Find out more

To find out more about the Down syndrome Brain Donation program at DSBC, please visit our website or contact your local health care clinic.

Does my religion prevent brain donation?

Most religions are not against a person donating their brain to research. Even after a brain donation, a person can have an open casket funeral.

If you are wondering more about your religion and brain donation, please go to this web site: https://organdonor.gov/about/donors/religion.html

Request Information

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FACTS ABOUT BRAIN DONATION FROM
The Down Syndrome Biobank Consortium

Funded by our partners at
BrightFocus Foundation
What is dementia?

Dementia is a brain illness that leads to memory impairment. To understand this illness and come up with new treatment options, researchers need to study the brain. Brain donation improves our understanding of what happens in the brain of someone with Down syndrome (DS), while giving hope to people with DS and their families.

Why is brain tissue needed?

The human brain is complex and difficult to study in living people. Research into diseases that affect the brain has to be done in tissue donated after death. A better understanding is the first key step towards new cures.

What is involved in brain donation?

An autopsy is the examination of brain tissue after death by a specialist called a pathologist and will be performed as soon as possible AFTER the person has passed. Brain donation does not leave any marks on the hairline or face.

Who can donate?

Since dementia research depends on all types of brain tissue, including those with no obvious disease, anyone over the age of 18 can register to be a donor. A family member can consent to a brain donation, if the person is unable to do this on their own.

About the DSBC

The consortium consists of 10 different research groups who have devoted their research to Down syndrome. By working together, we can unlock the mysteries around trisomy 21 and allow those with this condition to live healthy lives.