



Tshwane University  
of Technology  
*We empower people*

ORGAN DONOR  
FOUNDATION



## *Centre for Tissue Engineering*



*Share the Gift of life.  
Become a donor.*

# *Human tissue donation and transplantation offer patients in need a wonderful opportunity of healing and life.*

Although thousands of patients receive tissue transplants annually, there is still great ignorance regarding the fact that donors are required and that one donation can enable doctors to treat 65 or even more patients.

## *Is this different to Organ Donation?*

The concept is the same: A person decides that after his/her own death, someone else should benefit from healthy organs and tissue through transplantation - rather than it going to the grave.


Organs are retrieved when a patient is brain stem dead, still in hospital and mechanically supported. Few people's circumstances in death actually come to this point.


Most of us die at home, at work or on the road and never make it to hospital. In this case, one can donate tissue which is equally needed and valuable for transplant into someone else.


***“It’s a miracle that you can still do good things even after you’re gone.***


***The miracle is organ and tissue donation.”***

## WHAT TISSUE CAN BE DONATED?

 **Corneas** - The thin, clear tissue layer in the eye that covers the iris and pupil can be removed and used in transplantation to give or restore sight. Injuries to the eye can cause severe damage to the cornea and create a desperate need for corneal transplant. Many South African patients need an urgent corneal transplant, but due to the shortage, only a fraction of them are privileged enough to receive the gift of sight.

 **Bone & Tendons** - The long bones in the limbs (arms & legs) can be surgically removed and used for transplantation in patients who have suffered bone loss due to trauma, injury or disease. Tendon repairs are helpful for people who have tendon injuries that are making it difficult for them to move a joint or are very painful.

 **Heart Valves** - Sometimes, even when the heart is no longer beating, one's heart can be donated. The aortic and pulmonary valves can be used to correct an abnormality in the heart of a patient. It will not only improve health, but can potentially be lifesaving.

 **Skin** - Only the very top layer of skin (epidermis) is carefully removed in some areas of the body and is used very effectively in the treatment of burns. Uncontrolled fires cause life threatening burn wounds to thousands of South Africans every year, of which most are children. Without donor skin, these people may face certain death.

## WHO CAN BE A DONOR?

Any healthy individual between the ages of 15 and 80 years can donate tissue. A medical record that includes Cancer; Septicaemia; Hepatitis & HIV, will exclude a potential donor.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST & WILL IT DELAY FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS?

There is no cost involved in the donation of any of the tissues.

Tissue is retrieved without compromising the funeral arrangements and does not interfere with burial and cremation plans.

## WILL THE DONOR BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY?

CTE employs professionals who are bound by very strict codes of conduct to ensure that each donor is treated with respect and dignity. Written consent is required for all tissue retrieval. A prosthetic device is inserted in the place of the removed tissue to ensure that there is no disfigurement of the donor's body.

## HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- Discuss the possibility of tissue donation with the rest of your family and make sure that they understand that you would like to be a donor after your own death.
- Register today at: [www.odf.org.za](http://www.odf.org.za) or [www.tissuedonation.org.za](http://www.tissuedonation.org.za).
- No medical tests are required in advance and it is not necessary to complete any additional forms.

## FOR ASSISTANCE IN YOUR AREA CONTACT:



**Gauteng, Mpumalanga & Limpopo**  
Marna Horn - 082 379 8536



**Free State, Cape & KZN**  
Sandra Venter - 082 325 3448



**North West, Vaal Triangle & Northern Cape**  
Elize Scheepers - 082 411 7109

## OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS



Centre for Tissue Engineering  
Building 19 D  
CSIR  
Brummeria  
Pretoria, 0001



Toll free number: **0800 847783** (tissue)



Website: [www.tissuedonation.org.za](http://www.tissuedonation.org.za)



E-mail: [info@tissuedonation.org.za](mailto:info@tissuedonation.org.za)



FACEBOOK: Tissue donation South Africa

## Registration form

Please complete ALL fields in order to be entered onto the database

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title:  Mr  Mrs  Ms  Dr  Prof.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

Landline Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

ID Type:  R.S.A. ID  Passport

ID/Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:  Male  Female

For research purposes please indicate your ethnic group:

Black  White  Coloured  Indian  Asian  Other

How did you hear about organ donation? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive news via email?  Yes  No

### Next of kin information contact details over the age of 18

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Landline number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

By registering as an organ donor I understand and agree with the following: I'm registering as an organ donor by my own conviction. I understand that registering, as an organ donor, is completely free of charge. I agree that my personal information may be stored on the database of the Organ Donor Foundation and be only used for the advancement of organ donor awareness in general. I accept that the Organ Donor Foundation will secure and safeguard my personal information within the framework of the South African Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI-2013). I agree to inform my next of kin of my wish to be an organ donor. If I'm under the age of 18 I confirm that my parents or guardians are aware that I'm registering as an organ donor. I agree that medical professionals may have access to my personal information and the information of my next of kin and that this information will only be used, if relevant, for the purposes of my intention to be an organ donor.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM:

BY FAX TO (021) 426 0197 OR EMAIL - bongiwe@odf.org.za Or  
POST TO PO BOX 2349 CAPE TOWN 8000.

For more information contact our Toll Free Line - 0800 22 66 11 or visit our website  
[www.odf.org.za](http://www.odf.org.za)