Dartmouth Medicine seeks to convey the breadth and depth of the education, research, and patient-care activities of DMS and DHMC; to serve as a publication of historical record; to stimulate thought and discussion on issues in medicine and medical education; and to reflect the range of opinions and activities among Dartmouth medical students, faculty, and alumni. Among abbreviations used regularly in these pages are DMS (Dartmouth Medical School), DHMC (Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center), MHMH (Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital), DC (Dartmouth College), and HS (housestaff). The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of DMS or DHMC.

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FEATURES

The Art of Surgery
By Joseph R. Wilder, M.D.  28

In his paintings of life in the operating room, noted artist and surgeon Joseph Wilder, a graduate of Dartmouth College, offers revealing insights into a milieu that is at once awesomely technical and profoundly intimate.

In Our Midst
By Laura Stephenson Carter  40

When neonatologists save a premature infant, what does the future hold for the baby? Caregivers can’t predict with certainty. But now, a new documentary produced at Dartmouth may help both providers and parents face the long-term ramifications of some of modern medicine’s toughest issues.

President Wheelock & the Smallpox Caper
By Seymour Wheelock, M.D.  46

Back in 1776, the Dartmouth campus was a hotbed of dissent about the advisability of being inoculated against smallpox. Ironically, it’s a topic that is once again in the news in the days of bioterrorist threats.

Adrift
By Emily R. Transue, M.D.  52

The elderly homeless man had difficulty talking and was suffering from mild dementia. But one day a young doctor opened a door to his past and discovered that he had been a pilot in the Pacific during World War II. And that he had a compelling story to tell.

COVER

This intimate scene of an operating room is a detail from a painting by Dartmouth graduate Joe Wilder, a surgeon and an artist. The feature on his work starts on page 28.