

## SUMMARY BACKGROUND DATA

Previous studies have demonstrated that the best outcomes are achieved in centers performing large numbers of pancreaticoduodenectomies, which suggests that regionalization could lower the overall in-hospital mortality rate for this procedure.

## METHODS

Maryland state hospital discharge data were used to select records of patients undergoing a pancreaticoduodenectomy between 1984 and 1995. Hospital is were classified into high-volume and low-volume provider groups. Trends in surgical volume and mortality rates were examined by provider groups and for the entire state. Regression analyses were used to examine whether hospital share of pancreaticoduodenectomies was a significant predictor of the in-hospital mortality rate, adjusting for study year and patient characteristics. The portion of the decline in the statewide in-hospital mortality rate for this procedure attributable to the high-volume provider's increasing share was determined.

## RESULTS

A total of 795 pancreaticoduodenectomies were performed in Maryland at 43 hospitals from 1984 to 1995 (Maryland residents only). During this period, one institution increased its yearly share of pancreaticoduodenectomies from 20.7% to 58.5%, and the statewide in-hospital mortality rate for the procedure decreased from 17.2% to 4.9%. After adjustment for patient characteristics and study year, hospital share remained a significant predictor of mortality. An estimated 61% of the decline in the statewide in-hospital mortality rate for the procedure was attributable to the increase in share of discharges at the high-volume provider.

## CONCLUSIONS

A trend toward regionalization of pancreaticoduodenectomy over a 12-year period in Maryland was associated with significant decrease in the statewide in-hospital mortality rate for this procedure, demonstrating the effectiveness of regionalization for high-risk surgery.

HONORING GUAM'S ARTIST, ERIKA KRISTINE DAVID, DURING THE CHILDART USA EXHIBITION

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 1998*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on July 24, 1998, the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) announced that young Erika Kristine David's artwork has been selected for the ChildArt USA Exhibition. This exhibition was on display from September 5–8 in the Atrium Hall of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC. Young Erika is one of the fifty talented child artists whose work has been selected for this exhibition.

The artwork was selected from an outreach program to elementary and middle schools of nearly every school district in the country. The participants are young students ranging from ages 8 to 12 years old, who submitted their artwork based on the theme: My World in the Year 2000. Fifty child artists, representing 30 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam, were invited by ICAF to attend the ChildArt USA Festival and Exhibition opening on the Labor Day weekend.

Erika Kristine David is the youngest daughter of Enrico and Tess David of Mangilao, Guam. She is a fourth grade student at the Price Elementary School on Guam. Her art teacher Vicky Loughran and her father Enrico traveled to Washington, DC, to attend the ChildArt USA Exhibition. Her favorite subject is art and music and when she grows up she wants to be an artist or a singer. Her other hobbies are spending time with her family and pets, reading, traveling, practicing art, listening to music and snorkeling. The theme of her artwork, My World in the Year 2000, depicts people of the world enjoying a healthy and good life. People feeling safe outdoors, exercising, barbecuing, picnicking and having fun in the sun and in the water.

It is with great pride that today I honor Erika Kristine David from Guam, whose artwork has not only exposed the talent and artistry of the people of Guam, but also whose art has been brought here in the Nation's Capital for all people to enjoy. Erika, along with other young artists collaborated with professional adult artists to create a unique 16 ft. x 24 ft. mural on the National Mall. The theme of the mural is America 2000.

Because of organizations such as "The International Child Art Foundation (ICAF)," a nonprofit group, dedicated to the promotion of children's art and visual global learning, that young artists like Erika Kristine David have been provided an outlet for their work. These young students' talent and artistry will be acknowledged by all who enjoy the arts and praised by those organizations whose mission is to promote arts for the people.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Erika Kristine David's artwork and to highlight the artistic talents of the young students of Guam.

REMEMBERING PETER "JERRY"  
MIKACICH**HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 1998*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise in tribute to the late Gerald Peter "Jerry" Mikacich of Sacramento, California. As a beloved husband, father, and friend to many, Jerry Mikacich will be remembered as one of our community's most active and giving citizens.

Today, Jerry will be eulogized at a memorial Mass in his hometown. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to this incredibly caring man whose goodwill will indeed be his lasting legacy.

A native of Northern California, Jerry Mikacich was born in Sacramento on May 10, 1930. He was an active student, athlete and Eagle Scout before he graduated from Christian Brothers High School in 1948. Then, he enrolled at Sacramento Junior College which is Sacramento City College today, and eventually San Jose State.

Since the 1940s, Jerry had a reputation as an avid skier, beginning in childhood and blossoming into a long-term career as a ski shop proprietor. Throughout college, Jerry was known to be a great fan of skiing and an exceptional athlete. In fact, Jerry first came to know his future wife Georgia on the ski slopes.

