

Why are brains needed?

To Understand Brain Diseases

Brain donations are the best way to understand what happens in the brain when it is affected by dementia or other brain diseases.

Brain donations help us make progress in finding new treatments and cures.



What is done with the brain?

Half of your brain will be examined by a doctor, who will prepare a detailed diagnostic report about what was happening in your brain.



What do we do with the rest?

The rest of the brain tissue is used for research.

One brain can provide tissues for hundreds of studies.

No part of the brain is wasted.

Why Donate Your Brain?

Be Part of Finding a Cure

Research using brain tissue is the most promising path to finding a cure. Your brain tissue could be part of a new discovery that will lead to new understandings about brain diseases and their treatment.



Provide Answers to Your Family

Your family may request a report, which explains what was happening in your brain, including a specific diagnosis, if one is warranted. Many families feel comfort in knowing.



Caring for Future Generations

Your brain tissue will provide a way of continuing to care for the next generation, by making possible a world in which dementia and other brain diseases can be treated and prevented. It is a gift of hope for the future.

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Victor Henderson, principal investigator, Stanford ADRC

The Precious Gift Brain Donation



*"My son lives on through this gift.
As a family, we know that we made a
good decision – new discoveries come
from donations like this."*

- Laly Arellano,
Stanford ADRC
participant



What is brain donation?

This means giving the brain of a person (within a few hours after death) to the Stanford ADRC Brain Donation Program for medical research. The brain is then prepared for study.



If I'm healthy, do you need my brain?

Yes!

It is important to have healthy tissue to identify and understand the changes that result in disease and why some who may be at risk never develop the disease.



If I agree to donate my brain, will they let me die just to get my brain faster?

No, your decision to donate any part of your body has no impact on your medical treatment.



Can I have an open casket?

Yes, brain donation does not interfere with open casket viewing.



Will donating my brain delay my funeral?

No, donating your brain will not delay your family's plans for a funeral. We will work closely with your family and funeral home to prevent any delay.



What about my faith?

Most religions accept and support brain donation. If you are concerned about donation and your religious faith, please discuss this with your spiritual leader.



Will there be financial cost to my family if I donate my brain?

No, donating your brain will not cost you or your family anything. The Stanford Alzheimer's Disease Research Center's Brain Donation Program will pay for expenses involved with the donation.



What will my family need to do?

The decision to donate a brain is a family decision. Your family will need to act on your decision to donate. They will call us within a few hours of your passing. They will be required to confirm consent to the donation. Transportation will be arranged to Stanford Hospital where the brain donation will take place.



What's the next step if I am interested?

After discussing your decision with your family, you can contact the Stanford Alzheimer's Disease Research Center by calling (650) 721-2409.



What if I change my mind and no longer wish to donate?

You can change your mind about your participation in the brain donation program at any time.

