

NYU LANGONE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER

Since 1973, our program has been a leader in research on memory problems, as well as a pioneer in the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

As a federally supported research facility, we aim to advance knowledge and understanding of brain aging and Alzheimer's disease, expand the number of scientists working in the field, and work to find better treatment options and care for those living with memory impairment.

Our work has added to the understanding of the effects of aging on the brain and the biology of Alzheimer's disease. We have developed many of the scales and measures used throughout the world and tested new medications and procedures for brain imaging. Our ultimate goal is to share our findings with health care providers, researchers, and the general public.

The Brain Donation Program is a key component of our research efforts. Researchers use donated brain tissue to study brain diseases that affect millions of people. One donated brain can make a huge impact for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research, potentially providing information for hundreds of research studies. Whatever the reasons for donation, one thing is true for everyone: brain donation is a generous gift. *Source: NIH.*



BRAIN DONATION PROGRAM

For more information please contact:

The Brain Donation Program

212-263-6262 (9 am-5 pm, Monday-Friday)
(347) 949-1424 (24-hour number)
NYULHBrainDonation@nyulangone.org

Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC)

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New York, NY 10016



THE IMPORTANCE OF BRAIN DONATION

At present, there are approximately 6.2 million Americans that are living with Alzheimer's disease. This number is projected to rise to nearly 13 million by 2050.

By examining the brains at autopsy of those ranging from mild to severe cognitive deficits, we are able to see how different types of dementias affect the brain and how we might better treat and prevent them.

Brain autopsy is the only way to confirm the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and enables researchers to study the molecules involved in the disease process. This information may bring closure to loved ones and help family members assess their own risk factors, seek help, and make plans for the future. *Source: NIH.*



Why should I consider brain donation?

For some the primary motivation is to help scientists discover new treatments and preventions for disease. For others, the main goal is to have a positive impact on the community and future generations. In some cases, family members want to confirm, by autopsy, whether their deceased loved one had Alzheimer's disease or if something else caused the dementia. *Source: NIH.*

PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM

The decision to participate in the autopsy program is a personal one. Here are some frequently asked questions to help you with your decision making process:

What happens to the brain once it has been donated?

The brain is examined to establish a definitive pathological diagnosis. After the examination, portions of the brain will be stored for future investigations.

Will my family receive feedback?

Your family will receive a written report that includes a detailed explanation of any brain diseases evident upon autopsy. Upon request, a clinician will also be available to further discuss results over the phone or in person.

What are the religious implications in this decision?

Most major religions do not prohibit brain donation or autopsy. In some cases personal or religious beliefs may affect willingness to participate in the program. Individuals may want to consult with religious leaders in their community.

What is the cost?

Brain autopsy is performed at no cost to the family of our participants. We cover the cost of transportation to our facility and the procedure. Funeral arrangements, inclusive of transportation to funeral home of choice, remain the responsibility of your loved ones.

Does brain donation affect funeral arrangements?

We arrange for the procedure as soon as we are notified of a patient's death. The procedure should not delay arrangements. Aesthetically, the brain is removed in such a way that the face and hair are not altered.



TESTIMONIALS

"I participate in the brain donation program because I want to help find a cure for Alzheimer's disease so my grandson never has to experience it."

- Tom
Research Participant

"The Brain Donation Program was wonderful, it was something mom always wanted to do. She wanted to make sure she could make a difference."

- Family of Marie
Research Participant

"Dad wanted the Alzheimer's Center to have his brain but we didn't know what to expect. The coordinator at the Brain Donation Program explained everything. After the autopsy was done, we were able to sit with the Neuropathologist to go over the findings. We are all so pleased with our experience."

- Family of John
Research Participant

