WHEN STUDIES ARE COMPLETE
Within a period of up to approximately twenty-four months, when studies are complete, Harvard Medical School will carry out the disposition of the remains as elected on the Instrument of Anatomical Gift, to the extent consistent with the current policy of Harvard Medical School. The options available at the present time are:

~To reclaim the remains at the expense of the estate or family for private burial.

~To request that the School arrange for cremation. Cremated remains can be returned to the donor’s designee, picked up by the donor’s designee at HMS or buried at Pine Hill Cemetery, Tewksbury, Massachusetts, in a registered grave; both options are available at Harvard Medical School’s expense. A memorial service for donors buried at Pine Hill Cemetery takes place each year in the fall.

ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
Acceptance of an Anatomical Gift is contingent upon the decision of Harvard Medical School at the time of death of the donor. HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL RESERVES THE RIGHT, AT ANY TIME, TO DECLINE A PARTICULAR ANATOMICAL GIFT FOR ANY REASON.

The School has an ongoing need for donations and carefully reviews all possibilities for utilizing donations for purposes of education, research and the advancement of medical or dental science or therapy. Although most anatomical donations are accepted at the time of death, a donor (or donor family) should plan alternative arrangements for private cremation and/or burial in the event a donation must be declined.
WHEN DEATH OCCURS

At the time of the donor’s death, the person responsible for making final arrangements should call Harvard Medical School at 617-432-1735 as soon as possible to determine if HMS can accept the donation.

Once a gift is accepted, a funeral director chosen by the family should be contacted and instructed to consult HMS for instructions about the transportation of the body. HMS will pay a stipend directly to the funeral director toward the costs of obtaining the Burial/Removal Permit, a certified copy of the Death Certificate and of transportation from the place of death to HMS.

The funeral director will be reimbursed only for the cost of these services according to the policy and levels of reimbursement established by HMS.

The donor’s estate will be responsible for any costs charged by the funeral director that exceed the stipend. If death occurs outside of Massachusetts, Harvard’s stipend to the funeral director will apply; however, any additional out of state travel expenses will fall to the donor’s estate.

In general, families are encouraged to discuss with the funeral director, before the remains come to HMS, whether and to what extent there may be any additional charges.

HMS must receive donor remains within 24 hours after death unless specific exemption is granted by HMS. A BODY THAT HAS BEEN AUTOPSIED OR EMBALMED CANNOT BE ACCEPTED FOR DONATION.