



Research with Donated Tissues and Organs

In addition to those waiting for organ transplants, there's another waiting list, one comprised of millions of people waiting for medical breakthroughs that will lead to treatment and cures for illnesses afflicting them and their loved ones. We all know someone who suffers from heart disease, diabetes, asthma or cancer. Researchers are making strides in the fight against these killers with the help of donated human organs that are not suitable for transplantation.

Research offers additional ways to serve humanity, and donor families another way to fulfill their loved one's wishes. A donor family can be disappointed to discover that not every organ can be transplanted. For those people, research is a real option, especially when they learn that it can make a difference in so many lives. You can make it happen and IIAM is here to help. Call 1-800-486-IIAM and a placement coordinator will assist you with the donation process.





From bench to bedside, it all comes back to the patient and helping people to stay alive and live better, longer, healthier lives, thanks to research involving donated human organs.

Researcher Testimonials

"IIAM has allowed us to work on projects investigating the safety and efficacy of over 300 potential new drugs. ...Together with IIAM, we believe we are making a real impact on the quality of medicines entering clinical trials."

"My company has realized the value of access to human tissues. The service that IIAM provides is a huge step forward. We have used the human lung material received from IIAM to aid our drug discovery research by studying the biological role and disease relevance of proteins that may be of therapeutic relevance in lung disease."

"Donated human tissue is used in our in-vitro drug permeation and metabolism models to study specific biological mechanisms involved in the absorption and disposition of drugs and to predict potential drug-to-drug interactions that could affect the safety of a new drug once it reaches the clinic."

Fast Facts	Organ	Current Research
<p>Drug Overdose & Hepatitis C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Prescription drug overdose is the #2 cause of accidental death in the U.S. 17 million Americans use these drugs for non-medical purposes and nearly 40,000 die each year from overdose. ■ Viral hepatitis is the #1 cause of liver cancer, and the most common reason for liver transplants in the U.S. ■ 3-5 million people in the U.S. are living with chronic HCV. 	 <p>Liver</p>	<p>Researchers analyze human liver tissue to test metabolism, toxicity, and enzyme induction of new drug therapies. This ensures that new drug compounds are safe for human consumption.</p> <p>In developing an effective screening assay for the discovery of anti-HCV drugs, researchers are isolating, culturing and cryopreserving hepatocytes from HCV infected livers to evaluate HCV replication.</p>
<p>Asthma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Over 32 million people in the U.S. suffer from lifetime asthma, 9 million of which are children. <p>COPD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 14.2 million U.S. adults are diagnosed with COPD. An additional 12 million people live with the disease undiagnosed. 	 <p>Lung</p>	<p>Scientists are studying human lung tissues to produce new treatments for viral antagonists of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.</p> <p>Cells from human lungs are artificially nurtured to grow miniature lungs for insights into the causes of various lung diseases, and to produce new treatments for cystic fibrosis.</p> <p>Researchers are testing the potential for new drugs to cause broncho-constriction of airways that can lead to life-threatening reductions in airflow.</p>
<p>Cardiovascular Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ More than 81 million Americans have some form of CVD. Heart disease is the #1 cause of death in the U.S. <p>Coronary Artery Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CAD affects over 14 million people in the U.S. 	 <p>Heart</p>	<p>Human hearts enabled researchers to develop a durable, prosthetic heart valve to improve blood flow in patients with aortic stenosis. Currently, the only treatment is open heart surgery.</p> <p>Researchers are identifying genetic and environmental factors contributing to a disease of the aortic wall.</p> <p>Normal and diseased human hearts are studied to create devices that will remove coronary plaque, and improve imaging so high-risk plaque can be identified and future fatal outcomes can be prevented.</p>
<p>Diabetes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Almost 26 million people in the U.S. (8.3% of the population) have diabetes; 1/3 of disease sufferers remain undiagnosed. 	 <p>Pancreas</p>	<p>Non-transplantable pancreata are utilized to advance the process of islet isolation, and to increase the availability of islet cells for transplant into diabetic patients.</p> <p>Researchers are diligently searching for clues to help develop therapies to prevent and cure Type I Diabetes.</p>
<p>Chronic Renal Disease & Failure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Over 23 million U.S. adults have chronic kidney disease which leads to renal failure. The only treatment for this is dialysis and transplantation. 	 <p>Kidney</p>	<p>Due to the vast shortage of kidneys for transplantation and renal damage to transplantable kidneys from cold preservation, these organs are studied to identify new biomarkers to determine their transplantability and to produce safer cold preservation methods.</p>
<p>Drug Absorption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hundreds of new drugs are tested each year to protect human health, alleviate disease symptoms and enhance quality of life. 	 <p>Intestine</p>	<p>Intestinal tissue is vital to analyzing drug absorption and efficacy. Proper drug-dosing must be tested before new drugs are brought to market.</p>

Researchers utilize many other organs and tissues for important studies:

- Stomachs are needed for studies in GERD
- Aortas are crucial for the development of devices to excise plaque and restore aortic valve functionality
- Bladders are needed for the study of incontinence, and to develop treatments for bladder disorders.

We appreciate your referrals of non-transplantable organs authorized for research. Thank you for your work!