Propositions pertaining to the PhD Thesis

1. Reimbursement drives clinical practice (this thesis)
2. In elderly patients with aortic stenosis and multiple comorbidities improvement in quality of life may be of greater importance than prolonged survival. (this thesis)
3. Compared to PCI, CABG is a clinically and economically attractive revascularization strategy for most patients with 3-vessel or left main coronary artery disease. (this thesis)
4. Risk scores may overestimate mortality and should not be the only tools used in clinical decision-making. (this thesis)
5. The increase in overlapping and methodologically flawed meta-analyses reflects waste of resources, yields misleading information and undermines the value of this study design. (this thesis)
6. Patients within the E.U. have faster access to certain devices, but these products are marketed with less rigorous proof of effectiveness and may have a greater chance of later-identified adverse events. (Kramer, NEJM 2012; 366:848-855)
7. As economists have often pointed out, we pay doctors for quantity, not quality. As they point out less often, we also pay them as individuals, rather than as members of a team, working together for their patients. Both practices have made for serious problems. (Gawande, The New Yorker, June 2009)
8. Achieving high value for patients must become the overarching goal of health care delivery, with value defined as health outcomes achieved per dollar spent. (Porter, NEJM 2010;363:2477-2481)
9. A continuous debate between healthcare professionals, health economists, policy makers and medical ethicists is necessary to achieve the optimum for the individual patient and the society as a whole.
10. "If I get hit by a bus tomorrow, my patients will not even be postponed. Another surgeon would step in and take over. The reason to do research and writing is that it at least makes me feel not entirely replaceable. If I didn't write, I don't know if I would do surgery." (Atul Gawande)
11. "Quality is not an act, it is a habit." (Aristotle)