



AutismBrainNet

Advancing research through the gift of brain donation.

Intent to Donate Postmortem Brain Tissue for Research

A brain donation to Autism BrainNet creates a legacy that helps advance research on autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and related neurodevelopmental conditions. You can communicate to others your intent to donate your or your loved one's postmortem brain tissue by sharing this information sheet with your family members, including it in preplanning documents or healthcare directives, or providing it to the funeral home. This only indicates your intent to donate, and it is not a binding commitment to become a donor.

Autism BrainNet works with researchers and the communities affected by autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions to develop a sensitive and effective strategy for acquiring postmortem brain tissue. The donations will produce a resource that facilitates the highest quality research into the causes of these conditions. The data generated will be shared to enable the development of treatments that improve the quality of life of individuals who are affected by them.

Autism BrainNet includes three sites, also called nodes, in the United States:

- ▶ **Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center**, Boston, MA
- ▶ **University of California, Davis MIND Institute**, Sacramento, CA
- ▶ **University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center**, Dallas, TX

Autism BrainNet also has international partnerships with:

- ▶ **Douglas-Bell Canada Brain Bank**, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- ▶ **Oxford University**, Oxford, United Kingdom

Each node follows the high standards set by Autism BrainNet to collect, process, store and distribute the precious gift of donated brain tissue to qualified researchers worldwide.

Autism BrainNet makes the donation process as simple as possible for every family. Donor families are treated with respect, compassion and are provided with ongoing support. Here are the steps:

1. When a death has occurred or is near, the family or health care provider calls Autism BrainNet at **877-333-0999** for immediate assistance. Our staff is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and will walk your family through the donation process.
2. An Autism BrainNet clinician will work with the legal next of kin to obtain consent for donation.
3. Autism BrainNet staff will coordinate brain recovery and make arrangements for the donation to be carefully transported to the nearest node. There is no cost to the family for making a donation.
4. An Autism BrainNet clinician will follow up with the donor family to schedule a video meeting or home visit to learn more about the donor.

For more information

Call: **877-333-0999** | Email: info@autismbrainnet.org | Visit: autismbrainnet.org