

Statement of Intent

We now want to introduce a very private and delicate subject. It is often easier for you if we first approach this subject in writing. Although we may not yet have examined you, we feel this subject needs to be raised. This is a good time to begin. End-of-life decisions, including brain donation, are often left to the family. However, these decisions are yours to make. Please read this statement and discuss your feelings with family and friends. Once you have had a chance to think about it, we will be glad to discuss this topic with you in person at any time.

Our Center for Parkinson's Disease and Other Movement Disorders has a commitment to diagnose and treat common and uncommon movement disorders. As part of our commitment, we are constantly searching for improved treatments for our patients. Our research, and the research of others, has already lead to improved treatments for many diseases such as Parkinson's disease, dystonia, tardive dyskinesia, Tourette syndrome, myoclonus, tremor, and others. Modern biochemical, anatomical and genetic methods have revolutionized our understanding of neurological diseases. We are proud to have participated in the successful search for the gene causing inherited dystonia and for new treatments to slow the progression of Parkinson's disease. Still, many of the disorders we treat have no known cause, and we have no means to slow down their worsening. Biochemical and histochemical analysis of brain tissue donated by people with movement disorders may provide the key to understanding the cause and treatment of these disorders. Therefore, brain donation is a gift of hope. This gift of hope may provide relief for those who have symptoms now and may also provide a healthier future for generations to come.

Some patients are unsure of whether brain tissue donation is compatible with their religious beliefs. Most world religions recognize and support the concept of brain donation because the information gained has the potential to heal, "benefit the ill," or "save lives of unborn children who may have inherited a genetic disease." For additional religious guidance, please discuss your questions and concerns with your religious advisor.

We ask you now to consider brain donation in the hours after your death. This gift of brain tissue may provide a medical breakthrough. If you are willing to do this now, you ease the burden on your nearest kin or guardian. Because we respect whatever you decide, your decision will not have any bearing on the quality of medical care we will provide for you.

_____ **Yes**, I would be willing to donate my brain for medical progress. I have notified my next of kin that I wish to do this.

Name of next of kin _____ Relationship _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ **No**, I do not wish to have an autopsy and donate my brain.

_____ **Undecided**. I would like to think about this topic further.

_____ **Undecided**. I would like to discuss this topic with Dr. _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____