognize organ and tissue donation as a noble choice, we are unable to accept bodies missing any organs other than eyes. Therefore we suggest that the donor inform the family and legal representative whether the donor's priority is for organ or tissue transplantation, or whole body donation for education and research. This will help ensure the donor's preferences are honored.



## ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION INFORMATION

**Iowa Lions Eye Bank**  
Bio Ventures Center  
2500 Cross Road, W300  
Coralville, IA 52241  
Phone: (319) 335-4888  
[www.iowalionseyebank.org](http://www.iowalionseyebank.org)


**Iowa Donor Network**  
550 Madison Avenue  
North Liberty, IA 52317  
Phone: 1-800-831-4131  
[www.iowadonornetwork.org](http://www.iowadonornetwork.org)

## WHEN A DONOR'S GIFT CANNOT BE ACCEPTED

Occasionally a problem may interfere with the intended use of a donor's gift for education and research. Such scenarios include the experience of a trauma, performance of an autopsy, presence of a highly contagious disease, delay in notification of death, or a weight problem that precludes optimal use.

## **PROCEDURES AT THE TIME OF DEATH**

At the time of death, the person in charge of the donor's affairs should select and notify a funeral director who will make the arrangements concerning transportation to Iowa City and any other professional services needed or desired. Only donors transported by a licensed funeral facility can be accepted. If desired, visitation and traditional funeral services may be held prior to the transfer to Iowa City. If there will be a delay of more than eight hours because of a funeral service, distance, weather, etc. embalming will be necessary. We ask that a representative from the funeral home makes contact with the Deeded Body Program prior to embalming to ensure usability for education and research.



## **WHEN STUDIES ARE COMPLETE**

A time period of approximately 18 months is normal for an anatomical study. When studies are completed the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology will comply with the wishes of the donor, next of kin, or the person responsible for the donor's affairs regarding final disposition.

Options available include: cremation and the return of the cremains to a designated receiver at the expense of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology (any subsequent expenses will be borne by the family or estate), or cremation and interment of the cremains in Oakland Cemetery, Iowa City at the expense of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology.

A Memorial Service is held once a year with help and input of students from most of the professional training programs. The next of kin or person in charge of the donor's affairs is notified and invited to attend. The person may then notify other family members and friends.

If the cremains of the donor are not claimed by the family within one year following the completion of studies, the cremains will be interred at the next Memorial Service.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ANATOMICAL GIFTS

**Q. May the donor's family have a funeral service before the donor's body is delivered to the Medical College?**

A. Ordinarily, Yes. However the funeral director must contact our office, since failure to follow allowable procedures could prevent the intended donation.

**Q. Are there age restrictions on body donation?**

A. Yes. A person must be 18 years of age to donate his or her body.

**Q. Will the donor or donor's family receive payment for a body donation?**

A. No. State anatomical gift laws requires body donation to be a gift; a medical college may not purchase a human body.

**Q. Will there be any cost associated with body donation?**

A. Yes. Although the University of Iowa Deeded Body Program does not charge a fee for its services, the donor's estate or legal representative is responsible for certain costs. These costs can include

- Transportation fees from the funeral home, preparation of legal documents, and professional services.
- Alternate arrangements for final disposition if the donation cannot be completed.
- Services or goods provided by entities outside of the University of Iowa Deeded Body Program.

**Q. Will the University of Iowa Accept a body if the donor dies out of state?**

A. Yes. If the family is willing to bear the cost of transportation and professional services provided by the funeral home. (If a donor is a considerable distance away from Iowa City we would recommend the donor's body be donated to an institution near the place of death.)



**Q. Is it necessary to include a body donation in the donor's will?**

- A. No. The intent to donate may be included in a will, but because a will may not be found in time for delivery of the body to the University, it is more effective to have these instructions readily available on a donor card or donation paperwork. The donor should also advise his or her family and legal representative of the intent to make a donation. Some donors choose to provide the donation paperwork to their local funeral director for reference at time of death.

**Q. Can an anatomical gift be revoked?**

- A. Yes. An anatomical gift may be revoked until death occurs. A gift may be revoked by contacting the University of Iowa Deeded Body Program in writing. Revocation is effective upon receipt, but will not apply to actions taken before notice is received.

