

UTN Donor Newsletter -- December 2017



2017 - A big year for UTN

What a year! We've been hard at work doing our part to grow whole-body donation and advance medical education, training, and technology. UTN expanded by opening a new office in St. Petersburg, Florida, making us the only accredited nonprofit whole-body donation facility in the state. We're thrilled to be accepting donations in Florida and Georgia. We also kicked off our new *Hearts for Minds* program, bringing real medical experiences to high school students. Feedback for the program was overwhelmingly positive and we're thrilled to be part of inspiring the next generation of healthcare professionals. Look for more exciting news about this program as it expands next Spring.

Thank you for making this a great year for UTN, and a great year for whole-body donation. We couldn't do it without all the amazing families, healthcare professionals, and supporters.

Most of all, we couldn't do it without the generosity of our amazing donors. So a big THANK YOU goes out to all the selfless donors who gave to advance medical science. Here's to next year!

A message from our Executive Director:

Season's greetings!

UTN was recently re-accredited by the American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB), the only organization that accredits non-transplant tissue banks. In light of the occasion I wanted to explain the significance of accreditation and what it means in our industry.

There are very few state laws regulating whole body donation or university willed body programs, and zero federal laws. This means that most non-transplant tissue banks are not licensed or accredited in anyway. Regulations and oversight for our industry have been slow to take hold. As a company, we promote and encourage the highest standards and regulations for our industry. Our donors and medical professionals can be assured that our processes and actions are consistent with the highest standards through voluntary accreditation from AATB.

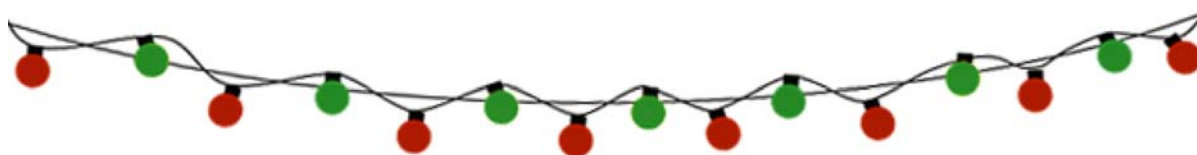
Accreditation requires regular auditing from an independent body. The AATB combs through our records, examines all our processes, and watches us work. In short, the AATB verifies that we are who we say we are, and we do what we say we do. Accreditation provides assurance that UTN treats all donors with the utmost respect and that we fulfill our mission in a safe, secure, and responsible manner.

Without AATB accreditation a donor family simply has to trust the tissue bank. Sadly, history has shown that some unaccredited banks have fallen woefully short on their purported mission. This is why we *always* strongly recommend that donors and donor families choose AATB-accredited tissue banks.

Non-transplant tissue banking is crucial for advancing medical training, technology, and patient care. We love what we do, which is why we want our industry to live up to its highest expectations. Help us push our industry forward: choose AATB-accredited banks.

Alyssa Harrison
Executive Director

SEE OUR ACCREDITATION



WHAT WE'RE UP TO:

UTN donors have played a critical role in the development of nerve repair grafts and the training of surgeons in placing these grafts. Recently Orlando Merced-O'Neill, Associate Director of Medical Services and Microsurgery Instructor at AxoGen Inc., visited our lab to demonstrate how whole-body donors advance nerve repair and treatment. Check out this [link](#) for stories from actual patients who benefited from AxoGen's nerve repair grafts.

Orlando Merced-O'Neill demonstrates nerve anatomy and function in hands for UTN staff. Nerve injuries are common, and nerve repair brings feeling and mobility back to patients. Yet another way UTN donors are advancing patient outcomes.



"There is no way you can advance medicine without having donated tissue."

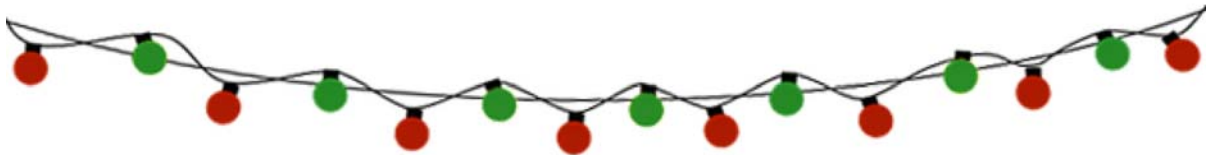
"I've been in this business long enough to tell you, there is nothing better than the real thing...We would not be able to educate surgeons at the level that we're doing without actual human donated tissue."

"Anybody that is capable of donating should donate. It's for the betterment of everybody. What better way to continue living by helping somebody else?"

-Orlando Merced-O'Neill

Join the ranks of those who advance the future of medicine.

Pledge Today

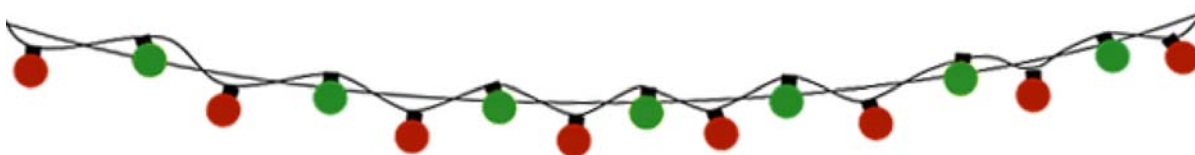


What people are saying about UTN:

"Let me tell you, you make this process so easy! By far the easiest process I have ever had with body donation, and I recommend UTN all the time!"

-Jessica W., LMSW

See why Jessica loves UTN: Call us today!



Happy New Year!

The new year is a reminder that, no matter what, time keeps marching on. This is why it's so crucial we each talk with our loved ones about our plans and desires for the inevitable future we all face.

It's easy to put off tough conversations for *tomorrow*. Whatever you feel strongly about—whether it's being an organ and tissue donor or a whole-body donor or whatever—your loved ones need to know. Don't put it off and leave the burden of making blind choices to your family.

We all have plans and intentions, and many of us make resolutions this time of year. *Now* is the perfect time to talk to your loved ones. *Today* is the best day to have that conversation, because none of us is guaranteed tomorrow. If you're thinking about the legacy you leave behind, consider [whole-body donation](#).

In the words of Orlando Merced-O'Neill: "What better way to continue living by helping somebody else?"



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[United Tissue Network](#) is a nonprofit whole-body donation organization. UTN is proud to be accredited by the [AATB](#).