

TEXAS BIOSKILLS CONSORTIUM

November 30, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schwertner, Chair
Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
PO Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Justin Holland, Vice Chair
Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
PO Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

Dear Chair Schwertner and Vice Chair Holland:

SUBJECT: State Anatomical Board Sunset Review

On behalf of Texas bioskills training facilities, we are writing to submit public comments on the current Sunset Commission Review of the State Anatomical Board(SAB). Each year around 3,000 selfless Texans and their families choose to donate their bodies for the advancement of medical or forensic science. These donations serve an invaluable role in the 1) education and ongoing training of physicians, dentists, chiropractors, allied health professionals, first responders, and law enforcement, 2) enhanced physician specialties and surgical skills training, 3) forensic science, 4) development of medical equipment and devices, and 5) training for law enforcement, including search and rescue.

Bioskills training facilities like MedtoMarket in Austin, National BioSkills Laboratory in Dallas, and Cadaver Labs in San Antonio along with many other private training organizations help medical innovators bridge the gap from concept to market. Texas bioskills training facilities support hands-on training, research, and education with nontransplant human tissue to national, state, and local clientele including first responders, medical device manufacturers, military training personnel, and other healthcare providers.

With the need for nontransplant human tissue for research, education, and training increasing, we respectfully urge the Sunset Commission and ultimately the 88th Legislature to include the following in the SAB Sunset legislation:

- Include additional stakeholders, specifically including bioskills training facilities, along with public representation on the Board in addition to the active willied-body programs currently represented;
- Clarify SAB statutory authority to approve other organizations utilizing willied-body donations for healthcare skills training and research;
- Provide in statute parameters for a prioritized allocation process for the distribution of donated nontransplant human tissue; and,
- Add a duty of the SAB to help ensure public confidence and promote awareness of the benefit and need for willied-body donations.

We appreciate this opportunity to offer comments on the State Anatomical Board Sunset Review and look forward to working with you, your fellow members, and your staff as the review progresses.

Sincerely,



Aaron Ali, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder
MedtoMarket, Inc.



Douglas Hampers, M.D., M.B.A
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Bioskills Laboratories



Lorena Kieser
Executive Director
Cadaver Lab SA



Hazel Chappell
Chief Executive Officer and Founder
[ishca health Inc.](http://ishcahealthinc.com)



Linda Elliott
Founder and President
HealthCare Think Tank LLC



Stephen Hohl
Former US Navy Seal



David C.C. Sprague, Ph.D.
Founder and President
Industrial Genetics, LLC



Sara M. Walma
Director of Professional Affairs
OsteoCentric Technologies



Selena Xie
President
Austin EMS Association

xc: Members, Texas Sunset Commission

TEXAS BIOSKILLS FACILITIES TRAINING

TRAUMA TRAINING FOR THE BATTLEFIELD

“As a former US Navy SEAL, I can say with the utmost certainty that the training bioskills facilities provide has a direct impact on the lives of our service members. The medics whose mission is to ensure our fellow country men and women come home safely now have the experience of treating battlefield trauma in a controlled environment with skilled surgeons due to this program.”

- ***Stephen Hohl, former US Navy Seal***

INNOVATIVE MEDICAL DEVICE DEVELOPMENT

“OsteoCentric Technologies, Inc. is an innovative Austin-based medical device company that partners with MedtoMarket, a medical training and co-working facility located in south central Austin. Bioskills training facilities help medical innovators bridge the gap from concept to market, and using nontransplant human tissue in their facility have enabled OsteoCentric Technologies, Inc. to continue cutting-edge training, product development, and surgeon education.”

- ***Anette Radonski
General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer
OsteoCentric Technologies, Inc.***

TRAINING FIRST RESPONDERS ON LIFE-SAVING SKILLS

“The Austin EMS Association relies on bioskills training facilities like MedtoMarket for training with cadavers that includes classes on anatomy and physiology, practicing life-saving skills including intubation, escharotomy, finger thoracostomies, amputation, and other critical techniques ”

- ***Selena Xie
President, Austin EMS Association***

BRIDGING THE GAP FROM CONCEPT TO MARKET

“MedtoMarket is a 31,683-square-foot leading Texas bioskills training facility located in south central Austin. Founded by practicing physicians, MedtoMarket’s mission is to help medical innovators bridge the gap from concept to market. MedtoMarket supports hands-on training, research, and education with nontransplant human tissue to national, state, and local clientele including first responders, medical device manufacturers, military training personnel, and other healthcare providers.”

- ***Aaron Ali, MD
Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder,
MedtoMarket, Inc.***

November 15, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schwertner, Chair
Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
PO Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

The Honorable Justin Holland, Vice Chair
Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
PO Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

SUBJECT: State Anatomical Board Sunset Review

Dear Chair Schwertner and Vice Chair Holland:

I am writing to submit public comments on the current Sunset Commission Review of the State Anatomical Board. Each year around 3,000 selfless Texans and their families choose to donate their bodies for the advancement of medical or forensic science. These donations serve an invaluable role in the 1) education and ongoing training of physicians, dentists, chiropractors, allied health professionals, and first responders, 2) enhanced physician specialties and surgical skills training, 3) forensic science, 4) development of medical equipment and devices, and 5) training for law enforcement, including search and rescue.

