

*Thank you for considering the bequest of your remains to the Body Donation Program at Cleveland Clinic. This unique gift gives you the opportunity to make a lasting and meaningful contribution to medical science. Because of your gift, medical students, residents and faculty can gain knowledge that may prolong or improve another person's life.*

*Inside this brochure are answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding body donations. We encourage you to review it carefully and also to discuss your intentions with family members so that they understand your wishes. Again, thank you for your consideration. A gift to medical science is truly a gift of life.*

*Richard L. Drake, Ph.D.  
Director of Anatomy  
Cleveland Clinic*

## About the Program

The Body Donation Program at Cleveland Clinic is an important community service that allows an individual to make a thoughtful contribution to medical science. Enrollment in the program is open to anyone 18 or older. Upon enrollment, a donor card is provided and should be carried at all times. Body donations also may be made by the next of kin following a family member's death by immediately contacting Cleveland Clinic, at which time we will determine acceptability.

At the time of death, the family should notify Cleveland Clinic immediately by calling 216.444.2200. We will arrange and assume all costs for transportation within a 75-mile radius of the main campus at 9500 Euclid Avenue. Cleveland Clinic does not accept body donations from individuals living outside of Ohio.

Donors and their families should know that gifts to Cleveland Clinic's Body Donation Program are highly respected and treated with the utmost care. Individual remains are kept in Cleveland Clinic's securely locked anatomy laboratory under specific security standards. After all studies have been completed, the remains are cremated and the ashes returned to the family or buried at Cleveland Clinic's mausoleum crypt at Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland.

## Answers to Questions Frequently Asked About Donating Your Body to Medical Science

### **How do I make arrangements to donate my body to Cleveland Clinic?**

Enrollment in the program is open to anyone 18 or older. Simply contact Cleveland Clinic's Division of Education at 216.444.5678. Legal forms will be sent to you, which need to be completed and distributed as indicated. Upon return of one copy to the Body Donation Program, a donor card will be provided, which should be carried at all times.

We strongly recommend discussing your intentions with family members, so they can be prepared for the arrangements at the time of death.

### **Can I donate usable organs for transplantation purposes?**

Yes. The donation of usable organs, skin and eyes does not prevent the donation of a pre-registered body to Cleveland Clinic. If you have not pre-registered in our program, we reserve the right to determine whether or not to accept the donation.

### **Must I notify an attorney to donate my body to medical science?**

No. This type of gift does not have to be written into your will, although it is permissible to do so.

### **Who may serve as a witness to my donation?**

Anyone 18 years or older may act as a witness, except for relatives and persons affiliated with Cleveland Clinic.

### **Will there be any expenses to my family or estate for donating my body to Cleveland Clinic?**

No. We assume all costs for transportation of a donated body within a 75-mile radius of Cleveland Clinic's main campus, and all costs related to the preparation, storage and cremation of the body. We also cover the cost of sending the ashes to the next of

kin or to a location selected by the next of kin for final interment. However, the cost of final interment is the responsibility of the surviving next of kin.

### **What happens if I die away from Cleveland?**

If death occurs outside a 75-mile radius from Cleveland Clinic's main campus at 9500 Euclid Avenue, there are two options. First, Cleveland Clinic will assist the donor's family in making arrangements to have the remains donated to the closest medical school. Second, if the donor's family still wants the remains to be donated to Cleveland Clinic, the estate of the deceased or the donor's family will be responsible for all transportation costs.

### **Is donation possible after an autopsy?**

Yes. Autopsies are an important part of medicine and do not prevent the donation of a pre-registered body to Cleveland Clinic.

### **Can my body be donated if I have a serious disease at the time of my death or if any of my organs have been removed?**

Yes. If you have pre-registered in our program, only the most unusual circumstances would prevent us from accepting your donation. These circumstances would include morbid obesity, the presence of an infectious disease, and death caused by severe trauma. If you have not pre-registered in our program, we reserve the right to determine whether or not to accept the donation.

### **How will my body be used?**

Cleveland Clinic makes donated bodies available for medical education, the advancement of medical science, and research for the development of medical products and techniques.

### **Can I donate someone else's body, e.g., my wife or husband?**

One cannot donate someone else's body while that person is living. However, after the individual expires, the nearest living next of kin can donate the body by contacting Cleveland Clinic immediately at 216.444.2200.

