

## Authors' Response: The Riskiest Job in Medicine: Transplant Surgeons and Organ Procurement Travel

To the Editor:

In response to your Letter to the Editor, we appreciate these additions to our work (1,2). A complete global

Table: Publicly reported fatal organ procurement accidents

Transplant center	Year	Mode of travel	Location	Number of fatalities
University of New Mexico	1990	Fixed wing aircraft	New Mexico, USA	2
Ruhr University, Bochum	1994	Helicopter	Bad Oeynhausen, Germany	1
Santa Casa de Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul	1997	Fixed wing aircraft	Chapeco, Brazil	7
California Transplant Donor Network	2000	Fixed wing aircraft	California, USA	1
Brotzu Hospital of Cagliari	2004	Fixed wing aircraft	Sardinia, Italy	6
University Hospital of Besançon	2006	Fixed wing aircraft	Besançon, France	4
University of Michigan	2007	Fixed wing aircraft	Wisconsin, USA	6
Organ Reception Department, Espirito Santo	2007	Helicopter	Colatina, Brazil	7

accounting of fatal accidents among transplant teams is important for the entire transplant community, although it is difficult to assemble due to the absence of a worldwide clearinghouse for this information. Based on the clarification and additional data you have provided, we offer this updated table of fatal organ procurement accidents. We invite all readers to contact us directly if we have omitted any other fatal events.

We welcome your suggestions to improve organ procurement travel safety and hope they are embraced by the transplant community. Similar recommendations were made by the Michigan Donor Travel Forum, which was convened in March 2009. This forum represented a multidisciplinary workgroup focused on improving organ procurement practices, efficiency and safety in the United States. The proceedings of the forum will be published in an upcoming issue of the *American Journal of Transplantation*.

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### References

1. Englesbe MJ, Merion RM. The riskiest job in medicine: Transplant surgeons and organ procurement travel. *Am J Transplant* 2009; 9: 2406–2415.
2. Garcia VDV, Lauro AFM. Letter to the Editor regarding 'The riskiest job in medicine: Transplant surgeons and organ procurement travel'. *Am J Transplant* 2009; In Press.