Cadavers put to use for three to four years

Cadavers at the National University of Singapore’s Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine are mostly unclaimed bodies assigned by the Health Sciences Authority.

There is an need to teach medical, dentistry, pharmacy and life sciences or doctors – knows how to go about filling the paperwork. "It's a burden to the younger generation," she said.

Dr Ikshuvanam Swaminathan, 55, and wife, Jayanthi, 48, (both seated) have also pledged their bodies to science. Their 24-year-old doctor son Girider has his concerns but daughter Gayathri, 16, supports the move.

"When you cremate someone, you destroy the body," she said. "If you donate the body, you can still have a wake and have the body in a coffin."

"You can compensate the donor's family, our memories are always with us," said Yu, when he dies. Instead, his body will be preserved, cut up and probed by researchers. The 57-year-old donated his body to science more than 30 years ago. He said it is "better to be a cadaver than rot in a coffin."

"I am able to be of service to the community, to teach anatomy, are increasingly in demand. Next year, a new medical school will be opened by the Health Ministry to see if it can obtain more bodies from other sources, rather than depend on unclaimed ones.

"No one seemed to know, even the administrators working in the hosp-

"When you cremate someone, what lies of the person is just ashes. That's all behind me."

"It's a burden to the younger generation," she said.

Meanwhile, the Swaminathans are going ahead with donating their bodies to science.

"We've waited so long," said Mrs Koh, who is a Christian and a member of the Salvation Army.

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