



ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE ANATOMICAL GIFT PROGRAM

47 New Scotland Avenue, Mail Code 135, Albany, New York 12208-3479
Room J 410-5

PHONE 518.262.5379
www.amc.edu

Albany Medical College Anatomical Gift Program

The donation of one's body after death is a unique and priceless gift which provides the source of knowledge that is the foundation of medical education and research. The Anatomical Gift Program wishes to acknowledge the value of the gift and will be forever thankful to those who have placed their trust in us.

Anatomical Gift Program

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If you would like additional information about Albany Medical College's Anatomical Gift Program, you may call (518) 262-5379 or e-mail us your name and address.



The Need

Anatomy is the study of the structure of the human body. Detailed study of the human body in medical schools constitutes an invaluable and indispensable part of medical education and research. It is one of the most important courses in the education of physicians, dentists, and other health professionals such as physician assistants, nurses and physical therapists. Each year, numbers of bodies are needed for the teaching of medical students, physician's assistants, physical therapists, and student of related disciplines. In addition, physicians in residency training and those in practice often pursue special courses in anatomy. Further with advances in medical science it is increasingly necessary for physicians and other biomedical scientists to conduct special anatomical studies and research. The principal source of bodies is private donation.

Who Can Donate

Any competent person 18 years of age or over may donate their body for medical education and research. After death, donations may also be made by the next of kin or executor.

How Can One Donate*

An individual may donate their remains before death by completing an Anatomical Gift Declaration of Consent. The completion of this form does not require the services of a lawyer or notary. The Form must be signed by two witnesses, preferably someone who can act on your behalf at the time of death. Upon receiving the completed Declaration of Consent, the potential donor will be registered in the files of the Anatomical Gift Program and a Donor Participant card will be issued to the donor. Please note that donations made through an individual will may be read too late after death to permit timely acceptance to the request.

As a registered donor to the Anatomical Gift Program, you should inform your next of kin, or other individuals who are responsible under the law for the deposition of your remains, of your desires to donate your body to medical science. Discuss your plans with those close to you so that your wishes may be honored. If at the time of death the next of kin or another close family member expresses regrets concerning the donation, the Anatomical Gift Program will relinquish all claim to the remains. It is also advisable for a potential donor to notify his or her physician of the arrangements.

In the advent an individual dies prior to registering with the Anatomical Gift Program, the donation can still be made. After the death of an individual, an Anatomical Gift Statement of Donation form may be executed by the next of kin or executor. Upon notification of the death of an individual, the Anatomical Gift Program will accept the remains contingent upon a verbal request by the next of kin. A Statement of Donation form must be completed by next of kin prior to our receipt of the remains in order for the donation to proceed.

**Note: From approximately December 18th through January 3rd of each year, the Program must be closed due to the temporary unavailability of certain resources necessary to its acceptance of donors' gifts. The Program will therefore be unable to accept any donor's remains during those times, and his or her family will need to make other arrangements for their disposition.*



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Expenses

Albany Medical College does not offer payment for a body, but will assume responsibility for appropriate administrative and filing fees as well as for the cost of transportation of the remains to the College, up to a distance of 100 miles. For distances greater than 100 miles from the College the next-of-kin or other designated individual(s) will be responsible to pay the excess charges for transportation to the Medical College. Should death occur at any great distance from the Medical College, the Anatomical Gift Program will assist the family with the arrangements for donation to an Anatomical Gift Program at another medical school.

For those individuals who travel for extended periods to other parts of the United States to visit family and friends, we encourage them to also join a donation program in that area to provide coverage for while away from home. The Anatomical Gift Program will assist you in locating a Donation Program at another medical school.



At the Time of Death

When death occurs, a family member, hospital staff, or funeral director should notify the Anatomical Gift Program, Albany Medical College at (518) 262-5379.

The caller will be asked:

- name of the deceased
- location of the deceased
- name, address and relationship to the deceased of the caller
- whether a physician or medical staff has attended to the deceased

The Anatomical Gift Program will then arrange for the transport of the body to the Medical College. Transportation to the Medical College is provided by a licensed funeral director under contract with the Anatomical Gift Program. If the family of the deceased wishes to utilize the services of a funeral director of their choosing, any expenses and fees beyond those normally incurred by the Anatomical Gift Program will be the responsibility of the family or estate of the deceased .

Refusal of a Donation

The Albany Medical College reserves the right to decline the donation of a body when the remains are deemed unsuitable for educational purposes, where there is a family dissent, or for other reasons such as current lack of sufficient physical capability to accept additional donations. A body should not be previously autopsied or embalmed.

Conditions that may render a body unsuitable include:

- certain infectious diseases (AIDS, Hepatitis, tuberculosis)
- extensive trauma at the time of death
- advanced decomposition
- obesity or malnutrition

Organ Donation and Anatomical Gifts

The Anatomical Gift Program supports organ donations. The donation of organs for transplantation takes precedence over whole body donation. Individuals who donate their organs for transplantation are acceptable as whole body donations to the Medical College provided the remaining criteria are met.



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Forms

The Albany Medical College deeply appreciates your desire to bequeath your body for the purpose of advancing medical education and/or research. To initiate the donation process, please complete the following steps:

Download and complete the Anatomical Gift Program Enrollment Packet which consists of

- Informed Consent Forms
- Statistical Information Sheet
- Next of Kin Contact Information

Note: Forms must be signed by the prospective donor. Forms signed by Next of Kin/Responsible Parties (POA, HCP, etc.) are not accepted in lieu of the donor signature.

Mail the completed forms to:

Albany Medical College Anatomical Gift Program
47 New Scotland Avenue
MC – 135
Albany, NY 12208

Retain a copy of the signed packet for your records. Please make sure you discuss your wishes with family and friends so that everyone is aware of the Anatomical Gift Program policies and procedures.

After receipt of your completed Enrollment Packet, a letter of acknowledgment and wallet card will be issued (processing takes approximately 2 – 3 weeks).

Thank you for your very generous spirit in this matter, and please be assured that you are making a noteworthy contribution to the education of aspiring physicians!

Michael P Smith, PhD
Director Joshua Lopez
Program Coordinator

If death is either imminent, or has already occurred: do not complete the Declaration of Consent. Please contact the Anatomical Gift Program office for instructions.



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Disposition and Interment

When studies are completed, approximately 12 to 24 months after donation, all bodies are cremated individually and placed in a sealed urn.

Two options are available to the donor and/or family:

The ashes may be returned to the family or other designated individual for final disposition.

Albany Medical College will assume responsibility for disposition and will inter the ashes during its Annual Interment and Memorial Services in plots maintained by the College at Albany Rural Cemetery or in plots at St. Agnes Catholic Cemetery donated by the Albany Diocesan Cemeteries.

While the decision of final disposition is requested at the time of the donation, it is not binding and can be changed at any time by notifying the Anatomical Gift Program.

With either option, family and friends of the deceased will be invited to the Interment and Memorial Service. It is at the Interment and Memorial service that the Albany Medical College and its students express their appreciation to the donors and their families.