**If I donate my body, what type of funeral service can I have?**

Your family may hold a memorial service in the absence of the deceased.

**What happens to my body after the medical studies are complete?**

Upon completion of medical studies, which may be several weeks to one year from the time we received the donated body, the remains are individually cremated and one of two options are followed. First, the ashes can be returned to the family for final interment. (Cleveland Clinic will pay for delivery of the ashes, but the cost of final interment is the responsibility of the surviving next of kin.) Second, Cleveland Clinic's Division of Education can bury the ashes at Cleveland Clinic's mausoleum crypt at the historical Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland.

**What if I change my mind about making a donation?**

To withdraw your donation, simply notify the Body Donation Program at Cleveland Clinic. You also should inform your family of your change of intentions.

**If I move out of state, what happens to my donation?**

Cleveland Clinic does not accept body donations from individuals living outside the state of Ohio. To withdraw your donation, notify the Body Donation Program at Cleveland Clinic. If you wish, we are happy to assist you in contacting a medical school in your new area of residence.

For more information, please call Cleveland Clinic's Division of Education at 216.444.5678 or 800.223.2273, ext. 45678.



9500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44195

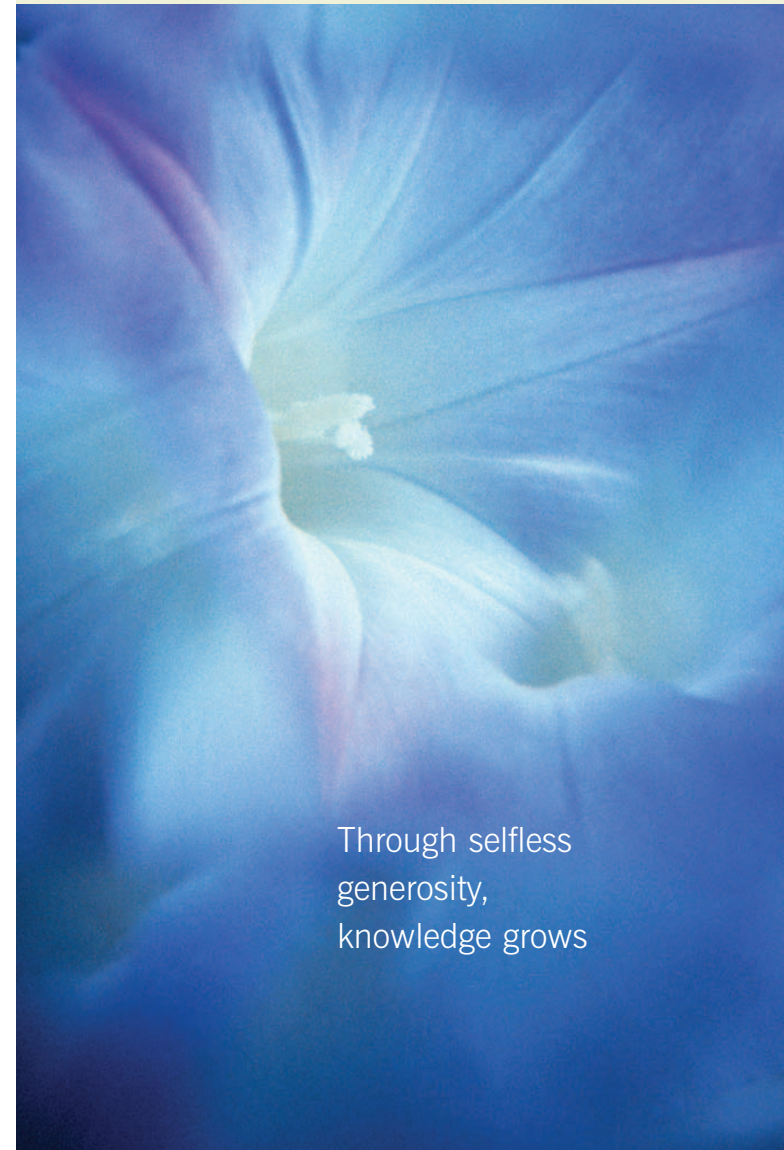
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit, multispecialty academic medical center. It is dedicated to providing quality specialized care and includes an outpatient clinic, a hospital with more than 1,000 available beds, an education division and a research institute.

© The Cleveland Clinic Foundation 2006

06-CCC-069



# Body Donation Program



Through selfless  
generosity,  
knowledge grows