Donation Process

The donation must take place as soon as possible after death to preserve brain tissue for research.

What families should know:

- **No Cost**
  There are no fees for brain tissue donation.
- **Funeral Arrangements**
  Donation allows for an open casket and other traditional funeral arrangements.

Make A Difference

Brain tissue donation provides scientists with a unique opportunity to better understand mental illness and pursue discoveries that may improve diagnosis and treatment.

To learn more about brain tissue donation, contact the Southwest Brain Bank toll free at **833-811-0013** or email **swbb.elp@ttep.edu**.





Contact Us

Southwest Brain Bank
130 Rick Francis St.
El Paso, TX 79905

Toll Free: **1-833-811-0013**
Email: **swbb.elp@ttep.edu**

For more information about the Southwest Brain Bank:

260713

Southwest Brain Bank



Texas Tech Health
EL PASO
Foster School of Medicine

Department of Psychiatry

A Brain Tissue Repository to Advance Mental Health Research

Peter M. Thompson, M.D., M.S.
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Manager

Guadalupe Vidal Martinez, Ph.D.
Sr. Research Scientist

Ajay Chhaya, Ph.D.
Sr. Research Scientist



Who Can Donate?

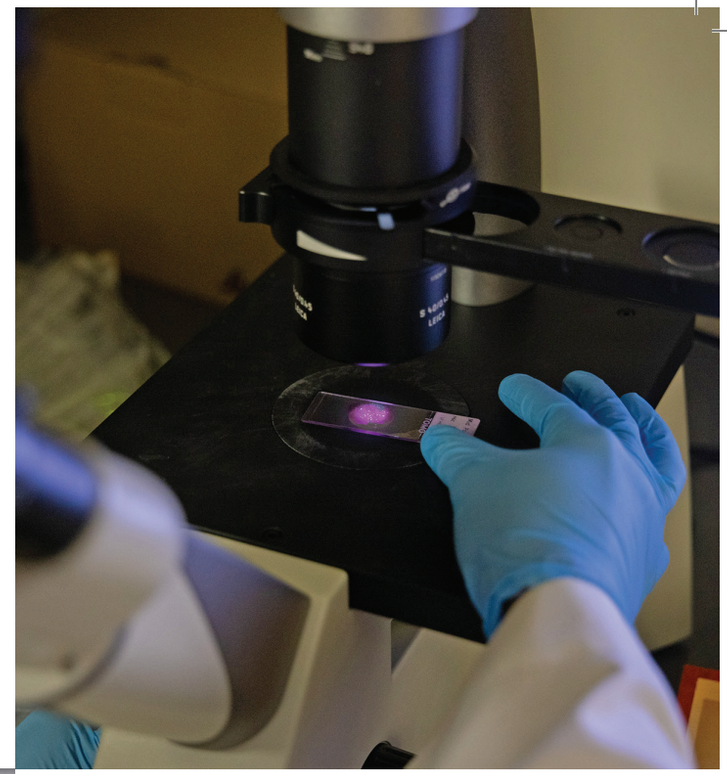
Adults with or without mental illness may be eligible to donate.

The Southwest Brain Bank accepts donations from individuals with mental illnesses including:

- Major Depression
- Bipolar Disorder
- Schizophrenia
- Substance Use Disorder

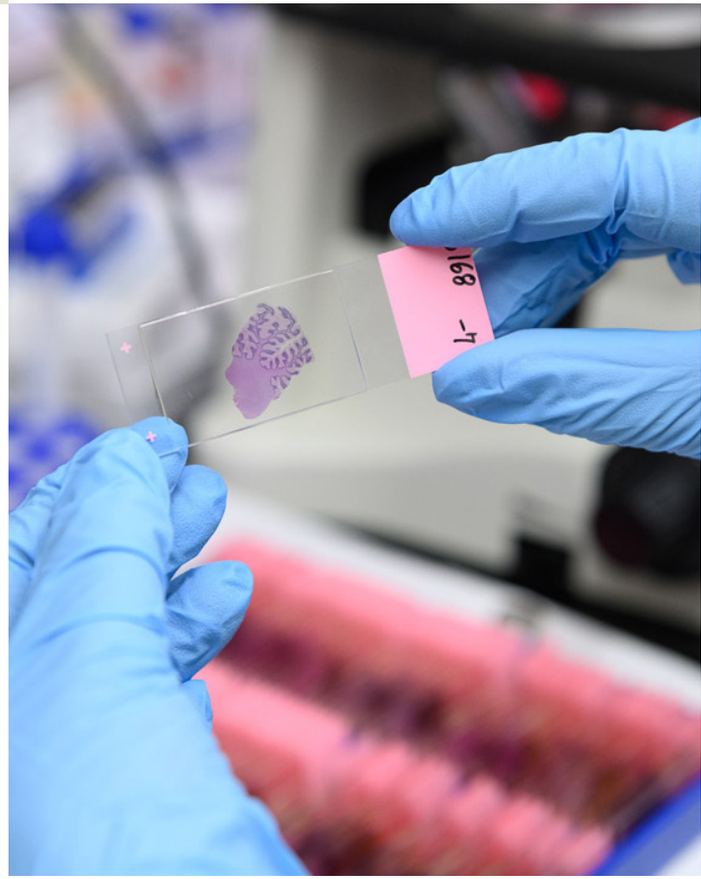
Donations from individuals without mental illness provide important comparison tissue for research.

Note: Some medical conditions or significant brain damage may prevent donation.



Southwest Brain Bank

- The Southwest Brain Bank collects, studies and distributes donated brain tissue to scientists researching mental illness.
- Tissue from people with and without mental illness helps researchers better understand how the brain functions. This research may contribute to advances in diagnosis and treatment.
- More than 70% of tissue samples collected in El Paso come from Hispanic donors.
- Greater representation helps researchers produce findings that better reflect the populations they serve.



How to Donate

Two ways to donate

1. Plan Ahead

Register with the brain bank's Longitudinal Donation Program.

Southwest Brain Bank staff will collect your medical and psychiatric information and periodically contact you to keep it current.

2. At the Time of Death

Your next of kin may provide consent for brain tissue donation.

Southwest Brain Bank staff will gather medical information and later conduct an interview with your family.