

Brain Donation for Research



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**The Morton & Gloria Shulman
Movement Disorder Centre**

Brain Donation & Autopsy Program

Why Brain Donation?

Because it is the key to finding a clear diagnosis of Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders including Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, Multiple System Atrophy, Dystonia, etc.

Brain donation:

- helps families understand the diagnosis and may affect future family members.
- helps researchers learn important information that adds to our knowledge about Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders.
- gives patients a chance to take part and help improve patient care and further future treatment options for Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders.

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Who can donate?

Every Movement Disorder Centre patient can donate.

Will it affect my funeral arrangements?

The brain donation procedure is done with great care by a specially trained neuropathologist as soon as possible after death. It does not cause a major delay in funeral arrangements and it does not interfere with an open casket viewing for the donor.

Please tell the Movement Disorders Centre staff of any funeral arrangements ahead of time. Talk with our staff if you are worried about timing.

Will brain donation cost anything?

No. The Movement Disorders Centre will pay for all expenses involved with brain donation. However any financial donation* the family is able to make towards transportation and other expenses would be greatly appreciated.

The donor family is still responsible for the usual expenses of the funeral and burial.

***How can I give to the program?**

Gifts to the Brain Donation program are an important source of funding and are always appreciated. If you wish to make a tax deductible donation, please make cheques payable to:

Brain Donation Program
Movement Disorders Centre Research Fund
399 Bathurst St., 7 McL
Toronto, ON M5T 2S8



How can brain donation be arranged?

The Movement Disorders Centre staff can talk about brain donation with you and your family.

A “signed consent” is a letter that you sign explaining the procedure. It is all we need to go ahead with the donation. Ask the Movement Disorders Centre staff for these forms.

Please ask your doctor or nurse for more information and how to get the forms you need. Staff at the Movement Disorders Centre will guide you through the process.

Can family learn about the results of the examination?

Yes. Let the Movement Disorders Centre staff know that the family will want to know the results of the study. The movement disorders neurologist will talk about the results with the family once they are ready. It can take many months for these reports to be ready.

Other Information

Does my religion support brain donation?

Most major religions support brain donation because it can help add to research and can make a difference for future patients and families.

If you want to know whether your religion supports removing a body part (organ) after death, please speak with your spiritual leader.

For more general information about religious and cultural beliefs about donating organs after death, please visit the Trillium Gift of Life’s website at www.giftoflife.on.ca. Click on “Organ and Tissue donation” and then “Cultural and Religious Perspectives on Donation”.

What do I do if I change my mind about donation and research?

You may stop your consent at any time. Call the Movement Disorders Centre brain donation coordinator or your doctor to let them know as soon as possible.



For more information,
please speak to your Movement
Disorders neurologist.

You may also contact:
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