



# Disposition of Donated Tissues

Approved by

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*This policy provides guidance on the disposition of tissues donated to the U.S. Transuranium and Uranium Registries.*

## **Tissue disposition defined**

Tissue disposition refers to the physical transfer of tissue, tissue derived materials, and histopathology slides from the custody of the Registries, whether permanent or temporary.

## **Tissue disposition shall comply with all legal and ethical requirements**

No disposition of tissue shall be made unless such action is in full compliance with legal and ethical requirements. It is recognized that in some situations, there may be conflicting requirements or questions regarding the appropriateness of the proposed action. In such cases, the office of the Washington State Attorney General at Washington State University in Pullman shall be consulted with respect to legal questions, and the Washington State University Institutional Review Board with respect to questions regarding ethical considerations.

## **Tissue disposition shall be fully documented**

Each tissue disposition shall be fully documented in writing and retained permanently. The documentation shall include identification of the specific tissues or tissue materials involved; to whom custody was given and for what purpose; the duration and conditions of the disposition; and the date of the action. A copy of the documentation relating to tissue disposition involving a USTUR Registrant shall be permanently included in that Registrant's file, including correspondence and premortem directions or agreements.

## **Tissue disposition requires prior approval of the USTUR Director or NHRTR Curator**

Unless otherwise required by law, no tissue disposition shall be made without prior written approval of the USTUR Director or NHRTR Curator. A dated signature on the disposition document may suffice as approval.

## **Requests for organ donation take precedence**

If the USTUR is informed of a Registrant's desire to be an organ donor, that shall take precedence over the Registries' use of the tissues.

## **Requests for tissue disposition from next-of-kin will be honored**

The USTUR will honor written, or in certain cases oral, requests from Registrants' next-of-kin for donor cremains, provided to do so does not violate legal or ethical considerations or pose health hazards. Cremation of tissues is performed by a licensed facility and associated costs are generally incurred by the Registries.

## **Internal Review Board (IRB)**

The Registries shall be furnished with copies of the IRB approval from the collaborator's institution before dissemination of tissues by the USTUR.