

*“The different doctors who saw Dad never seemed certain about what disease caused his memory and cognitive decline. It was great to receive his neuropathology report from HealthPartners Center for Memory & Aging and learn what had happened to his brain and what disease he really had.”*

**—Daughter of program participant**

### **Making a Gift**

The most valuable contribution you can make is enrolling in our program and telling others who may be interested. If you'd like to make a tax-deductible monetary donation to further our research, please contact the Regions Hospital Foundation at **651-254-2376** or **regionshospital.com**.

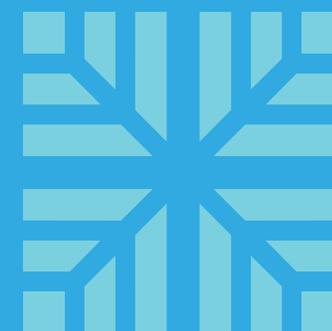
*Regions Hospital Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that raises funds on behalf of the Brain Autopsy Program and other programs of Regions Hospital and HealthPartners.*

### **For more information,**

please call **651-254-2743** • **alzheimersinfo.org**



## **Brain Autopsy Program**



## Understanding Memory Loss

Living with a loved one with memory loss can be difficult. There are unanswered questions on what caused the illness and whether it will affect other family members. A brain autopsy is often the only way to determine the exact cause of the dementing illness.

## Reasons for a Brain Autopsy

Making the decision regarding a brain autopsy can be very emotional for family members. You may find it helpful to discuss this with your health professional or a member of our team.

A brain autopsy is important to:

- Get a clear diagnosis of the illness and provide a sense of closure
- Provide medical history for family members
- Improve future research and treatments

## Planning in Advance

It is important that arrangements are made in advance to help family members during the difficult time after death. The legal next-of-kin must provide final consent to authorize the autopsy upon death.

The pre-arrangement process will include:

- A discussion with family and loved ones about your wishes
- The completion of necessary forms
- An understanding by your family of the contact procedures

## Understanding Illness

Our current understanding of dementing illness is only possible because of the individuals who have chosen to have a brain autopsy in the past. Brain autopsies guide future research efforts into the causes and potential treatments. Participation in the program helps lead to a better understanding and treatment of neurodegenerative diseases.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How much does a brain autopsy cost?

Fees start at \$875, but costs vary depending upon the location of death.

### Will a brain autopsy delay funeral arrangements?

When prearranged, there should be no delay for typical funeral arrangements. The procedure will be performed within 24 hours of death.

### Will others know a brain autopsy was done?

There are no obvious marks from a brain autopsy, which allows for an open casket funeral. No one will know unless you tell them.

### Where is the procedure performed?

The research team at HealthPartners Center for Memory & Aging performs brain removals in the Twin Cities and surrounding area. For further distances, we may recommend that another institution remove the brain and send to us for examination.

### Does a brain autopsy conflict with religious beliefs?

A brain autopsy does not interfere with most religious beliefs. We encourage you though to consult with a religious leader from your faith.

### Who receives the autopsy report?

The confidential report is sent to authorized family members 4-5 months after the procedure.

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