After college, Jerry soon established a reputation as an expert in the field of winter sporting equipment. Skiers in our area came to rely on Jerry's professional assistance and wisdom. He made this sport available to many who otherwise would never have experienced its thrills, including amputees for whom he adapted ski equipment.

The strength of Jerry's personal character was forever a part of his life. He and Georgia were married on June 19, 1961 and their union remained strong until his passing. As a caring entrepreneur and devoted family man, he served as an outstanding role model for many.

On a personal note, Jerry Mikacich was one of my most valued friends since the early days of my career in public service. He was always there for me and his assistance was tireless and very much appreciated. My thoughts and prayers are with Jerry's wife Georgia, his mother Lottie Munizich Mikacich, his four children, and all the rest of his family during this most difficult of times.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me today in remembering a gracious and generous man, as well as a very dear friend, Jerry Mikacich.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST. LOUIS  
CARDINAL MARK MCGWIRE**HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 1998*

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Mark McGwire and his awesome feat in setting a new, single-season home run record.

Throughout this season, Americans have been treated to one of the most incredible sporting achievements of our lifetime. The single-season home run mark of 61 stood as perhaps the most awesome feat in baseball history. I feel privileged to have been able to witness Mark McGwire in action this year—every baseball fan in America knows that they have seen something special in 1998.

Roger Maris set that record 37 years ago, topping perhaps the most impressive achievement of Babe Ruth, the best all-around player ever to take the field in professional baseball. Watching McGwire's pursuit of 62 home runs, placing him among icons like Ruth and Maris, has been a pure joy to witness.

Mark McGwire is not only an outstanding athlete, he is also a man whose conduct epitomizes good sportsmanship. He has remained focused on his goal in the face of a media frenzy and a sea of exploding in flash bulbs. And he did it with amazing grace and real class.

The chase showed something special about Mark McGwire. But it also showed me something special about the people of St. Louis. The fact that seven very lucky fans gave up progressively larger amounts of money, returning their souvenir home runs balls to Number 25, showed that Cardinals fans truly are, as Baseball America called them, the Best Baseball Fans in America. These fans showed their true spirit when they stood and cheered not only for St. Louis' own Mark McGwire, but also for that great athlete, the Cub's, Sammy Sosa.

Mr. Speaker, I could not be more proud to say I am from St. Louis, and I could not be

more proud to say I am a Cardinals fan. Thank you and congratulations Mark McGwire.

FIXING THE YEAR 2000 COMPUTER PROBLEM

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 1998*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, August 26, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FIXING THE YEAR 2000 COMPUTER PROBLEM

Much has been written in recent months about the so-called Year 2000 computer problem. The difficulty arises because the computer software coded to mark the years uses only two digits. If the appropriate adjustments are not made when New Years 2000 rolls around, many of these systems will jump back to the year 1900, causing disruptions in government and private sector operations, here and abroad.

Not many people talk to me about their fears of chaos in the world's computer systems in the year 2000. I suspect that most people don't take those fears too seriously and simply believe that the technicians can solve it. But with the year 2000 now only about five hundred days away, it has become clear that the United States needs to move more quickly to address the problem. Federal and state governments as well as businesses are making progress, but more needs to be done if we are to avoid significant disruptions in our economy.

THE PROBLEM

The Year 2000 problem, also known as Y2K or the Millennium bug, has become an important issue in the past few years. The cause of the concern is that many computers store dates using two-digit numbers rather than four: 98 for 1998 and 00 for 2000. This makes 2000 indistinguishable from 1900, causing date sensitive systems to malfunction or stop working completely. Government agencies, private sector businesses, and individuals all face significant problems if their computer systems are not Y2K compliant. The breakdowns could be minor, but they could also disable air traffic control systems, financial networks, power grids, hospitals, home appliances and many other computer systems.

The Year 2000 problem can be fixed by the time-consuming and costly process of checking each program for potential errors. Millions of lines of software code must be renovated for every computer system. In addition, billions of embedded chips currently in use must be inspected for Y2K compliance, and an estimated 1-5% of those chips will probably have to be replaced. No universal solution can be created to fix each system, and nobody knows how much it will cost to solve the problem. One estimate is that U.S. businesses will spend \$50-300 billion and that the U.S. government will have to spend \$5-30 billion to fix its computers. The worldwide bill for this massive repair effort may come between \$300-600 billion. Correcting the problem will be further complicated by the fact that computer systems are increasingly interconnected—so that even if, for example, a major business fixes its computers, those very systems could break down as they interact with customers, clients and suppliers whose systems have not been fixed.

GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSE

The federal government has taken an active role in Y2K repairs for its own systems.

Federal agencies maintain many computer systems that manage large databases, conduct electronic monetary transactions, and control numerous interactions with other computer systems. The primary focus is to fix all of the 7,300 "mission-critical" systems necessary to continue these activities. A recent report concluded that 55% of the repair work is complete, but progress varies greatly by agency. The Social Security Administration expects to be ready for the year 2000 by January 1999 to ensure that Social Security checks continue to go out on time. Other agencies are expected to be on a tight schedule to meet the year 2000 deadline, and still others will probably not make it.

State and local governments are generally acting more slowly in response to the Y2K problem. Some states have begun planning Y2K conversions, but last year only 19 were beginning to implement the plans. Many localities are not emphasizing Y2K repairs, either for a lack of resources or awareness. Experts warn that state and local computer systems, even if repaired, may not be compatible with federal systems or may contaminate Y2K compliant systems with non-Y2K compliant data. In 1997, state and federal officials met to develop a set of standard practices to minimize risks involved in intergovernmental data exchanges. Several local government associations have also launched an awareness campaign to aid lagging localities.

PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSE

Businesses will also have to become Y2K compliant if they are to avoid disruptions in their operations and transactions with governments and other private entities. The federal government is working actively with certain critical industries, including transportation, communications, health care, and financial institutions, to meet government standards in Y2K compliance. The Federal Reserve Board is preparing for the worst case scenario but is expecting most major banks to be Y2K compliant by the new millennium.

Current estimates suggest that 85% of industrial software will be fixed or replaced by the year 2000, at a total cost of at least \$300 billion. Congress is considering several measures to help the private sector address the Y2K problem. One bill seeks to promote open sharing of information about Y2K solutions by protecting those businesses that share information in good faith from lawsuits. Another measure would seek to limit the liability that a company can face if its products are not year 2000 compliant.

EFFECT ON PRIVATE CITIZENS

The Y2K problem also may present difficulties for the average citizen. Many electronic devices, including automobiles, cameras, televisions, and cellular phones, are not expected to cause problems. There may, however, be problems, with fax machines, pagers, telephones, video recorders, and especially personal computers. The Y2K compatibility of personal computer software varies by the program, so consumers are advised to call the manufacturer to find out about specific programs and insist on in-store tests when purchasing new software. Experts also suggest that consumers keep accurate records of finances and investments in the event that a computer error occurs at your bank or the IRS.

CONCLUSION

The federal government has been slow to recognize the seriousness of the problem. Initial warnings came in 1989 that the world was headed for a computer crisis, but it was not until the mid-1990s, after much prompting from Congress, that many federal agencies began to move, first from an awareness of the problem, then to an assessment of it,

and now to the correction of it. The federal government will not be able to guarantee that every computer can be fixed on time, but it is beginning to manage the risks. The government and industry have many improvements to make before the year 2000. While the task is large and tedious, our computers must be Y2K compliant for the electronics aspects of life to continue as normal.

WHY WE SHOULD QUESTION HOSPITAL HOME HEALTH REFERRALS

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 1998*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on August 6, the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee held a hearing on the problems facing home health agencies because of payment changes made in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

In theory, for good and honest agencies, the BBA should not have created problems. It simply asks home health agencies (HHAs) to practice the type of care they practiced in 1994, before many HHAs greatly increased their number of visits per patient and their costs per visit. The theory assumed, of course, that HHAs are serving the same kind of patients they received in 1994.

But between 1990 and 1996, the number of HHAs owned by hospitals nearly doubled, and today, about half the nation's hospitals own HHAs.

So what, you say? At the August 6 hearing, one independent HHA testified, saying what several HHAs have told me privately:

As a freestanding agency, Great Rivers Home Care receives few referrals from hospitals since most have their own home health agencies. Our experience is that the hospitals refer the short term, less complex cases to their own agencies and the sicker, more costly, long term patients are then cared for by agencies like ours.

I do not know the quality of care provided by Great Rivers, but I do know they dared say what others are only saying privately. Before we casually throw more money at the home health sector, we should ask whether there is a self-referral abuse that is causing serious distortions in this part of Medicare.

TRIBUTE TO THE WOODLAKE GOT-A-JOB SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 1998*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Woodlake Got-A-Job Summer Youth Employment Program for its commitment and dedication to the lives of youth throughout Southeastern Tulare County. The Got-A-Job Summer Youth Employment Program provides a valuable learning experience for youth in developing job skills for their future.

The Got-A-Job Summer Youth Employment Program is funded and directed by Community Services and Employment Training Incorporated. Woodlake Got-A-Job has taken a