Worthy of note: Honors, awards, appointments, etc.

Victor Ambros, Ph.D., a professor of genetics at DMS, received the 2006 Genetics Society of America Medal for outstanding contributions to the field over the past 15 years. Among Ambros's discoveries was the identification in 1993 of a new family of small genes involved in the orchestration of development and behavior. Ambros's lab now studies the roles of microRNA-mediated regulatory pathways in animal development and human disease.

Lynn Butterly, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine, was the recipient of the American Cancer Society’s 2005 Sandra C. Labaree Volunteer Values Award in recognition of her efforts to raise colon cancer awareness and screening rates. She headed New Hampshire's Colorectal Cancer Screening Community Outreach Project and Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration.

James Platt, M.A., an instructor of psychiatry and director of the Dartmouth Faculty and Employee Assistance Program, was recently chosen as the president-elect of the International Association of Employee Assistance Professionals in Education.

David Glass, M.D., a professor and the chair of anesthesiology, received the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education’s John C. Gienapp Award in recognition of his leadership in overseeing the implementation of new national work-hour standards for medical residents.

Sean Hunt, M.D., an assistant professor of anesthesiology, was elected president of the New Hampshire Society of Anesthesiologists.

James Varnum, M.H.A., the president of Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, was chosen to receive the American Hospital Association’s Award of Honor, as well as the Distinguished Service Award of the Regent for New Hampshire. See the feature on page 38 in this issue for more about Varnum’s 28-year career at Mary Hitchcock.

Jennifer Bomberger, Ph.D., a research fellow in physiology, and Emily Cordas, a graduate student in physiology, received the Caroline tum Suden/Frances A. Hellebrandt Professional Opportunity Award from the American Physiological Society. Selected from a nationwide pool of early-career researchers who were first authors on studies, they will present the results of their work at continued on page 60

VITAL SIGNS

AL ACT OF GENEROSITY

The Norris Cotton Cancer Center isn’t a museum, but an important piece of history is now on permanent display there: an original copy of the 1971 National Cancer Act (pictured below). The groundbreaking act, signed by then-President Nixon, provided the funding and authority for the National Cancer Institute to lead the nation’s fight against cancer.

The Cancer Center was given a copy of the act—one of only two in existence—by Marilyn Cole, widow of former Nixon administration official Kenneth Cole, who is credited with shepherding the Cancer Act through Congress.

“Our family felt that this was the perfect place for this document,” explains Brady Cole, Ken Cole’s brother; he is a counselor at the VA Medical Center in White River Junction, Vt., as well as a member of the Friends of Norris Cotton Cancer Center. “The Cancer Center embodies the spirit and intent of the act and is a place my brother would have loved,” Brady Cole adds, “because of its sense of inclusion, family, and community.”

CELEBRATING HUMANITY

Noted author and environmental activist Terry Tempest Williams, a recent Montgomery Fellow at Dartmouth, was an unusual choice of speaker for the Norris Cotton Cancer Center’s weekly grand rounds. She’s neither a scientist nor a physician, but she has lost several family members to cancer. She’s best known for her book Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place, which juxtaposes the 1983 rise of Great Salt Lake, the flooding of a bird sanctuary, and her mother’s struggle with ovarian cancer. Tempest Williams thanked “the nurses, the physicians, the technicians, and health-care providers” who care for cancer patients. “Your honesty, your professionalism, and your humanity have a trickle-down effect on the family,” she said.

“We live dignity, honesty, service, hope, every day, but we rarely talk about it,” said Dr. Mark Israel, director of the Cancer Center at the end of Tempest Williams’s presentation. “And we even much more rarely celebrate it.”

GOING FOR GOLD: As the annual Audrey Prouty Bike Ride, which raises funds for Norris Cotton Cancer Center, got ready to mark its silver anniversary, James Gold was the top fund-raiser (really!). The 25th Prouty, on July 8, has a goal of $1 million.
Worthy of note

continued from page 22
the annual Experimental Biology conference in San Francisco.

KC Wright, M.S., R.D., a registered dietitian in DHMC’s outpatient cardiology clinic, was selected as an evidence analyst by the American Dietetic Association.

The ALS Clinic at DHMC was recently certified as an ALS Center of Excellence by the national ALS Association. ALS is amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. DHMC’s ALS Clinic was only the 24th to be certified by the national association.

The Bone Marrow Transplant Program at DHMC was recently accredited by the Foundation for Accreditation of Cellular Therapy.

The Midwifery Service at DHMC was presented with the “With Women, For a Lifetime” Gold Commendation from the American College of Nurse-Midwives. The award recognizes midwifery services that have provided innovative and compassionate care to women and their families, expanded access to women’s health care, engaged in community outreach, and educated midwifery students.

Errata: An article in the “Discoveries” section in our Winter 2005 issue, about Lee Witters’s work with an enzyme known as AMPK, misstated the degree that he holds. Although Witters is primarily a researcher rather than a clinician, he has an M.D., not a Ph.D. Dartmouth Medicine herewith also grants him a G.S.H. (Good Sense of Humor), since his message informing us of the error read as follows: “Thanks for the . . . story and the awarding of a Ph.D. degree to me (always thought I deserved one!).” And we assign ourselves to a refresher course in fact-checking—especially since, more seriously, there was an error in a “Vital Signs” article in the same issue. A story about a new approach to treating pancreatic cancer stated, “So far, the cancer has not returned in patients who had surgery.” The passage should have stated that there had been no local recurrences of the cancer in those patients—in other words, no further evidence of pancreatic tumors, although there may have been metastases elsewhere. We regret all errors, but especially one of such substance.

Letters

continued from page 27
fall of 2006. While I was in Hanover for my interviews, I was given a copy of Dartmouth Medicine and I loved it.

I wonder—am I eligible to receive a subscription at my home here in Arizona? If so, I would love to get on your mailing list.

Many thanks!

Mark Tyson
Tucson, Ariz.

Article aficionado

I am the father of a premed student at Colgate and also make quarterly visits to my neurologist, Dr. Thomas Ward, at DHMC, where I have often enjoyed the articles in Dartmouth Medicine.

I notice that it’s possible to be added to your mailing list. May I please subscribe?

Frederick R. Lofgren
Lyndeborough, N.H.

We are happy to add to our subscription rolls anyone who is interested in the subjects we cover. See the box on page 25 for details.

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