“These individuals have been pivotal to the enhancement of our education, and we feel incredibly humbled that they selflessly taught us the beginnings of our healthcare careers.”

—Krysta Schroeder, DPM Class of 2017
Des Moines University relies on the voluntary donation of bodies for anatomical and surgical study by its students in medical and allied health sciences programs. The ability of health professionals to care for patients depends on a thorough understanding of human organs. Because no textbook or model can substitute for the human body in the study of medicine, donated bodies are indispensable for teaching anatomical concepts to future physicians and health professionals.

THE PROBLEM
The ability of the University to provide highly trained physicians and other health care professionals depends upon continued public support of the Body Donor Program. In order to educate present and future students, the University must rely on donated bodies to fulfill the needs for medical education.

THE SOLUTION
A special law permitting persons to deed their bodies for scientific purposes was enacted by the Iowa Legislature in 1953, thereby establishing a means for Iowans to make this ultimate gift. Those who donate their bodies for medical education have the satisfaction of knowing they are making an indispensable contribution to the basic knowledge upon which medical education depends. The donors realize even that in death, they can continue to serve the living. Body donation is, indeed, the ultimate gift of human concern.

If you decide to donate your body to medical education, please be aware of the following information:

Funeral Home - A funeral home must be involved during the donation process. They will help prepare the necessary documents and deliver the body to the University at the time of death. If desired, survivors may hold a viewing or a funeral service before the body is delivered to the University. Any expenses incurred with the funeral home will be the responsibility of the family.

Delivery - If the body can be delivered within eight hours from the time of death, the University will proceed with the embalming procedure. However, if the body cannot be delivered within eight hours of death, we request that the funeral home proceed with arterial embalming only. The cost of embalming performed by a funeral home will be the responsibility of the donor’s family.

Costs - The Uniform Anatomical Gift Law prohibits medical schools from purchasing human remains. The University will reimburse funeral homes for transportation in the amount of $75 plus $0.45 per mile, up to a maximum total of $300 once a death certificate is received from the funeral home. The University reserves the right to change the fee paid to the funeral homes at any time and without notification.

Organ donation - If a donor wishes to donate eyes or skin prior to body donation, the University will contact the Iowa Donor Network or Iowa Lion’s Eye Bank to coordinate such wish. The body donor program must be aware of the donor’s wishes immediately following the death.

Refusal of donation - Most bodies are acceptable for the Body Donor Program. However, the donation may not be accepted if any of the following conditions are present: organs or parts removed for transplantation, autopsy performed, decomposition, homicide, drowning, burning, vehicular accident, suicide, trauma, jaundice, edematous, obesity, emaciation, body contractures, or the presence of an infectious or contagious disease. At the time of death, the donor must meet the height to weight ratio and be cleared of any infectious diseases. In all cases, the University reserves the right to determine acceptability of a potential donation.

Anatomical Studies - Studies of anatomical donors are for educational and research purposes only. No legal findings will be determined nor will a report be given upon completion of the study. Generally, most studies are concluded within two years.

Treatment of bodies - All students fully appreciate that they are the principal beneficiaries of the generosity of those who donate. During medical studies, donated bodies are treated with utmost respect. Students are closely supervised by faculty members. An Anatomical Coordinator cares for the donor during the duration of the scientific study.

Disposition of bodies - The Body Donor Program will send a correspondence to the next-of-kin regarding the disposition of the remains. If cremation is desired, the process will commence following the anatomical studies at the expense of the University. If a request for return of the cremated remains has not been made, the remains will be interred by the University following 60 days from the notification of the next-of-kin. If cremation is not desired, the body can be returned to a funeral home for burial. Please contact the Body Donor Program for special instructions if the remains are not to be cremated. The expense for returning uncremated remains and burial, cremated or uncremated, will be the responsibility of the family.

Memorial - An nondenominational memorial service is held each spring for the donor’s family. The expense for this burial and memorial service is borne by the University. A bronze plaque marks the burial site and is inscribed, “Here lie the remains of those individuals who bequeathed their bodies to the betterment of science and mankind.”
Personal Information Pertinent To Body Donation

Date: ____________________

Your Full Name (Please print): ________________________________________________________

Street Address: ________________________________________________________________

City: ____________________ State: ___________ Zip Code: ___________

Telephone Number(s): _____________________________________________________________

Email: ______________________________________________________________________

Date of Birth: ___/___/____  □ Male  □ Female

Current Marital Status:  □ Never Married  □ Married  □ Widowed  □ Divorced

If Married, Spouse’s Full Name: ______________________________________________________

