The Need is Urgent

The work to solve complex brain disorders has progressed rapidly in the last 20-30 years as scientists identified the genomic foundations of many diseases.

Breakthroughs are closer than ever now, but scientists simply cannot get there without an adequate supply of human brain tissue. In late 2013, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) established the NeuroBioBank (NBB) to provide researchers with high quality, well-characterized human brain tissue for their investigations. This precious inventory is stored at a network of brain banks that are contracted to retrieve, prepare for lab use, store and distribute donated brain tissue for neurologic research worldwide.

Demand for tissues from donors with certain disorders, from specific brain regions, or even non-diseased tissues from so-called "control" brains can quickly deplete these valuable reserves—putting life-saving research in jeopardy. Low supplies will slow progress.

Three Reasons to Register Your Brain Today:

01 Diagnoses of dementia are rising at alarming rates, addiction is a tragic epidemic and serious mental illness is crushing our families.

02 Our chances of developing a brain disorder increase with age—and Americans are living longer than ever. It's easy to see where this is leading.

03 Donated brain tissue for neurologic study is critically needed to identify treatments and cures for all kinds of brain disease.

How it Works

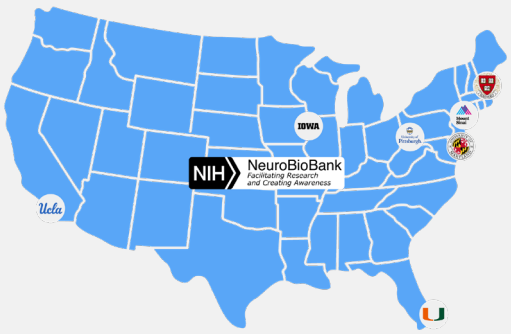
Before Death

- Visit BrainDonorProject.org
- Learn more about brain donation
- Pre-register to donate your brain
- Receive return email titled "Brain Donation: Next Steps"
- Complete and return forms or call the brain bank, if directed

After Death

- Notify your brain bank upon death
- Coordination of transporation by Brain bank
- Respectful removal of brain in a non-disfiguring manner
- Release of the body to family
- Reporting of neuropathological findings

The NeuroBioBank



The Brain Donor Project serves as a single point of contact for the brain banks in the NIH's NeuroBioBank. Future donors are connected to the appropriate brain bank after completion of a simple online form at braindonorproject.org

Why Donate Your Brain?

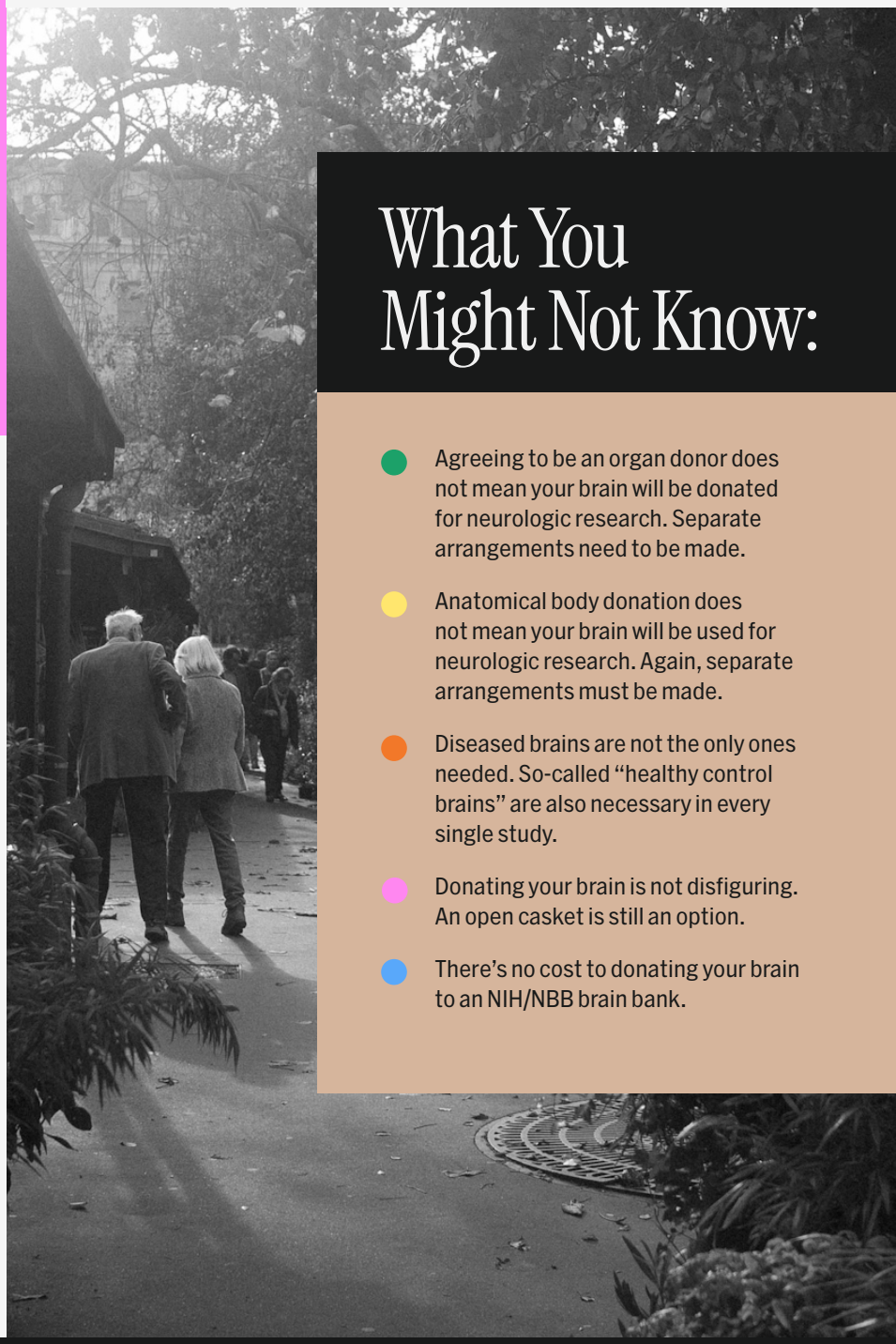
Science Needs You

Someone in your circle is among the **more than 50 million Americans suffering from a neurologic disease or disorder**. Add in their families who struggle to help. Consider that the total number of those impacted will escalate since Americans are living longer and with age comes a greater chance of being diagnosed. The devastating impact of brain disease is now the world's leading cause of disease burden due to the significant amount of disability, illness, and premature death.

Benefits to Brain Donation

01 There's a real sense of comfort in donating a brain to advance science. Since one brain can provide tissue for dozens—sometimes hundreds—of neurological studies, an individual brain donation is a highly valuable gift that almost anyone can make. In the face of a great loss, knowing that some future family may not have to suffer because of this donation can be extremely meaningful.

02 If requested, the family can receive a copy of the report called a Summary of Neuropathological Findings. In certain neurologic conditions, this is the only definitive diagnosis that can be made.



What You Might Not Know:

- Agreeing to be an organ donor does not mean your brain will be donated for neurologic research. Separate arrangements need to be made.
- Anatomical body donation does not mean your brain will be used for neurologic research. Again, separate arrangements must be made.
- Diseased brains are not the only ones needed. So-called "healthy control brains" are also necessary in every single study.
- Donating your brain is not disfiguring. An open casket is still an option.
- There's no cost to donating your brain to an NIH/NBB brain bank.