



## Body Donation & Medical Education

THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MEDICAL SCHOOL'S

### *Anatomical Gift Program*

#### *To a Medical Student*

This is my body,  
the shell of my being,  
which is given to you  
in final offering  
to the world.  
I share the elements of life.  
From these old bones,  
these ligaments,  
my sinews and my nerves,  
may that life force  
that ran in me  
shine forth once more  
and pass to you  
the knowledge  
and the power  
that help sustain  
the miracle of life.

- Claire Small,  
an anatomical gift donor

Please share the information in this brochure with your family  
or friends who may be asked to act on your behalf.

### *Additional Information for Tissue or Organ Donation*

Separate arrangements must be made with each organization at the addresses listed below. In general, tissue and organ donations preclude body donation for medical education. Eye donation is compatible with body donation.

#### *Bone, Heart, Kidneys, Liver, Lung & Pancreas*

New England Organ Bank  
One Gateway Center, Suite 202  
Newton, MA 02458  
1-800-446-6362 - 24 hrs

#### *Eyes*

New England Eye & Tissue Transplant Bank  
3 Longfellow Place  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-523-3937

#### *Ears*

Department of Otolaryngology  
Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary  
243 Charles Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-523-7900

#### *Skin*

Shriners Burns Institute  
51 Blossom Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-722-3000, Ext. 175

### *To Receive Information*

The Anatomical Gift programs of the four medical schools in Massachusetts cooperate to encourage donations of bodies after death, for the purpose of medical teaching, study and research. Instrument of Anatomical Gift forms are available from any one of the medical schools listed:

#### Medical Schools in Massachusetts

##### *University of Massachusetts Medical School*

55 Lake Avenue North  
Worcester, MA 01655  
508-856-2460 (508-856-2460)\*

[www.umassmed.edu/anatomicalgiftprogram/index.aspx](http://www.umassmed.edu/anatomicalgiftprogram/index.aspx)  
Email - UMMSAGP@umassmed.edu

##### *Boston University School of Medicine*

80 E. Concord Street  
Boston, MA 02118-2394  
617-638-4245 (617-638-4144)\*

##### *Harvard Medical School*

260 Longwood Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115  
617-432-1735 (617-432-1379)\*

##### *Tufts University School of Medicine*

136 Harrison Avenue  
Boston, MA 02111  
617-956-6685 (617-956-6610)\*

\*Numbers in parentheses to be used nights, weekends and holidays

RETAIN THIS BROCHURE WITH DONOR'S COPY OF  
INSTRUMENT OF ANATOMICAL GIFT

# ❧ Policies and Procedures for Body Donation.

## THE NEED FOR BODIES AFTER DEATH

Dissection of the human body in medical schools constitutes an invaluable and indispensable part of medical education and research. Each year numbers of bodies are needed for the teaching of medical and dental students, post graduate physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and students of related disciplines. The principal source of bodies is private donation.

### ❧ Who Can Donate

Any competent person over 18 years of age can arrange to donate her/his body for medical education and research.

### ❧ How One Can Donate

By law (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapters 353 and 653), an individual may arrange for the donation of her/his body after death only by executing the "Instrument of Anatomical Gift", a form which may be obtained by inquiring the appropriate medical school (refer to back of brochure). This instrument must be signed by two witnesses and sent back to the designated school. It is not sufficient merely to indicate intent on a donor card or driver's license. Massachusetts law prohibits payment for a body donation.

### ❧ Alternative Arrangements

Acceptance of an Anatomical Gift is contingent upon the decision of the medical schools at the time of death of the donor. **THE MEDICAL SCHOOLS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DECLINE A PARTICULAR ANATOMICAL GIFT.** Because it is not certain that their gift can be accepted, donors should make alternative arrangements for cremation or interment.



# ❧ When Death Occurs

At the time of death of a donor, the person responsible for making final arrangements should follow instructions provided by the medical school chosen by the donor. For donors to the University of Massachusetts Medical School Anatomical Gift Program, call its 24-hour access number, 508-856-2460. The University will then confirm acceptance and make arrangements for delivery of the body from the place of death to the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS). The costs of obtaining the Official Disposition, Removal or Transportation Permit and filing of the Death Certificate and for transportation from the place of death in Massachusetts to UMMS will be paid by UMMS. If a funeral director is selected by a family who chooses NOT to use the services of UMMS, that funeral home will be reimbursed by UMMS only for the costs of these services. If death occurs outside Massachusetts, the school will bear the cost of that portion of transportation which is within the Commonwealth.

A body must be received by UMMS within 24 hours after death unless other arrangements are made with the specific school. A body that has been autopsied, embalmed or is known to carry an infectious disease cannot be accepted. Bodies that are morbidly obese, emaciated or jaundiced also are unlikely to be accepted.

# ❧ When Studies are Complete



Studies may be up to two years or more. The school will comply with the donor's instructions regarding disposition of the body as selected on the "Instrument of Anatomical Gift". The choices are cremation and pick up of cremains or to have the cremains sent by registered mail to the next of kin or designated cemetery, to bury the cremains at Pine Hill Cemetery,

Tewksbury MA, or to return the remains to the next of kin in a coffin provided by the family.

Cremation at the expense of the medical school is available only for those donations accepted by the University of Massachusetts Medical School or as stated by the individual medical schools.

# ❧ Religious Support

The donation of one's body for medical education and research is considered by most religions to be a good and charitable act. The following are excerpts from statements of representatives of the major faiths:

**HIS EMINENCE SEÁN P. CARDINAL O'MALLEY, OFM, CAP., AND ARCHBISHOP OF BOSTON:**  
*"The choice to offer one's body for the purpose of legitimate medical research is an act of charity and respect for life. It also contributes to the scientific and medical well being of the wider community. The school is committed to respect this gift and assures the reverent disposition of the remains. I am pleased to be able to support this program."*

**EPISCOPAL BISHOP M. THOMAS SHAW, SSJE:**  
*"I commend the resolution of the Episcopal Church, which recommends and urges its members to consider seriously the opportunity to donate one's body after death so that others may learn as we educate our future doctors and that such decisions be clearly stated to family, friends and attorney."*

**RABBI RONNE FRIEDMAN:**  
*"In my understanding of Liberal Judaism, I believe that there is a clear appreciation and support to those Jews who, in anticipation of their eventual death, choose to donate their organs or their entire bodies to a medical institution, provided that the purpose of their elective choice is either directly (i.e., transplantation), or by extension (enabling necessary medical research), the enhancement or preservation of the life of another human being. I believe that anatomical donation is a sacred act that is consistent with the paramount Jewish value of 'pikuach nefesh', the moral obligation to save a life. Jewish tradition suggests that in order to save a life, it is permissible, when necessary to abrogate another Jewish law."*

# ❧ Pine Hill Cemetery

The Pine Hill Cemetery in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, is privately owned and maintained by the four medical schools in the state. Arrangements to visit the cemetery can be made by phoning the designated medical school.

*"This is my body, the shell of my being, which is given to you in final offering to the world."*

Claire Small, anatomical gift donor