

IFAA - Federative International SubCommittee on Body Donation (FISBoD)

July 14, 2026

FISBoD REPORT – May 2026

The IFAA Subcommittee on Body Donation holds two types of virtual meetings (via videoconference): a) meetings with IFAA member associations or, occasionally, with anatomists who request its support; and b) meetings of the Subcommittee members. The initial meetings with the associations are for sharing information, considering the context and developing proposals. Subsequent follow-up meetings are held to review any progress or difficulties that arose and to reconsider strategies, if necessary. The meetings of FISBoD members are for analysing the meetings with the associations, discussing specific topics, and planning particular tasks. Each of these meetings lasts approximately one and a half hours.

Since the start of activities in October 2024, we have held 40 meetings with 24 IFAA member associations (type a) and 14 meetings of the Subcommittee members type b). Although FISBoD followed a consistent approach for our meetings with associations, each meeting led to a different outcome, due to the diversity of situations each country faces. FISBoD sought to understand, interpret and propose alternatives to address difficulties in order to help associations to develop their own strategies.

For this report, we will mention some of the relevant issues we identified:

- Most associations are unaware of the IFAA guidelines, although those that have Body Donation Programs (BDP) generally agree with their provisions. FISBoD has helped disseminate the guidelines.
- We have interviewed associations with very diverse situations, ranging from having a BDP at every university to not even having considered the matter previously. In all cases, we have learned a great deal from each meeting. The strategies for developing BDPs in some countries are outstanding and can surely be helpful for other associations. In other cases, we have managed to encourage (to a greater or lesser extent) anatomists to begin or resume the path of body donation.
- Some countries have legislation that facilitates the use of unclaimed bodies and thus have access to bodies without the work and effort required to create and develop a donation programme. We have encouraged them to change the way bodies are acquired on ethical grounds, while also emphasising the beneficial effects of BDP on attitudinal change of students, and on the public appreciation of anatomists generated by the dissemination of donation programs.
- Associations wishing to initiate new BDPs often point out a lack of financial resources. However, it is difficult to determine the true extent of this issue. Undoubtedly, starting a BDP requires financial support from the university, but this varies depending on the current modality of work (unclaimed bodies are being received, preserved, stored and used, or cadaveric material and facilities are completely unavailable).

IFAA - Federative International SubCommittee on Body Donation (FISBoD)

- In some of the initial meetings, only the Association President and/or an IFAA representative participated. However, in several cases, attendees requested a second meeting with anatomists from different universities. We have also had an excellent response to the follow-up meetings. We believe these meetings have been well-received and considered useful.

- Specific information relating to each association is protected by a confidentiality agreement among FISBoD members.

We believe we have made significant progress in most of the cases. Some anatomists have begun extensive work for their universities' BDPs and others have taken an interest in the topic and begun to develop strategies to overcome difficulties.

Undoubtedly, the work of FISBoD will be arduous, ongoing and extensive, but we are confident in the progress.

FISBoD members:

Benjamin Arko-Boham (Ghana)

Agustin Cabrera (Uruguay)

Raffaele De Caro (Italy)

Brenda De Gama (South Africa)

Ilke A. Gürses (Turkey)

Bernard Moxham (United Kingdom)

Madihah Rushaidi (Malaysia)

Chair: Susana Biasutto (Argentina)

FISBoD has met with the following associations

Panamerican Association of Anatomy

Argentine Association of Anatomy

Argentine Association of Clinical Anatomy

Bulgarian Anatomical Society

Chinese Society of Anatomical Sciences (CSAS)

The Association of Anatomists of Chinese Taipei (Taiwan)

Colombian Association of Morphology

Czech Anatomical Society

Ecuadorian Society of Morphofunctional Sciences

Anatomische Gesellschaft

Hungarian Anatomists Society

Indonesian Anatomists Association

Ivorian Society of Morphology

Macedonian Association of Anatomists

Malaysian Anatomical Association

Myanmar Anatomy Society

Society of Nepalese Anatomists (SONA)

Anatomical Society of Nigeria (ASN)

Society of Experimental and Clinical Anatomists of Nigeria

IFAA - Federative International SubCommittee on Body Donation (FISBoD)

Society of Clinical Anatomy of Rwanda (S-CAR)

Serbian Anatomical Society

Anatomical Society of Sri Lanka

The Anatomical Association of Uganda (UAA)

Scientific Society of Anatomists, Histologists, Embryologists and Topography Anatomists of
Ukraine