

# Quotations used in the USRDS Annual Data Report 2000–2003

## 2000

First page

**We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time**  
Thomas Stearns Eliot, *Four Quartets*

Précis: An introduction to the U.S. ESRD program

**An interest in disease and death is only another expression of interest in life.**  
Thomas Mann, *The Magic Mountain*

1 Incidence & prevalence, with projections to 2010

**The absence of romance in my history will, I fear, detract somewhat from its interest; but I shall be content if it is judged useful by those inquirers who desire an exact knowledge of the past as an aid to the interpretation of the future, which in the course of human things must resemble if it does not reflect it.**  
Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*

The future enters into us, in order to transform itself in us, long before it happens.  
Ranier Maria Rilke, *Letters to a Young Poet*

2 Patient characteristics (2728)

**What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! how infinite in faculty! in form, in moving, how express and admirable! in action how like an angel! in apprehension how like a god!**  
William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, II.ii.317

3 Treatment modalities

**Healing is a matter of time, but it is sometimes also a matter of opportunity.**  
Hippocrates, *Precepts*

4 Clinical indicators

**The great questions of the time are not decided by speeches and majority decisions...but by iron and blood.**  
Otto von Bismarck, *Speech to the Prussian Diet*

5 Morbidity & hospitalization

**Illness is the night-side of life, a more onerous citizenship. Everyone who is born holds dual citizenship, in the kingdom of the well and in the kingdom of the sick.**  
Susan Sontag, *Illness as Metaphor*

6 Pediatric ESRD

**There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in.**  
Graham Greene, *The Power and the Glory*

7 Transplantation

**So shall you share all that he doth possess,  
By having him, making yourself no less.**  
William Shakespeare, *Romeo & Juliet*

- 8 Survival, mortality, & causes of death  
**He was excellent indeed, madam: the king very lately spoke of him admiringly and mourningly: he was skillful enough to have lived still, if knowledge could be set up against mortality.**  
William Shakespeare, *All's Well That Ends Well*
- 9 Preventive health care measures  
**The health of the people is really the foundation upon which all their happiness and all their powers as a state depend.**  
Benjamin Disraeli, Speech, July 24, 1877
- 10 Provider characteristics  
**I observe the physician with the same diligence as he the disease.**  
John Donne, *Devotions upon Emergent Occasions*
- 11 Economic costs of ESRD  
**Resist beginnings; the prescription comes too late when the disease has gained strength by long delays.**  
Ovid, *Remedia Amoris*
- 12 International comparisons  
**Let the great world spin forever down the ringing grooves of change.**  
Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *Locksley Hall*

## 2001

First page

**Undoubtedly we have now questions to ask which are unanswerable. We must trust the perfection of the creation so far, as to believe that whatever curiosity the order of things has awakened in our minds, the order of things can satisfy.**

Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature*

Précis: background on the U.S. ESRD program

**The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a man's foot long enough to enable him to put the other somewhat higher.**

Thomas Henry Huxley, *Life & Letters of Thomas Huxley*

1 Incidence & prevalence, with projections to 2010

**Time present and time past  
Are both perhaps present in time future,  
And time future contained in time past.**

T.S. Eliot, *Four Quartets*

2 Patient characteristics (2728)

**"Here," she said, "in this here place, we flesh; flesh that weeps, laughs; flesh that dances on bare feet in grass. Love it. Love it hard."**

Toni Morrison, *Beloved*

3 Treatment modalities

**All's well that ends well: still the fine's the crown; Whate'er the course, the end is the renown.**

William Shakespeare, *All's Well That Ends Well*

4 Clinical indicators

**All things are filled full of signs, and it is a wise man who can learn about one thing from another.**

Plotinus, *Enneads*

5 Morbidity & hospitalization

**Put all the miseries that man is subject to together, *sickness* is more than all.... In *poverty* I lack but other things; in *banishment* I lack other men; but in *sickness* I lack my self.... How shall I put a just value upon God's great *blessings* of *Wine*, and *Oyle*, and *Milke*, and *Honey*, When my taste is gone, or of *Liberty*, when the *gout* fetters my feet?**

John Donne, *Sermon XX*

6 Pediatric ESRD

**Quickly take me up into the bright child of your mind.**

e.e. cummings, *The Enormous Room*

7 Transplantation

**Enough, if something from our hands have power  
To live, and act, and serve the future hour.**

William Wordsworth, *The River Duddon*

8 Survival, mortality, & causes of death

**I am not resigned to the shutting away of loving  
hearts in the hard ground.**

**So it is, and so it will be, for so it has been, time  
out of mind;**

**Into the darkness they go, the wise and the lovely.**

**Crowned**

**With lilies and with laurel they go; but I am not  
resigned.**

Edna St. Vincent Millay, "Dirge Without Music"