OsteoCentric Technologies, Inc. is an innovative Austin-based medical device company that partners with MedtoMarket, a medical training and co-working facility located in south central Austin. MedtoMarket's mission is to help medical innovators bridge the gap from concept to market, and using nontransplant human tissue in their facility has enabled OsteoCentric Technologies, Inc. to continue cutting-edge training, product development, and surgeon education.

With the need for nontransplant human tissue for research, education, and training increasing, we respectfully urge the Sunset Commission and ultimately the 88th Legislature to include the following in the SAB Sunset legislation:

- Include additional stakeholder and public representation on the Board in addition to the active willed-body programs currently represented;
- Clarify SAB statutory authority to approve other organizations utilizing willed-body donations for healthcare skills training and research;
- Provide in statute a prioritized allocation process for the distribution of donated nontransplant human tissue; and
- Add a duty of the SAB to help ensure public confidence and promote awareness of the benefit and need for willed-body donations.

We appreciate this opportunity to offer comments on the State Anatomical Board Sunset Review and look forward to working with you, your fellow members, and your staff as the review progresses.

Sincerely,

Anette Radonski
General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer
OsteoCentric Technologies, Inc.

15 November 2022

The Honorable Charles Schwertner, Chair
Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
PO Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

The Honorable Justin Holland, Vice Chair
Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
PO Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Chair Schwertner and Vice Chair Holland:

SUBJECT: State Anatomical Board Sunset Review

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments on the current Sunset Commission Review of the State Anatomical Board. As a Biomedical teacher at a Title I high school trying to give my students a solid education and a competitive edge for the healthcare field, I am thankful for the many Texans and their families who choose to donate their bodies for the advancement of medical science IN TEXAS. I would very much like to partner with MedtoMarket to write curriculum, supplemented by trips to their facility, to expose my students to modern healthcare equipment, mentors to shadow from the diverse fields such as (dentists, first responders, allied health providers, etc.) who come to MedtoMarket for various types of training. I would also like to give them the experience of seeing the human body up close – fetal pig dissection does not remotely come close.

MedtoMarket could provide an amazing opportunity for my students at their 31,683-square-foot medical training facility a short bus ride away from my school. Founded by practicing physicians, MedtoMarket's mission is to help medical innovators bridge the gap from concept to market. MedtoMarket supports training, research, and education with nontransplant human tissue to national, state, and local clientele including first responders, medical device manufacturers, military training personnel, and other healthcare providers.

With the need for nontransplant human tissue for research, education, and training increasing, I, and my fellow biomedical high school teachers, respectfully urge the Sunset Commission and ultimately the 88th Legislature to include the following in the SAB Sunset legislation and give our students the opportunity to thrive:

- Include additional stakeholder and public representation on the Board in addition to the active willd-body programs currently represented;
- Clarify SAB statutory authority to approve other organizations utilizing willd-body donations for healthcare skills training and research;
- Provide in statute a prioritized allocation process for the distribution of donated nontransplant human tissue; and,
- Add a duty of the SAB to help ensure public confidence and promote awareness of the benefit and need for willd-body donations.

Thank you again for a chance to offer comments on the State Anatomical Board Sunset Review and look forward to working with you, your fellow members, and your staff as the review progresses.

Sincerely,



Lisa Robinson – lisa.robinson@austinisd.org
Crockett Early College High School Austin, Texas

Public Testimony
Aaron Ali, MD
Anatomical Board of the State of Texas,
Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
December 6, 2022

Chairman Schwertner, Vice Chairman Holland, Members of the Commission –

My name is Dr. Aaron Ali, and I am a **Texas physician**, and the CEO of MedtoMarket located in Austin. MedtoMarket is one of the largest privately run bioskill labs in the United States and globally. There are over a dozen facilities like MedtoMarket in Texas who support advanced training with the use of cadaveric specimens for healthcare providers, first responders, and other entities.

On behalf of the Texas Bioskills Consortium, I would like to ***unequivocally urge you*** to pursue the **Sunset Commission's Option #3** where the State Anatomical Board would be a stand-alone agency funded or self-supported with all entities being equally regulated. You may wonder why in the world would a physician and owner of a bioskills lab ask for more regulation? Let me explain.

Regarding Option 1, which would abolish the stand-alone board and reconstitute it **without regulatory authority** would create the “wild wild west” of willed body sourcing and undermine public trust, and ultimately fewer Texans will donate. One simply needs to Google the issue to be reminded of how lack of state regulation can yield some very controversial practices, **or** visit the inside of our major hotel ballrooms on a Saturday and see cadavers displayed without any oversight and in areas never approved by the State Anatomical Board.

Regarding Option 2, though the SAB would continue state oversight we are very concerned about the **potential loss of accountability, expertise, and focus** if placed under *any* agency already organized around an existing mission.

We have also provided written comments with specifics suggestions, but we want to **strongly emphasize** the need for a board comprised of bioskills professionals, active university willed-body programs and the public;

As part of our input into the Sunset review, we have organized a growing consortium of Texas stakeholders representing Texas bioskills labs, military veterans, healthcare innovators,

researchers, educators, and others to demonstrate the importance of proper regulation and oversight of these invaluable gifts that our fellow Texans have made to the advancement of medicine, healthcare, and law enforcement in our state.

I appreciate your time today and am happy to answer any questions. Thank you.