

DARTMOUTH MEDICINE seeks to convey the breadth and depth of the education, research, and clinical 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. Abbreviations used in these pages include DMS (Dartmouth Medical School), DHMC (Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center), MHMH (Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital), and DC (Dartmouth College). The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of DMS or DHMC.

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FEATURES

Sound & Silence By Jennifer Durgin 26

The emotion of learning that your baby was born profoundly deaf. The challenge of learning sign language so you can communicate with her. The angst of deciding whether or not to have a device to help her hear implanted in her head. A DARTMOUTH MEDICINE staff member shares the twists and turns in an unexpected parental journey.

Stroke By Chin Woon Ping 38

When an English professor suffers a stroke, someone who personifies facility with language is rendered unable to communicate. But after her skill with words returns, she has a compelling story to tell. Here—in the form of a play—she shares what it feels like to have your brain held hostage.

Lessons in Dying Well By Deborah Lee Luskin 42

Most physicians have far more experience with death than the average person does. Even so, when they experience the death of a parent, it shakes them personally and affects them professionally. Four physicians with Dartmouth ties share final lessons learned from a parent—how best to care for someone at the end of life.

ONLINE

Check out our online edition at dartmed.dartmouth.edu and this issue's **WEB EXTRAS** at dartmed.dartmouth.edu/fall08/html/we.php.



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COVER

When their daughter, Geneva, was born, Jennifer and Christian Durgin were as proud and excited as any new parents. Then they had to come to terms with the fact that Geneva was profoundly deaf. Jen Durgin, a member of this magazine's staff, shares the family's journey in the feature starting on page 26. The cover photo is by Jon Gilbert Fox.