



Anatomy, School of Medicine, NUI Galway

Anatomical Donor Program Information Leaflet

What is Anatomy? How is its practice governed?

The Practice of Anatomy in the State is governed by three pieces of legislation: The Anatomy Act 1832, The Anatomy Act 1871 and The Health (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order 1949.

Anatomy is the study of the structure of the human body and is a vital part of medical training and education. It is with deep gratitude that the Discipline of Anatomy in the College of Medicine at NUI Galway accepts bequests from those generous people who wish to donate their body to medical science.

I think I want to donate my body / make a bequest – what is the process?

Firstly, carefully read through this information leaflet then complete BOTH copies of the enclosed bequest form. Return one form and retain the other; we advise you to give this to your next of kin or responsible person who can act in accordance with your wishes following your death.

Are all bequests accepted?

While we do make every possible effort to accept bequests, there are certain circumstances under which we cannot accept bequests.

The following are some reasons why a bequest is **not** accepted:

- If the deceased has undergone a post-mortem examination;
- If the deceased has been the victim of an accident and suffered extensive injuries;
- If the deceased has undergone recent major surgery (i.e. did not recover post-operatively);
- If the deceased was suffering from a notifiable or other major infectious disease;
- If organs (other than corneas) have been donated for transplantation

This is something I want to do, but my family are against it. What will happen?

Before making this decision, we advise potential donors to inform their family and explain to them why this is their wish. It must be made clear that, even though we endeavour to honour all bequests, relatives or executors of the deceased may choose to ignore a bequest and have the remains of the deceased buried or cremated.

What happens after I die?

We must receive the body within 36 hours of death. Transportation to Anatomy is arranged by the University via Conneely & Sons (contact details for Conneely's below).

Whilst families are free to use whatever undertaking firm they choose, it is important to note that the only undertaking firm that the University will meet the costs of are Conneely & Sons.

The coffin may be provided by the family or estate at their own expense, in which case the remains will be placed in this coffin following the conclusion of anatomical examination.

If a coffin is not provided by the family or estate the University will arrange for Conneely & Sons to provide one.

Who do my representatives contact when I die?

Your representatives should telephone either Anatomy, NUI Galway on 091-492180 or

**John J. Conneely & Sons,
Funeral Directors,
Flood Street,
Galway.
091-562866 / 085-8019169 / conneelyandsons@gmail.com**

It is my family's tradition to hold a wake, will this still be possible?

As stated above, we must receive the body within 36 hours of death. A wake or funeral service may be held during this time if desired. Please note that all embalming is done within Anatomy, and no embalming may be carried out prior to arrival in Anatomy.

If a funeral service is to be held, all expenses incurred with this must be met by the family (or estate). Expenses involved with transporting the remains to the University from the service are met by the University. If no funeral service is to be held, remains are then transferred directly from the place of death to Anatomy.

Can my family erect a headstone if I am buried in the University plot?

Individual headstones are not permitted on the University plot.

The fact that there will be a significant length of time between my death and burial may be difficult for my family.

We understand that this is a major and difficult decision to make. At present, the University is not in a position to offer counselling support to family members.

However, if at any time a family member wishes to talk to a member of the Anatomy staff, they may contact us at the address shown below.

Each year, as a mark of respect and thanks for those who have donated their bodies, we, with help from the University Chaplains, conduct a non-denominational service in the University Church. Members of the families of donors are invited to attend, and, along with students and staff of the University celebrate the lives of those who have bequeathed their bodies.

Following the service, family members are invited to a small reception and to meet with Anatomy staff and students. This is an important event in the calendar of the University and we hope that it benefits those family members who feel that they are able to attend this special occasion.

When does the burial take place?

The body usually remains with us for a period of one to three years. Burial or cremation then takes place in accordance with the wishes of the donor. A member of staff in Anatomy will write to your representative advising them that it is time to begin making the arrangements. There are a few options available depending upon your wishes.

Burial in the NUI Galway Plot - New Cemetery, Bohermore, Galway.

The staff in Anatomy can arrange for burial in the University plot and for the attendance of a priest or minister of the relevant faith. Your relatives may attend if desired. All associated burial costs (eg. coffin, grave-opening, transport of remains, priest / minister) are borne by the University.

Private Family Internment

You may wish to be buried in a family plot or another plot of your choosing. In this case, the University will cover the expense of bringing the remains to the chosen cemetery. The opening of the grave and any other expenses involved are borne by the Estate. The next of kin, if desired, can arrange for the attendance of a priest or minister of the relevant faith.

Cremation

While the University does not cover the cost of cremation, if you wish to have your remains cremated, we will arrange and pay for transportation to the crematorium.

In conclusion –

If you have further queries please contact Anatomy and we will do our best to provide you with the answers. We hope that this pamphlet has answered most of your questions. If you choose to donate your body we hope that it will be many long and healthy years before we avail of your generous gift.

Sincerely,



Professor Peter Dockery

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