Main occupation for most of your life: _____________________________________________

In what business or industry was your occupation? ________________________________

Highest grade level of education completed? ______________________________________

Are you a Veteran? □ No  □ Yes  If yes, branch of service: ____________________________

*If yes, please include a copy of your military discharge with your application.*

What is your ethnicity?  □ White  □ African American  □ Hispanic  □ Asian  □ Other

Are you an Organ/Tissue/Eye Donor:  □ No  □ Yes

PLEASE NOTE: Falsification of this document could lead to rejection at the time of death.
Medical History  (Please attach additional pages if necessary)

Height: ________________  Weight: ________________

Major health problems:

Surgical history:

Deformities or amputations:

For Body Donor Program Use:

Date: ________________

- Declined  Reason Declined: ________________________________
- Accepted  ID: ____________________

PLEASE NOTE: Falsification of this document could lead to rejection at the time of death.
### Next-Of-Kin Contact Information

**Primary Contact Person (Required):**

Name *(Please print)*:  

Street Address:  

City: State: Zip Code:  

Telephone Number(s):  

Email Address:  

Relationship to Donor:  

**Alternate Contact Person (Required):**

Name *(Please print)*:  

Street Address:  

City: State: Zip Code:  

Telephone Number(s):  

Email Address:  

Relationship to Donor:  

PLEASE NOTE: Falsification of this document could lead to rejection at the time of death.
Deed of Disposition of Body for Scientific Purposes

Phone: (515) 271-1481   www.dmu.edu/body-donor   Fax: (515) 271-7014

Send the original application and the deed of disposition of body for scientific purposes form to:
Des Moines University Body Donor Program, 3200 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50312.
Should you have questions or concerns, call the body donor program at (515) 271-1481.

I/We _____________________________________________
Name(s)

Of _____________________________________________
Address City & State Zip Code

hereby declare that I/We are the designated next of kin of ____________________________ and have the right to
make an anatomical gift as stated in Iowa Code 142C.4(1) of the Anatomical Gift Act.

I/We hereby grant and donate his/her said body to Des Moines University in Des Moines, Iowa
and authorize the medi cal institution to use the human remains without restriction, for such
purposes as it deems most useful to medical science, including the use by other medical
educational institutions. The next of kin is aware certain physical/medical conditions at death
may prohibit Des Moines University from accepting the anatomical gift.

_________________________________________          _______________________
Signature of Next of Kin & Relationship                     Date

_________________________________________
Signature of Next of Kin & Relationship

Date

Signed by the next of kin and the following two witnesses in the presence of each other.

_________________________________________          _______________________
Witness                                        Witness

This is a legal document under the Uniform Anatomical Gift act or similar laws.
Falsification of this document could lead to declination at the time of death.

Revised: January 17, 2018
Next of Kin Deed of Disposition
MAKING A DONATION
If you have decided to donate your body to the University for scientific study, simply complete the application and mail them to the contact information below:

Body Donor Program
Des Moines University
3200 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

Email: bodydonor@dmu.edu

Upon receipt, your forms will be reviewed to ensure the information provided meets the criteria established for our Body Donor Program. If the criteria is met, an identification card will be mailed to you. This card signifies that you are a body donor and ensures that your remains will be handled appropriately for purposes of medical study. If criteria is not met, you will be informed by mail of this decision.

If at some time you decide against participating in the Body Donor Program, simply destroy your identification card and inform the University and your relatives of your decision. The University is inclined to refuse acceptance of a body if there is objection to donation or dissection among family members legally responsible for disposition of the body.

Body donation has been approved and is encouraged by Catholic, Protestant and Reformed Jewish leaders. However, you may wish to discuss this matter with your priest, minister or rabbi.

The University realizes that body donation is a personal, private decision. If you have concerns or questions, please contact the Anatomical Coordinator for the Body Donor Program, Des Moines University, 3200 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50312-4198. You may call the Body Donor Program at (515) 271-1481, 24 hours a day, seven days a week or email them at bodydonor@dmu.edu.

Please note: The University reserves the right to change, at any time and without notification, the policies and procedures stated in this brochure.

1. Acceptance of the body donor card does not imply commitment to accept the donation.
2. Acceptance of a body by Des Moines University is contingent upon circumstances of death and usability of the body for the University's purposes.

“I have witnessed first-hand what an irreplaceable gift body donation is to a future physician.

