surgery) (ISRCTN 29161170), which is randomizing high-risk patients (EuroSCORE > 5) to either an expert OPCAB or ONCAB surgeon, are therefore eagerly awaited.

Until then, the current available best evidence demonstrates that OPCAB is a safe alternative to ONCAB with similar short- and long-term outcomes in low-risk patients.

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THOMAS W. SHIELDS, 1922–2010 To the Editor:

Dr Shields, instantly recognizable throughout the world for his definitive 7 editions of the textbook *General Thoracic Surgery*,¹⁻⁷ died October 7, 2010, at the age of 88. He was born in 1922 in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. He attended Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, graduating in 1943. He graduated from Temple Medical School in Philadelphia in 1947. His earliest career interest was in cancer, and he spent a year in the cancer ward of Deaconess (now Beth Israel Deaconess) Hospital in Boston. It was in Boston where he met his wife, Ann, of 62 years. He moved to Northwestern University to complete his training and was a Kanavel research fellow in 1951. After serving in the Korean War, he joined the staff of the Lakeside Research Veterans Administration Hospital, where he became Chief of Surgery and Professor of Surgery at Northwestern University.

He was one of the few pioneering surgeons who from the beginning of his career through the new millennium focused on noncardiac thoracic surgery. His academic investigations centered on lung cancer and its lymphatic drainage. He taught many generations of students and residents in surgery, emphasizing precision in communication and economy of practice. He taught and advocated the use of pulmonary segmentectomy, whenever possible.

Dr Shields was a prolific writer, serving as an editor of *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*, the forerunner of the *Journal of the American Col-*

lege of Surgeons, and as a member of the editorial board of the *Annals of Thoracic Surgery*. He edited several books, including *Mediastinal Surgery*⁸ and *Bronchial Carcinoma*,⁹ but his most popular was *General Thoracic Surgery*. He espoused the concept of global academic development in thoracic surgery and always attempted to give as many thoracic surgeons as possible, both from the United States and from abroad, a voice in his books. After retirement, he continued to lecture around the world. As evidenced by his election to Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Omega Alpha, and Sigma Xi, he was a scholar. To thoracic surgeons everywhere, he was a staunch advocate for evidence-based practice and journalistic integrity.

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