
data quality, updating analytic methods, and enabling more useful interhospital comparison. These efforts will be reflected in future NTDB reports to participating hospitals as well as in future *Annual Reports*.

The full NTDB *Annual Report Version 8.0* is available on the ACS Web site as a PDF and a PowerPoint presentation at <http://www.ntdb.org>.

If you are interested in submitting your trauma center's data, contact Melanie L. Neal, Manager, NTDB, at mneal@facs.org.

Dr. Fantus is director, trauma services, and chief, section of surgical critical care, Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, and clinical professor of surgery, University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chi-

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A look at The Joint Commission

Late NSQIP leader receives Ernest Amory Codman Individual Award

The late Shukri F. Khuri, MD, FACS, has been honored by The Joint Commission for his leadership role in using performance measures to improve health care quality and safety. Dr. Khuri posthumously received the 2008 Ernest Amory Codman Award in the individual category in November.

At the time of his death on September 26, 2008, Dr. Khuri's work in the field of surgical quality improvement and risk-adjusted surgical outcomes spanned more than 20 years. Dr. Khuri achieved national and international prominence in the fields of cardiac pathophysiology, cardiac surgery, medical informatics, quality improvement, and health policy research.

Named for the physician regarded in health care as the "father of outcomes measurement," the Ernest Amory Codman Award showcases the

effective use of performance measurement by health care organizations to improve the quality and safety of health care. The Joint Commission also recognizes an individual who has played a significant leadership role in promoting the use of performance measures to improve health care services and for providing major contributions to the development and testing of performance measures and the science and art of quality improvement.

For 16 years, Dr. Khuri oversaw the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Recognized today as the model for continuous improvement in surgery, NSQIP is the first national, validated, outcome-based, risk-adjusted, and peer-controlled program for the measurement and enhance-

ment of the quality of surgical care. Since the inception of NSQIP, 30-day postoperative mortality and morbidity have dropped by 47 percent and 43 percent, respectively. Dr. Khuri was also instrumental in implementing NSQIP in the private sector through collaboration with the American College of Surgeons. The American College of Surgeons created the ACS NSQIP and Dr. Khuri served on the advisory and steering committees.

Among his many notable accomplishments, in 1978 Dr. Khuri established the first automated data-management system in a surgical intensive care unit in the Northeast and chaired the VA Surgery Specific Interest Users Group, which developed the first clinical module in the VA's Decentralized Hospital Computer Plan. Today, the electronic patient record in the VA is the most advanced

and comprehensive electronic medical record system in the world. Dr. Khuri supplemented his efforts to automate medical records in the VA by collaborating with private sector enterprises, including LiveData Corporation, which is designing the electronic infrastructure for the operating room of the future.

Dr. Khuri was a member of numerous professional organizations, including the American Surgical Association, where he served as vice-president in 2005–2006, and authored more than 380 peer-reviewed pub-

lications. His awards include the Frank Brown Berry Prize, which identifies an outstanding physician in the U.S. federal health system; The American University of Beirut's Stephen Penrose Award; the Brigham and Women's Robert Matson Award; the American Heart Association's Paul Dudley White Award; the Nicholas G. Berans Veterans Association's Distinguished Service Award; the 2006 Philip Crosby Award for Quality; and the 2006 American Heart Association Mentorship Award in Surgery.

The five recipients of the

2008 awards were selected by a panel of national experts in quality measurement and improvement. Additional 2008 award recipients included the following:

- Hospital: Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte, NC; Cincinnati (OH) Children's Hospital Medical Center; and Mission Hospital, Mission Viejo, CA.
- Multiple organization: Novant Health, Winston-Salem, NC.

To sign up for the latest Codman news, visit www.jointcommissioncodman.org/.