In all of medical science, there is no greater direct source of knowledge than the human body. Through the study of anatomy, students at USC’s School of Medicine, School of Dentistry and Department of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy learn the fundamentals of body structures, how they function and how they relate to each other. The importance of this knowledge base is confirmed by surveys of recent medical school graduates who uniformly describe their anatomy classes as the most valuable to them in their practice and research. Many current lifesaving medical practices and surgical techniques have their genesis using human bodies which were donated through anatomical gift programs operating at medical schools and hospitals throughout the country. The faculty, students and staff at USC are deeply aware of the value of this gift and understand that each donor and their family has made a tremendous sacrifice so that other future generations can live long and healthy lives.

You have an opportunity now to join the special group of people who have distinguished themselves by touching the lives of others through their participation in USC’s Anatomical Gift Program. We sincerely hope you will become one of those extraordinary people who make it possible for others to live long and healthy lives.

**Instructions Concerning Procedure**

California law permits an individual to donate his/her body to a Medical School. Our program normally requires the donor to self-enroll. However, if the donor has appointed an individual as his/her Durable Power of Attorney and the document includes a statement permitting the designee to make an anatomical gift of his/her body when death occurs, we may allow the designee to enroll this individual in our program.

The form entitled Anatomical Gift Program is the actual donation form. A Vital Statistics form is also enclosed, and all questions must be completed and the form returned to us. This information will be used in preparing the Certificate of Death, and it is imperative that all information is accurate. The donor’s complete legal name, including full middle name must be supplied. The donor should use “NMI” for no middle initial if none is used in the donor’s legal name.

The enclosed Brief Medical History form, when completed and returned, will add immeasurably to the enlightenment of both the students and staff. It is understood that any information received will remain confidential.

We must receive one copy of each of the three forms: the Anatomical Gift Program donation form, the Vital Statistics form and the Brief Medical History form to complete the enrollment process. An identification card will be mailed to the donor when we receive these completed forms.

Remains bequeathed to the University are utilized primarily in our regularly scheduled courses in the training of physicians, but may also be used for medical research or other scientific and instructional purposes. The cremated remains will be scattered by the University consistent with applicable law at no expense to the family or heirs.

Our policies and procedures are subject to change from time to time.

For those families who will be receiving the cremated remains, which can be anywhere from one week to four years, the cremated remains must be picked up within three years after the date of cremation. If we do not hear from the family within the three years following the cremation, the cremated remains will be sent to the Los Angeles County Coroner for disposition consistent with the County’s practices in place at that time.

Under no circumstances will the University return any items that are part of the donation such as implants, pacemakers, teeth or inlays, etc. once the donor has been transferred to our facility.

No written report of our findings concerning a donated body will be made to any individual or organization.
The University retains the right to refuse donations at any time. The University will not accept the remains if embalming has already occurred, if an autopsy has been performed or if any vital organs other than eyes have been removed for transplant donation. The donation of one’s eyes must be a separate arrangement.

For the well being of our personnel, faculty and students, we cannot accept the donation of remains if the following conditions are present: recent surgery, jaundice, hepatitis, HIV, Jakob-Creutzfeldt disease, Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (aka MRSA) or any other contagious disease. We are also unable to accept the donation of the remains of individuals who weigh 200 pounds or more. Decomposition of the body due to time or place of death or trauma would also cause the remains to be unsuitable for anatomical studies. **USC must be notified of the death of the donor within 48 hours.**

The University will file the Certificate of Death for the remains accepted by the University. Certified copies can be obtained by applying to the Department of Health, Vital Statistics Division, in the county where death occurred.

Free transportation of the donor to USC is provided **only** to residents of Los Angeles County living within a 50-mile radius. The family or heirs are responsible for this cost in all other cases. The University has its own transportation service, and only they have access to our morgue. Please do not contact a mortuary to provide this service for you.

**Please visit our website at agp.usc.edu**

For further information, call: 323-442-1229 or 323-442-1191
Staff will assist you Monday through Friday from 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. At times when staff is not available at these numbers, there is a recorded message to provide necessary information.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE ANATOMICAL GIFT PROGRAM OF ANY CHANGE OF NAME, ADDRESS AND/OR TELEPHONE NUMBER.

Anatomical Gift Program

University of Southern California

Keck School of Medicine
University of Southern California
1333 San Pablo Street, MMR 118
Los Angeles, CA 90089-9143

Please retain this brochure for future reference