- 9 Cardiovascular special studies  
**...our heart survives between hammers, just as the tongue between teeth is still able to praise.**  
Rainer Maria Rilke, *The Duino Elegies: The Ninth Elegy*
- 10 Preventive health care measures  
**Since, both in importance and in time, health precedes disease, so we ought to consider first how health may be preserved, and then how one may best cure disease.**  
Galen (130-200), *Hygiene*
- 11 Provider characteristics  
**There is a wisdom in this beyond the rules of physic. A man's own observation, what he finds good of and what he finds hurt of, is the best physic to preserve health.**  
Francis Bacon, *Essays: Of Regimen of Health*
- 12 Economic costs of ESRD  
**No physician, insofar as is he a physician, considers his own good in what he prescribes, but the good of his patient; for the true physician is also a ruler having the human body as a subject, and is not a mere moneymaker.**  
Plato, *The Republic*
- 13 International comparisons  
**If we win here we will win everywhere. The world is a fine place and worth the fighting for and I hate very much to leave it.**  
Ernest Hemingway, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*

## 2002

First page

In order to arrive there,  
To arrive where you are, to get from where you are not,  
You must go by a way wherein there is no ecstasy.  
In order to arrive at what you do not know  
You must go by a way which is the way of ignorance.  
Thomas Stearns Eliot, "East Coker"

Précis

We used to think that if we knew one, we knew two, because one and one are two. We are finding that we must learn a great deal about 'and.'  
Arthur Eddington, in Mackay, *The Harvest of a Quiet Eye*

Healthy People 2010

If thou couldst, doctor, cast  
The water of my land, find her disease  
And purge it to a sound and pristine health,  
I would applaud thee to the very echo,  
That should applaud again.  
William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*

1 Incidence & prevalence, with projections to 2010

Laughter isn't even the other side of tears. It is tears turned inside out. Truly the suffering is great, here on earth. We blunder along, shredded by our mistakes, bludgeoned by our faults. Not having a clue where the dark path leads us. But on the whole, we stumble along bravely, don't you think?  
Alice Walker, *By the Light of My Father's Smile*

2 Patient characteristics

...things don't fall apart. Things hold. Lines connect in ways that last and last and lives become generations made out of pictures and words just kept.  
Lucille Clifton, *Generations: A Memoir*

3 Treatment modalities

Great thanks are due to Nature for putting into the life of each being so much healing power.  
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Nager F, Der Heilkundige Dichter*

4 Clinical indicators

and blest are those  
Whose blood and judgment are so well commingled...  
Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

5 Preventive health care measures

So neither ought you to attempt to cure the body without the soul; and this is the reason why the cure of many diseases is unknown to the physicians of Hellas, because they are ignorant of the whole which ought to be studied also; for the part can never be well unless the whole is well.... For this is the great error of our day in the treatment of the human body, that physicians separate the soul from the body.  
Plato, *Dialogues*

6 Morbidity & hospitalization

A scab is a beautiful thing—a coin  
the body has minted, with an invisible motto:  
In God We Trust.  
Our body loves us,  
and, even while the spirit drifts dreaming,  
works at mending the damage we do.  
John Updike, "Ode to Healing"

- 7 Pediatric ESRD  
**Now you invent the boat of your flesh and set it  
upon the waters  
and drift in the gradual swell, in the laboring salt.  
Now you look down. The waters of childhood are  
there.**  
Mark Strand, "Where Are the Waters of Childhood?"
- 8 Transplantation  
**He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he  
has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance.**  
William Faulkner, Speech upon receiving the Nobel Prize
- 9 Survival, mortality, & causes of death  
**It was the nature of the thing:  
No moon outlives its leaving night,  
No sun its day. And I went on  
Rich in the loss of all I sing  
To the threshold of waking light,  
To larksong and the live, gray dawn.  
So night by night, my life has gone.**  
William DeWitt Snodgrass, "Orpheus"
- 10 Cardiovascular special studies  
**Out-worn heart, in a time out-worn,  
Come clear of the nets of wrong and right;  
Laugh heart again in the gray twilight,  
Sigh, heart, again in the dew of the morn.**  
W.B. Yeats, "Into the Twilight," "*The Wind Among the Reeds*"
- 11 Provider characteristics  
**care and labor are as much correlated to human existence as shadow is to light...**  
Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Household Papers and Stories*
- 12 Economic costs of ESRD  
**Your life feels different on you, once you greet death and understand your heart's position. You  
wear you life like a garment from the mission bundle sale ever after—lightly because you realize you  
never paid nothing for it, cherishing because you know you won't ever come by such a bargain  
again.**  
Louise Erdrich, *Love Medicine*
- 13 International comparisons  
**Humanity finds itself in the midst of the world. In the midst of all other creatures humanity is the  
most significant and yet the most dependent upon the others.**  
Hildegard of Bingen, *Scivias*

