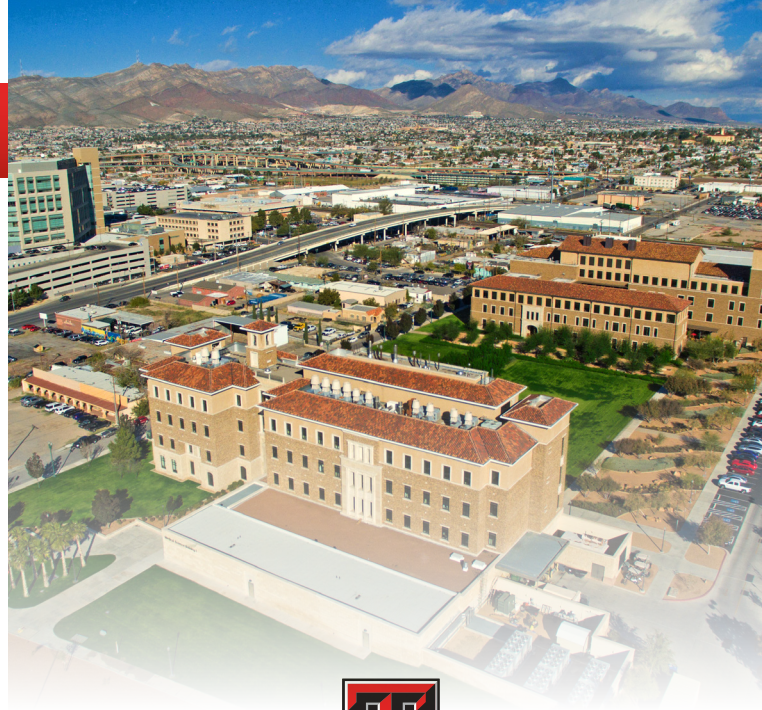


Mental Illness

Mental disorders are widespread in the United States, with eight percent of the population suffering from serious mental illness. The most prevalent types of mental disorders include major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder and schizophrenia.

Symptoms of these illnesses can occur at any time in life, but usually appear in the individual's mid-twenties. Mental disorders can be devastating not only to the individual who has the illness, but also to his/her family and the greater community.

While their causes remain largely unknown, scientists are actively working to understand these mental illnesses and develop treatments and cures. Researchers are currently exploring a variety of research tools, including brain tissue, to help provide answers.



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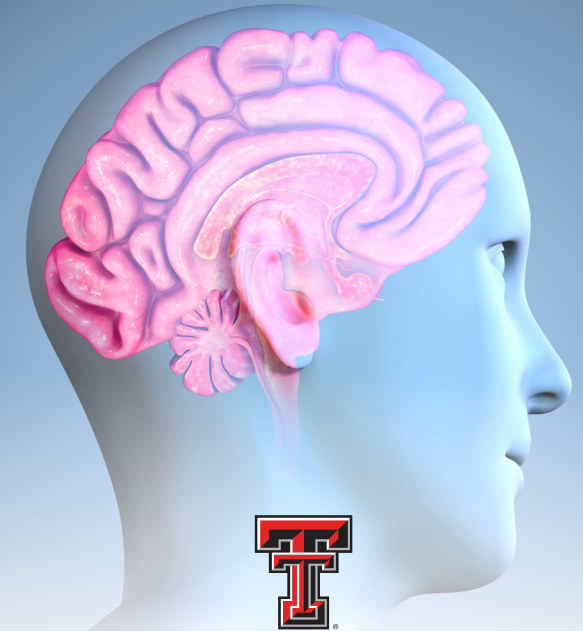
Paul L. Foster School of Medicine
Department of Psychiatry

For more information on mental illness:
National Institute of Mental Health
www.nimh.nih.gov

Texas Tech University
Health Sciences Center El Paso
Department of Psychiatry

130 Rick Francis St
El Paso, TX 79905

Toll Free: 1-833-811-0013
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Southwest Brain Bank

A Brain Tissue Repository
for Research in Mental Illnesses

**Texas Tech University
Health Sciences Center El Paso**
Department of Psychiatry

Peter M. Thompson, M.D., M.S.
Director

Javier Vargas Medrano, Ph.D.
Research Lab Manager

Guadalupe Martinez Vidal, Ph.D.
Sr. Research Scientist

Southwest Brain Bank



The Southwest Brain Bank (SWBB) is a research organization that collects, studies and distributes brain tissue to scientists who study mental disorders.

The purpose of this research is to understand how the brain works and how it changes with mental illness. Studying brain tissue enables scientists to develop new approaches to diagnosis and improve treatments. Obtaining brain tissue from those with and without illnesses is essential to continue this important work.

Donation Qualifications

Brain donations are a gift to future generations. Any adult — with or without a mental illness — can donate. The SWBB accepts donations from individuals who have schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression and other mental illnesses. Donations from individuals who have never been diagnosed with a mental illness are used to make comparisons to the brains of individuals with mental illnesses.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept donations from individuals who have been on a ventilator or have certain infectious illnesses.

How to Donate

There are two ways a brain may be donated.

1. Prospective donors may contact the SWBB at any time and register with the Longitudinal Donation Program. A representative will discuss the donation process with you and take your medical and psychiatric information. The SWBB will periodically contact you to keep your information current.
2. The next of kin may give consent for brain donation at the time of death. We first obtain general medical information. About six weeks later, SWBB staff will conduct an in-depth interview with the family about the deceased.



Donation Process

Brain donation must take place as soon as possible after death in order to preserve the tissue for research. The brain is removed during autopsy at the morgue, hospital or funeral home, and is then transported to the SWBB. The procedure allows for an open casket or other traditional funeral arrangement. Brain donation is accepted by most religions. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept donations from individuals with certain illnesses such as infectious diseases. In most circumstances, there is no cost for brain donation. After the donation, funeral arrangements remain the responsibility of the family.

Make a Difference

You and your family's decision to make a brain donation is a precious gift of life. If you would like additional information, please give us a call. All information is kept confidential.