Students trade their glass slides for images on a computer screen

There was no one who didn’t re-
call twiddling the knurled knob of a microscope in science class at the Miami Public Schools. People with glasses could scan the slides through micro-
scopes at tissue samples—but not as many as hours as they used to.

Virtual microscopy—the ex-
amination of digital images on a computer screen, rather than of glass slides through a micro-
scope—is quickly replacing conven-
tional microscopy at medical schools across the country. Dr. Brent Harris, the co-coordinator of pathology in DMS’s second-
year Scientific Basis of Medicine curriculum, made the leap into the new technology four years ago. He was impelled by the fact that he faced an expensive problem at the high school level of the class’s old teaching slide sets. Over the years, many slides had been cracked, broken, or lost. It seemed like a good time to try virtual microscopy (VM).

Focus: Now, a single slide of any interesting specimen can be scanned and posted on a web-
site where all the students in the class can view it. Students can also focus in on and out the image and move it around, just like a glass slide on the stage of a mi-

Dr. Dean Ornish wrote in Newsweek about a re-
cent study by Dr. Lisa Sutherland, a Dartmouth nutri-
tion researcher. “I’d throw myself in front of a train if I thought it would save my son. Almost any parent would,” Ornish wrote. “If that’s true for you, then the results of a new study from Dartmouth might change your life, or at least your lifestyle. Researchers there used a toy grocery store to find out which foods preschool children would se-

The Associated Press (AP) talked to Dartmouth’s Dr. David Axelrod about a recent study showing that the nationwide breast examination rate for ma-

As runners from across Florida prepared recently for the Miami marathon, that Miami Herald won-
dered why anyone would voluntarily engage in 26.2 miles of vigorous exercise: “Sure, running is a mas-

Roger P. Smith, Ph.D.

A mong the people and programs coming in for prominent media coverage in recent months was a Dartmouth expert on biological clocks. “Dr. Jay Dunlap, a bio-

Among patients who have received NSAID drugs to treat mild depression?” the AP reported that “some [stimulus funds] will be applied for. . . .

Dr. Lisa Schwartz and Bruce Chabner interviewed by the Chicago Tribune regarding their efforts to help the public understand health statistics. Schwartz told the newspaper that “drug ads and public service announcements often make ‘strong claims about weak science.’ People assume that whatever is being promoted works incredibly well, and that the problem is both common and dan-

Friends of some actual virtual microscopy slides, see dartmed.dartmouth.edu/WEB

For several months, including in the Miami Herald, the author was interviewed about the transition that radiology has gone through. By exposing stu-
dents to the same image at the same time on their individual laptops, while comparing notes about what they see. Sharp: There are also a few downsides, including the need for enhanced technical support and infrastructure. It is the first time Harris tried out the new system in class, the server crashed. And VM images aren’t quite as sharp as conventional slides, though Harris says they have gotten much better in the past few years. “This technology will be used more and more in clinical applications,” he said. “The transition that radiology has gone through.” By exposing stu-
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