I also know what it feels like to be family of a donor - my grandfather was a donor and my grandmother will be a donor. At the time my grandparents willed their bodies to DMU, I think they felt peace knowing that so much good could come from their death.
As a student, I have seen just how true that is.”
   – Sarah Tallman, D.O. Class of 2009

“Thank you! Your loved one’s selfless act was such a blessing to us!

She helped to further our medical education and also taught us about respect for others, ourselves and the impact we will have on our future patients.”
   – Katie Swanson, Nicole Sztuk, Edgar Tabila, Megan Pitts, and Ana Recendiz

“The Circle of Life is complete thanks to the gift of our donor. Our donor will live on through our work when we use knowledge gained from our donor’s body to help understand our future patients.

Thank you for the chance to learn from your loved ones. It was an experience we will cherish for as long as we practice.”
   – Angela Conley, Kaitlin Dammann, Chelsea DeMuth, Zachary Domeier, Brianna Ducey
His Final Gift

BY BARB KING

Harlan and I were married for 44 years, have 3 children and 8 grandchildren. He was tough but always wanted the kids to grow up with integrity and character; he was not perfect by any means. He loved to help them with their sports and coach. He would make every effort to be at the grandkids sporting events or concerts as well. He loved Nebraska Huskers football and our cabin on Ten Mile Lake. Fishing was his most relaxing pastime and loved to teach our kids and grandkids how to bait the hook or where to look for the best spot and if that fish was a keeper.

Harlan was 57 when he was diagnosed with amyloidosis with no cure and told he’d have 18 months. Suggested that we go to Mayo Clinic for chemo and stem cell transplant; we were overwhelmed with the quality of staff and friendly people. After running tests again, they no longer found the disease. He was in remission which is unheard of for amyloidosis. After his diagnosis, we had discussed his wishes for organ or body donation for medical study.

On February 9, 2015, he had his first heart attack and 3 stents put in; July 6 brought us to a quad bypass, we found out a ¼ of his heart was dead. On January 26, 2016, he had a massive heart attack and did not survive. God has given me strength beyond measure and I will be forever grateful for what he has given me. I see and hear signs every day that Harlan is near especially in the pair of cardinals in my yard and a lamp that keeps coming on.

The kids and I were thrilled that Des Moines University would accept his body for medical study. His eyes were donated through the Iowa Lions Eye Bank and someone can now see because of his generosity. I contacted Edward Christopherson, the Anatomical Coordinator, for a tour of the facility. I wanted to see what the study would entail and that Harlan’s remains would be in that receptacle once he was returned. We were amazed at the depth of information he provided and were so impressed that it made us proud to have Harlan’s wish given to DMU. The use of no cell phones and shrouding the donors in the anatomy laboratory provided us with a sense of security that our loved one was provided with respect during the body donor process. We know these students will leave here being great physicians because of these University standards. After returning home, I sent a thank you and included a short article about him and a picture so that they knew the man they were studying. He is missed beyond words but his life lives on in our memories.

The memorial service was beyond words that I state what I felt cannot be put into words. I say with God all things are possible but God has stretched my comfort zone beyond my wildest imagination. As I watched, the room was not very full and I thought I can do this but then the students in their white coats started to arrive and the room filled up. To meet the students that spoke and hear their touching words on how important body donation is and how they will carry that into their profession for years to come is amazing. Their genuineness and caring attitude about body donation makes me realize how Harlan must have felt when he made that decision. The music was fabulous and added a great benefit in healing my heart. Harlan’s parents were military Navy so the taps, salute and flag to honor the vets was very memorable.

God may have closed the door on Harlan’s life, but through the memorial service, I saw that his life was a gift to others and he will always be giving. My faith teaches me that God places people in my life for a reason. Through Harlan’s death, I was honored to meet those that both studied and didn’t study Harlan’s remains. They were the last ones to see him and I pray for each one that they may gain strength and courage to continue to be the strong advocate that Des Moines University is training them to be. Family of other donors came to visit as well. It was awesome and very rewarding to hear their stories and offer one other comfort.

I think Harlan’s students said it best in their quote and their final comments. “Thank you for your tremendous gift to us. We sincerely appreciate the opportunity you have given us.” I will be forever grateful that God led us to Des Moines University and this path has given me a new understanding on body donation and I know that will be where my heart is as well.

Omaha resident Barbara King spoke at DMU’s annual memorial service May 19, 2017 that honors individuals who donate their bodies to the University. Her husband, Harlan, an avid fisherman, died January of 2016. To learn more about DMU’s body donor program, visit www.dmu.edu/body-donor, call 515-271-1881, or email the program at bodydonor@dmu.edu.

Des Moines University
Body Donor Program
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