

“My husband was diagnosed with AD in 1988, and we came to Washington University School of Medicine in 1991 because of a suggestion from a friend. We both enrolled as a team and did the Memory & Aging Project. It took an effort for me to make the decision, but so many members of his family were troubled with this ailment...”



“Because we had children, I felt that they may be at risk. My giving his brain may help the facility learn more of what causes Alzheimer’s. I was contributing to that research.”

“I would suggest to people thinking about donating, don’t feel guilty about it and don’t feel bad about it. Take personal feelings out of it. It’s for the benefit of others. He was my loved one. I really loved my husband, but with so much of that in his family, I had to do this. I talked to my children and they all agreed.”

 **Washington University in St. Louis**

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**Memory & Aging Project**

Knight Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center

Washington University School of Medicine

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# Brain Donation

## Your Gift To Future Generations



**Memory & Aging Project**

Knight Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center

Washington University in St. Louis

**(314)286-2683**

*A brain autopsy confirms a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease. Information from the autopsy is helpful to researchers working to better understand Alzheimer's and find a cure to help future generations.*

## Who can donate?

Current and past participants in the Memory and Aging Project (MAP) are welcome to donate. If you wish to donate, it is important for your family members to know your wishes and be part of the decision-making process.

## Does it cost anything?

The brain autopsy is free. Funeral arrangements will still have to be made and the funeral home will need to pick up the decedent's body at Barnes Jewish Hospital. The pickup of the body after death is usually included in funeral expenses charged to the family.

## How is autopsy done?

It is important that your family notify MAP of your death within 2 hours. Your body is then taken to Barnes Jewish Hospital where the brain is removed through an incision in the back of the head.

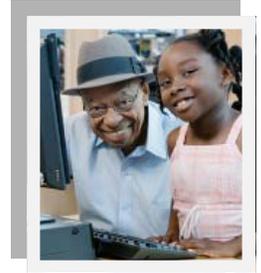


## Can I have an open casket funeral?

Yes. The brain is removed in such a way that your appearance is not altered or harmed.

## Who can give permission?

According to Missouri law, you may give consent for brain donation anytime during your lifetime. After death, your family or Durable Power of Attorney (DPOA) can consent to brain donation.



## Will my family receive feedback?

Yes. Your family will receive a written report that includes a detailed explanation of any brain diseases evident upon autopsy. They will receive a personal phone call explaining these results and a written copy of the report.

*Donating is your choice and you can decline for any reason.*

*The decision to donate can help future generations.*

*It is a good idea to talk with your family and friends before finalizing your decision.*