

pumping chamber. Still another version of the device is aimed at the growing Sullivan of surgeons. In the FY 2002 budget there are significant increases in spending for Veterans programs, including a 16-percent increase in mandatory spending, and in new funds for the G.I. bill.

St. Jude is counting on the line to transform it into a major player in the cardiac-surgery market. The company has long dominated the heart-valve market, and it also sells devices that combat heart-rhythm irregularities. But in the late 1990s, its executives launched a search for new technologies that promised future growth.

That search led to St. Jude's surprise announcement a year and a half ago that it was acquiring Vascular Science Inc., a closely held Minneapolis company that developed the connector under Mr. Sullivan's leadership. St. Jude paid \$80 million for VSI and agreed to pay an additional \$20 million if the newly acquired unit met certain development goals. But though the acquisition substantially diluted its earnings, St. Jude largely kept mum about what it was buying.

"We didn't want Guidant, Medtronic, Boston Scientific and every cab driver in New York making these things," says Terry L. Shepherd, St. Jude's president and chief executive, referring to rivals in the heart-device business.

Some doctors who are impressed by the device believe it won't win broad acceptance until a distal connector is available, so that surgeons can do both ends of their grafts without sutures.

However, St. Jude believes there is a robust market for the aortic connector alone, thanks in large part to its potential for reducing neurological side effects from surgery. During conventional bypass operations, when the heart is stopped, doctors clamp off the aorta to keep blood from backing up into the heart. But in patients with clogged coronary arteries, the aorta if often diseased too. That means its lining is layered with plaque, much like a rusty pipe. When the aorta is clamped, some of this gunk can be dislodged. When the clamp is released, the debris is picked up in the blood stream and can get carried to the brain.

"You get an old guy whose vessels look like a Drano commercial, and sometimes you hear an audible crunch" when the clamp is applied says David Stump, a researcher at Wake Forest University, in Winston-Salem, N.C., who has studied the neurological side effects of heart surgery.

Material dislodged by clamps is believed to be one of the chief causes of brain-related side effects in bypass patients. In extreme cases, it can cause a major stroke, or even death. Just how serious and lasting the effects are depends on where in the brain the debris ends up, says Dr. Stump.

During beating-heart surgery, blood continues to flow through the aorta. But doctors use what they call a side-bite clamp to pinch off a portion of the vessel to stabilize the site for stitching. That, too, entails a risk of dislodging debris, and other complications. But with the connector, doctors will be able to connect vessels quickly enough to make such clamps unnecessary.

"The first and immediate impact of the St. Jude device is that you don't have to put a clamp on the aorta," says Michael Mack, a Dallas heart surgeon with no financial connection to the company. "That eliminates a potential source of stroke."

Whether that will prompt widespread use of the device is hard to gauge. Neurological problems can be caused by factors other than clamps, and St. Jude doesn't have any data as yet to demonstrate whether its device indeed cuts the risk of stroke or cognitive impairments. But with the neurological issue getting fresh attention, many doctors may not feel inclined to wait for hard data. "If you have a patient with a brain problem after an [otherwise] uncomplicated operation, that is disastrous," says Dr. Carrel, the Swiss heart surgeon.

Still, Mr. Sullivan and others believe that the new technology will lay the groundwork for their original plan, eventually enabling doctors to do bypass surgery without cracking open the patient's chest.

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MEMORIAL DAY 2001

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to share some thoughts, as we gather this weekend around our congressional districts to commemorate all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us in the name of liberty.

It is appropriate that we take time out of our busy lives to remember all those whose fates are still unknown, and to thank all those who continue to carry our Nation's torch of freedom on the battlefield, on the seas, and in the air, throughout the world, so that we in America may continue to enjoy the full fruits of our liberties . . .

Memorial Day is a time for all Americans to honor our fallen heroes, our Veterans and our dedicated service men and women who are serving in peacekeeping missions in troubled areas throughout the world.

On Memorial Day, I will be participating in numerous Veterans observances throughout my 20th Congressional District, including the Castle Point VA Hospital, the American Legion Post #199 Memorial Day Parade; and the Memorial Day Parade at the Village of Florida by Post #1250.

Other events include the dedication of the Frederic Malek Tennis Courts at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Frederic Malek, a West Point graduate, 1959, served as an airborne ranger attached to the Special Forces in Vietnam. Mr. Malek continued to serve his country in key roles for three presidents as Deputy Under Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, as Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget and as Director of the 1990 Summit of Major Industrialization.

Historian Barbara Tuchman stated: "War is the unfolding of miscalculations . . ."

Remembering our heroes of the past, reminds us not to make any miscalculations that could lead to any future war:

Miscalculations . . . of our being perceived as being weak; of allowing our defenses to atrophy; of neglecting America's best interests; of ignoring the needs of our Veterans and those who continue to serve today.

Our 107th Congress, under the leadership of President Bush, is working to ensure that our Veterans will have the support they deserve . . .

THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: IS IT ANY LONGER WORTH SEEKING MEMBERSHIP?

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the editorial following from the May 23, 2001 edition of the Omaha World-Herald raises very important and pertinent questions about the relevancy of the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHCR) upon which the United States recently lost its membership. As this member said to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan yesterday during his meeting with the House Committee on International Relations, the UNHCR increasingly seems to have become a haven for some countries with the worst human rights records in order to ward off criticism and further manned by other countries which are all too willing to table the consideration of resolutions concerning countries with such human rights records because their less than courageous vote may avoid the loss of export markets.

Mr. Speaker, as this member said to the Secretary General and House colleagues perhaps the major emphasis of the Congress and the United States is to demand a fundamental re-orientation of the UNHCR and to find other