June 30, 2020

Dear Healthcare Provider,

I hope this letter finds you and your staff well. I respect and appreciate your support over the years by aiding individuals and families that wish to make an Anatomical Gift to Science that directly benefits the citizens of the Commonwealth, through our program, upon death.

Your organization is an integral part of the donation process therefore, I would like to provide you and members of your staff with information regarding donation along with the status of the Virginia State Anatomical Program (VSAP).

Early in March of 2020, Virginia reported its first case of COVID-19, shortly thereafter the World Health Organization characterized it as a pandemic and Governor Northam declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In response, our program made the difficult decision to suspend accepting individuals who wished to donate their bodies to Science.

The reasoning for our decision was due to the scarce availability of supplies and the low priority given to post-mortem testing for COVID-19. In order to protect our staff, as well as the staff, faculty and students of the programs that VSAP supplies donors to, the ability to test and restrict possible transmission was imperative.

Beginning on July 15, 2020 VSAP will resume accepting donors for our program. While we will still require information regarding the prospective donor’s medical condition, we are implementing additional questions to assess their status regarding possible exposure and infection related to COVID-19. Information regarding previous testing for COVID-19 prior to death as well as any information regarding possible exposure will be helpful.

Thank you again for your assistance, if you have any questions please call 804-786-2479 to speak with myself or another staff member.

Respectfully,

Richard Sikon

Division Director

Virginia State Anatomical Program