**Q. Is there any circumstance under which a donation cannot be used?**

- A. Yes. Medical conditions including obesity or emaciation, extensive trauma, advanced decomposition, or a history of contagious diseases such as hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, Creutzfeldt-Jacobs disease, tuberculosis, active MRSA, VRE, etc. would make a donated body unusable. To help avoid any surprise or disappointment, family members should be notified as early in the donation process as possible so that the final determination on suitability of donation can be made after death.

**Q. What is the procedure at the time of death?**

- A. The family or funeral director should call (319) 335-7762 promptly, so that a final determination of acceptability can be made, and other arrangements can be made as soon as possible.

**Q. How long will the donor's body be involved with the Deeded Body Program?**

- A. The donor's body will be used for approximately 18 months at which time the ashes will be cared for in the manner previously requested.



**Q. Can the family or an ambulance service deliver the donor's body to the Medical College?**

A. No. A licensed funeral director must assume initial custody of a body after death and arrange for delivery, to ensure protection of public health and compliance with all related laws and policies.

**Q. Will a donor's body be used for teaching or research?**

A. Most donations are used to teach Medical, Dental, Physician Assistant and other Health Science students. Some donations are used in research, primarily by surgeons in areas like Orthopedics, to study new operative techniques.

**Q. Will the donor's body be used for research studying the disease the donor had?**

A. Not generally. Any use for research would be determined by specific researcher requests pending at the time of the donor's death.



**Q. Will the University of Iowa be the only institution using the donor's body?**

- A. Most likely. The University of Iowa does belong to a cooperative exchange program with a select group of colleges mainly located in Iowa. We work very closely with these institutions to maintain the highest standards of practice. Because the University of Iowa's needs are so great the number of donors involved in this exchange is very small. The Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology retains the responsibility for the donor at all times. Following the study, the donor's remains will always be returned to the University of Iowa so we can carry out the family's wishes for final disposition.
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**Q. Will the donor's family receive a report of findings?**

A. No. We do not produce reports as is done in the case of autopsies.

**Q. Can individuals purchase cemetery markers or engraving?**

A. No. At this time there is no designated area for individual donor recognition.

**Q. Can a donor's ashes be exhumed after burial in the University cemetery plot?**

A. No. Ashes buried in our University cemetery plot cannot be exhumed under any circumstances.

**Q. Is there a memorial service for the donors?**

A. Yes. The University of Iowa conducts an annual memorial service commemorating donors. The individual designated in the donor's paperwork will be notified of the date, time and place of the burial service.

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## **GIFTS AND BEQUESTS**

With support of the Carver College of Medicine and generous individual donors, the gross anatomy laboratories have begun a process of modernizing and remodeling. These modern enhancements will allow anatomical education at the Carver College of Medicine to stay on the leading edge of the 21st century and beyond. Future donations can help improve the laboratory space and bring new technologies to the classroom such as electronic texts, 3D visual resources and table-side ultrasound. Contributions of any amount are appreciated and will be used in their entirety to support these vital programs. Gifts can be made to either the Anatomy and Cell Biology Development Fund or the Research in Anatomy and Cell Biology Fund.

To send your contribution or to request further information, please complete this form and return it to:

**The University of Iowa Foundation**  
Levitt Center for University Advancement  
One West Park Road  
P.O. Box 4550  
Iowa City, IA 52242-4550

Enclosed is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please give joint credit to my spouse for the enclosed gift.

Name

Please send me a copy of the booklet entitled  
DIVIDENDS: Your Guide to Gift Planning.

Name

Address

e-mail

# NOTES



**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**  
**CARVER COLLEGE**  
**OF MEDICINE**

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University of Iowa Health Care

**Contact Information**

**The Deeded Body Program**  
**Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology**  
**Bowen Science Building**

**Iowa City, IA 52242-1109**

**Phone: (319) 335-7762**

**Fax: (319) 353-4394**

**Email: [deededbodyprogram@uiowa.edu](mailto:deededbodyprogram@uiowa.edu)**