## 2003

First page

**It is what we imagine knowledge to be:  
dark, salt, clear, moving, utterly free,  
drawn from the cold hard mouth  
of the world, derived from the rocky breasts  
forever, flowing and drawn, and since  
our knowledge is historical, flowing, and flown.**  
Elizabeth Bishop, "At the Fishhouses"

Précis

**Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose. It is a seeking that he who wishes may know the cosmic secrets of the world and that they dwell therein.**  
Zora Neale Hurston, *Dust Tracks on a Road*

Healthy People 2010

**Disease can never be conquered, can never be quelled by emotion's wailful screaming or faith's cymballic prayer. It can only be conquered by the energy of humanity and the cunning in the mind of man. In the patience of a Curie, in the enlightenment of a Faraday, a Rutherford, a Pasteur, a Nightingale, and all other apostles of light and cleanliness, rather than of a woebegone godliness, we shall find final deliverance from plague, pestilence, and famine.**  
Sean O'Casey, *Inishfallen, Fare Thee Well*

1 Chronic kidney disease

**Illness is the doctor to whom we pay most heed; to kindness, to knowledge, we make promise only; pain we obey.**  
Marcel Proust. *Remembrance of Things Past*.

2 Incidence & prevalence

**There is not any present moment that is unconnected with some future one. The life of every man is a continued chain of incidents, each link of which hangs upon the former. The transition from cause to effect, from event to event, is often carried on by secret steps, which our foresight cannot divine, and our sagacity is unable to trace. Evil may at some future period bring forth good; and good may bring forth evil, both equally unexpected.**  
Joseph Addison. "Happiness Not Independent" and *Poetical Fragments, Interesting Anecdotes, Memoirs, Allegories, Essays*

3 Patient characteristics

**...I have a duty to speak the truth as I see it and to share not just my triumphs, not just the things that felt good, but the pain, the intense, often unmitigating pain. It is important to share how I know survival is survival and not just a walk through the rain.**  
Audre Lorde, *Black Women Writers at Work*

4 Treatment modalities

**There is really nothing more to say—except why. But since why is difficult to handle, one must take refuge in how.**  
Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

5 Clinical indicators & preventive health

**In the tale, in the telling, we are all one blood. Take the tale in your teeth, then, and bite till the blood runs, hoping it's not poison; and we will all come to the end together, and even to the beginning: living, as we do, in the middle.**  
Ursula K. Le Guin, speech, 1979, University of Chicago

- 6 Outcomes: hospitalization & mortality  
**There is an element of death in life, and I am astonished that one pretends to ignore it: death, whose unpitiful presence we experience in each turn of fortune we survive because we must learn how to die slowly. We must learn to die: all of life is in that.**  
 Selected Letters of Rainer Maria Rilke
- 7 Transplantation  
**Life is a petty thing unless it is moved by the indomitable urge to extend its boundaries. Only in proportion as we are desirous of living more do we really live.**  
 José Ortega Y Gasset, "Invitation to Understanding"
- 8 Pediatric ESRD  
**Without, the frost, the blinding snow,  
 The storm-wind's moody madness—  
 Within, the firelight's ruddy glow,  
 And childhood's nest of gladness.  
 The magic words shall hold thee fast:  
 Thou shalt not heed the raving blast.**  
 Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking-Glass*
- 9 Cardiovascular special studies  
**Remove my heart of stone. Replace  
 my heart of stone. Inspire  
 cardio-vascular prophylaxis.**  
 Geoffrey Hill, "The Triumph of Love"
- 10 Rehab/quality of life  
**The house of my body has spoken  
 often as you rebuild me like blocks,  
 and promise to come visit  
 when I'm finally adjusted on safe land,  
 and am livable, joist to joist  
 with storm windows and screens ...**  
 Anne Sexton, "There You Were"
- 11 Economic costs of ESRD  
**Words were medicine; there were magic and invisible. They came from nothing into sound and meaning. They were beyond price; they could neither be bought nor sold.**  
 N. Scott Momaday, *House Made of Dawn*
- 12 International comparisons  
**A person can run for years but sooner or later he has to take a stand in the place which, for better or worse, he calls home, do what he can to change things there.**  
 Paule Marshall, *The Chosen Place, The Timeless People*
- Appendices  
**For such will be our ruin if you, in the immensity of your public abstractions, forget the private figure, or if we in the intensity of our private emotions forget the public world. Both houses will be ruined, the public and the private, the material and the spiritual, for they are inseparably connected.**  
 Virginia Woolf, *Three Guineas*