

death is pronounced, not the time that artificial support measures are stopped or organs are removed.

The legal status of the brain-dead, but heart-beating, cadaver may need further clarification, but there is an ethical framework in which to proceed. My view is that the cadaver donor is still entitled to the protections and safeguards due a hospitalized patient until the body is released to the morgue or funeral home and becomes a "traditional" corpse. Hospitals currently have extensive review processes to ensure proper declaration of brain death and proper procedures leading to organ donation. Informed consent of the donor family is essential. Any experimental protocol for "organ maintenance" would require approval by institutional review boards and consent of the deceased's family. Additional safeguards exist as a result of the "required request" procedure for organ donation, which provides for the identification and documentation of brain-dead individuals and provides data that would disclose questionable practices.

The transplant community has worked hard for years to establish public trust in order to have access to donor organs. Every effort is made to ensure accountability for

actions related to donation and to exclude conflict of interest between the care of the patient and the obtaining of donor organs. It is essential to maintain this trust, which may well require further clarification of the donor status. It also requires careful use of the terms defining patient status.

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Macho Work Week

I strongly disagree with the letter from Alina C. Lopo (18 Mar., p. 1362) implying that no professional can make a worthwhile contribution to his or her field without putting in a 60- to 80-hour week. Counterexamples in science include Newton, Einstein, and Ben Franklin, all of whom did science on the side. The country is in dire straits if productive professionals are excused from contributing to family, community, and political activities because they are too busy with their jobs. In addition, experience gained in the outside world can be

valuable in professional situations.

Both quality and quantity of work are issues. Careful, quality work can be done at least as well in a 40-hour work week as in the first half of an 80-hour week. Furthermore, a tired professional is likely to produce lower quality work than a rested one. Hence the current controversy concerning decisions made by doctors on duty for 30 hours at a time. Quantity of work will decrease with hours spent, but not linearly, because the marginal extra hours may be less productive. Many difficult problems require intense concentration that cannot be sustained for an extended period or can lead to dead ends. In such cases, taking a break and starting fresh can be much more productive than beating one's head against a wall.

The argument is for flexibility and freedom of choice. If a professional chooses to work a macho week, he should be rewarded for whatever is accomplished by so doing. Likewise, the high-quality work done by people who choose to keep normal hours or work part time should be acknowledged for its value.

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