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MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the art and science of surgery by publishing relevant peer-reviewed clinical and basic science information to assist the surgeon in optimizing patient care. The *Archives of Surgery* will also serve as a forum for the discussion of issues that involve ethics, teaching, surgical history, and socioeconomic concerns.

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About the Cover

An estimated 131 200 cases of colorectal cancer will be discovered in 1997 (9% of new cancer diagnoses). An estimated 54 900 deaths in 1997 will result from colorectal cancer (10% of all cancer deaths). Adapted from: *Cancer Facts & Figures—1997*. Atlanta, Ga: American Cancer Society, Inc; 1997.