

# **The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis**

## ***Human Spinal Cord Injury Tissue Bank***

For many years The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis has been compiling a collection of human spinal cord specimens from individuals with spinal cord injuries that have passed away. Analysis of these tissue specimens has significantly advanced our understanding of what happens to the human spinal cord after different types of injuries as well as after different times post-injury.

For individuals that wish to donate their spinal cord to our research program when they pass away, there are a few things to prepare ahead of time to ensure proper preservation of the tissue when the time comes:

1. Discuss with your physician your desire to donate your spinal cord to the Miami Project.
2. Ask your physician to notify your local Medical Examiner's office to find out if they need any information ahead of time from you, your physician, or the Miami Project. If the Medical Examiner is unable to carry out the procedure, ask your physician to contact a local hospital that may be able to do so.
3. Contact the Miami Project education office (305-243-7108) to notify them of your desire and to enter some basic information into a secured database. The Miami Project will provide your physician with instructions for the Medical Examiner.
4. At the time of death, it is very important that your physician contact your local Medical Examiner office and the Miami Project education office (305-243-7108) as soon as possible.

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