



University of Pittsburgh
Research and Clinical Training with Human Cadavers
Interim Policy RI 12

Implementing Executive: Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences
Responsible Unit: Office for Oversight of Anatomic Specimens
Category: Research & Innovation Policies
Effective Date: January 26, 2023

I. Purpose

This Policy governs the use of cadavers for research, education, and clinical training in any University of Pittsburgh facility.

II. Scope

This Policy applies to the use of cadavers provided via the Pennsylvania Humanity Gifts Registry Body Donation Program to the University and to the use of those cadavers on any University campus.

III. Policy

It is imperative that all human cadavers be handled and utilized respectfully and in an ethical manner. Research, educational, and clinical training activities, including observational experiences, utilizing the bodies of deceased patients or donors must be reasonable and scientifically, educationally, or clinically important. This Policy establishes the University's review process for implementing these requirements.

The Office for Oversight of Anatomic Specimens (OOAS) is responsible for monitoring adherence to the principles and requirements found in this Policy. Accordingly, a school or other University facility must receive written permission from OOAS prior to a laboratory or other unit in that school engaging in research, educational, or clinical training activities utilizing whole cadavers or parts of those specimens provided via the Pennsylvania Humanity Gifts Registry Body Donation Program. Those research, educational, and clinical training activities must be conducted in accordance with the conditions provided by OOAS when permission is granted.

If OOAS finds that an activity was not conducted in accordance with this Policy or with conditions it had provided, OOAS reserves the right to rescind the permission it granted to the school or University facility and to remove the human cadavers from the laboratory or other unit where that violation occurred.

This Policy supersedes all prior policies governing the use of human cadavers in University facilities on any of our campuses.

IV. Contact Information and Public Accessibility

This Policy is posted under Research and Innovation on the Office of Policy Development and Management's website and can be found at: <https://www.policy.pitt.edu/>.

For questions related to this Policy, please contact OOAS at: 412-802-8280.