



Brain
Donor
Project

Our Mission:

To advance neurological science by raising awareness of the critical need while simplifying the process of human brain donation for research.

It's Urgent

Someone in your circle is among the 50 million Americans suffering from a neurological disease or disorder. Add in the number of families who struggle to help. And consider that the total will escalate since Americans are living longer, and with age comes a greater chance of being diagnosed. The devastating impact of brain disease—Autism, Parkinsons, addiction, depression, traumatic brain injury, etc.—is only getting worse.

The work to solve complex brain disorders has progressed rapidly in the last 20 years as scientists identified the genomic foundations of many diseases. Breakthroughs are closer than ever now, but scientists simply cannot get there without an adequate supply of human brain tissue. So in late 2013, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) established the NeuroBioBank as a structure for researchers to request high quality, well-characterized human brain tissue for their investigations. The NeuroBioBank then contracts with a network of brain banks to retrieve, prepare for lab use, store and distribute the human post mortem brain tissue.

Now, science needs us. The Brain Donor Project has been established to support the NeuroBioBank in making available this most precious resource. The demand for tissues from donors with certain disorders or from specific brain regions can quickly deplete these valuable reserves, putting life-saving research in jeopardy. And non-diseased tissues from control brains are necessary in every single study to validate findings. Low supplies will slow progress.

How It Works:

Arranging to donate your brain for research may be the most valuable legacy you can leave to improve the health and wellbeing of future generations.



**1. VISIT OUR SITE
BRAINDONORPROJECT.ORG**



**2. LEARN ABOUT BRAIN DONATION
& HAVE YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED**



**3. REGISTER TO DONATE
YOUR BRAIN WHEN YOU DIE**



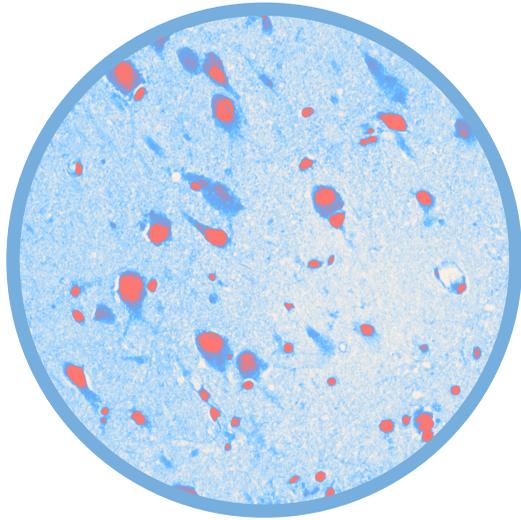
**4. RECEIVE AUTHORIZATION
& CONSENT FORMS**



**5. COMPLETE AND RETURN
TO YOUR BRAIN BANK**



**6. TELL YOUR FAMILY
AND FRIENDS**



About Us:

The Brain Donor Project began when the family of Gene Armentrout learned about neurological research into Lewy Bodies Dementia (LBD), the disease that would take his life in a few months. Gene's family donated his brain to advance science – you can see the enhanced histology images of his brain in the pattern above; the darker red spots illustrate the protein deposits, which are the hallmark of LBD. Then they told a wide circle of friends about brain donation. Smart, well-informed people, community leaders and many medical professionals were shocked to learn of the critical need – and wanted to know more.

Meantime, in its first two years of operation, the NeuroBioBank supplied 10,000 tissue specimens to support the almost \$70 million in research funding that included post-mortem human brain research. But providing the priceless resource at the core of that research – the precious brain tissue (and the funds to store and handle it) – is challenging. Current supplies of human post-mortem brain tissue are insufficient to meet the needs of researchers.

Please consider supporting the Brain Donor Project in its efforts to ensure adequate amounts of this precious resource. Your monetary donation goes directly toward educating the public about the urgent need for human post-mortem brain donation, registering people as future brain donors, answering their questions about the process, and providing additional resources for scientific research.

Funds are needed to:

- Maintain, update and enhance the website
- Respond to questions from potential donors and interact with brain banks
- Manage and staff the call center
- Provide database management and monitor results
- Assure legal compliance and regulation adherence
- Scale communication efforts through targeted outreach, PR efforts, strategic partnerships and media

The next phase of funding will ensure that the BDP can offset costs of retrieval and shipping of brain tissues. These are hard costs brain banks incur, that erode already limited funding and are currently impeding some tissue collection, as every effort must be made to avoid any costs being passed along to the donor family.

Without financial backing, the means to inform, simplify the brain donation process, and empower scientists – momentum will be diminished. And so will the hopes of some 50 million Americans and their families – that future generations be spared the devastation of a neurological disorder.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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