

Dear NAME Colleague,

Knowledge of neurodegenerative disease and other disorders of the nervous system—including Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)—rely heavily on the examination of post-mortem human brain tissue. In order to increase our understanding of these disorders, there is a need to collect and examine brain tissue from individuals with a variety of backgrounds. You play a vital role in that process.

We urgently need your help in acquiring cases and performing donation procedures, so that we can accelerate efforts to prevent and treat each disorder. We are seeking donations from people who played in collision type sports, had military combat duty, or were victims of domestic abuse. It is believed that many times the symptoms of CTE, PTSD, TBI and ALS develop over many years and may be linked to exposures long forgotten at the time of death. If you are presented with a case of suicide, drug over-dose, or reckless act, we are asking you to contact the next-of-kin about prior history that meet our inclusion criteria. There are no costs for this study and identification of donors is confidential. Autopsies of the brain may provide families with critical information they may never have considered and allow them to find understanding from the tragedy while furthering science.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are now funding brain banks at the Bedford VA Medical Center in Massachusetts under the direction of Dr. Ann McKee to acquire, process, and distribute brains of athletes and veterans at risk for or with a history of CTE, TBI, ALS, and PTSD. These are scientific endeavors to seek truth and help protect future generations.

We request that you reach out to the appropriate donation coordinator when you have a case that meets our current inclusion criteria (see below) for the studies. Additionally, we are always looking to expand our network of qualified individuals to help with donation procedures. If you are willing to help with cases in your area please contact:

Patrick Kiernan, Research Assistant
Boston University CTE Center
Office: 617-414-1187
Email: PKIERNAN@bu.edu

The Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation will be presenting a poster concerning this issue at the NAME Conference in Charlotte on Sunday, October 4, between 4:00-6:00 pm. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions and will be happy to address questions. If you are unable to attend the conference please email Karen Kinzle Zegel directly at kkinzle22@gmail.com.

We look forward to your help in furthering awareness and science and hopefully a cure.

Signed: McKee, Wecht, Nowinski, Zegel

Below are summaries of the various brain donation programs, their respective inclusion criteria, and the appropriate contact person for each program:

VA-BU-SLI/CLF Brain Bank (NIH Funded)

The VA-BU-SLI/CLF Brain Bank collects and studies post-mortem brain and spinal cord tissue to better understand the effects of trauma on the human nervous system—specifically focused on Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE). The tissue along with the clinical information of the donor will help to better understand the pathology, etiology, and epidemiology of trauma related neurodegenerative disorders including CTE, TBI, and ALS.

INCLUSION CRITERIA	
1.	Men who played American football or ice hockey at the professional or Olympic level, or who played at the college, semi-professional or juniors levels for at least 2 years.
2.	Men who played a high-risk contact-sport, other than American football or ice hockey, at the professional or Olympic level
3.	Women who played a high-risk contact sport at the professional, Olympic, or college level
4.	Men or women who played a high-risk contact sport at the professional, Olympic, college or high school level who died before the age of 35
5.	Men or women who played a high-risk contact sport at the professional, Olympic, college or high school level who were diagnosed with ALS during life
6.	Men or women with a military history of combat exposure
7.	Women with a history of domestic abuse

EXCLUSION CRITERIA	
1.	Specimen with a post-mortem interval before fixation of greater than 72 hours
2.	Specimen that was embalmed following brain autopsy
3.	Specimen of less than one full hemisphere

For further information or to refer a case please contact:

Patrick Kiernan, Research Assistant
Boston University CTE Center
24/7 Urgent Matters: 617-992-0615
Office: 617-414-1187
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VA National PTSD Brain Bank (VA Funded)

The PTSD Brain Bank is a human tissue bank that collects, processes, stores and distributes research specimens for future scientific studies. The PTSD Brain Bank obtains neurologic tissue specimens from veterans who suffer from PTSD.

For further information or to refer a case please contact:

Office: 857-364-3877
Office Toll free: 800-762-6609
PAGER: 617-705-9577 (24/7)
CELL PHONE: 857-214-0992 (24/7)



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