Students trade their glass slides for images on a computer screen

There are many ways to make the world a better place. One involves finding ways to help people better understand each other. This can be done through shared experiences, which is the goal of the Dartmouth Virtual Microscopy Project (DVMP). The project allows students to share images of glass slides with their peers, even if they are located in different parts of the world. This not only helps to break down barriers between people, but also provides a valuable educational opportunity. In this way, the DVMP is helping to promote global understanding and collaboration.

A mong the people and programs coming in for prominent media coverage in recent months was a Dartmouth expert on biological clocks. "Researchers have long known that biological clocks in worms, flowers, oak trees, and human beings all have tiny internal timetables that keep them on a roughly 24-hour cycle, the time it takes the Earth to spin once on its axis," reported the Miami Herald. "Biological timekeeping is a core property of life on a revolving planet," said Dr. Jay Bradner, a biochemist at Dartmouth. "Today, we're learning more about the subject. Time organization is a vital property of all the...normal functioning of every species."

Dr. Dean Ornish wrote in Newsweek about a recent study by Dr. Lisa Sutherland, a Dartmouth nutrition researcher. "I'll 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 haven't used a toy grocery store to find out which foods preschool children will select when given a range of options. They found that children between the ages of 3 and 5 who ate more fruits and vegetables were less likely to report being overweight. "With a relatively minimal change, we can do well together," said Dr. Ornish, "but there's a difference between the perception of something that predicts a patient's risk of death within three months. According to the AP, "One of the lab tests in the scorecard can understate the severity of illness in women because of their smaller average size," Axelrod told the AP. "Even though our patients view their smaller average size, we know that a woman is a woman."

The AP turned to another Dartmouth surgeon for a different story. "Patients often are ill-equipped to weigh increasingly complex medical options. "Experienced patients have a hard time understanding the pros and cons of different treatments and their impact on outcomes." The AP noted. "If we do not change, then, once a scan is done, it is too late. Patients may have to undergo additional procedures because they have a stake in certain outcomes."

We used to have to lug a heavy microscope to the classroom, and teachers had to make sure that the microscope was set up for the whole class; and in some courses, Harris adds, and instructors can look at the microscope at their own pace, while students can look at it at their own pace.

But, "many physicians and surgeons are concerned that some of their colleagues may push expensive procedures because they have a stake in companies that make the equipment," the paper said. "Dr. James Weinstein, a surgical oncologist at Dartmouth, cites as an example the metal cages for spinal fusion that came onto the market in 1996 and were touted to doctors in an aggressive ad campaign. Surgery rates soared.

"Prolonged use of low-dose aspirin or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs) appear to reduce the risk of precancerous lesions that can lead to colorectal cancer," noted U.S. News & World Report. "It's increasingly clear, and arguably proven, that NSAIDs do interfere with the development of cancer in the large bowel," said study co-author Dr. John Baron of Dartmouth. "And this study...shows two things: One, if you take the NSAID drug for a while and then stop, you won't get a big rebound in terms of adenoma tumor risk. And two, if you don't stop taking an NSAID, but instead continue its use over time, the protective benefit will continue.

U.S. News & World Report also spoke on the subject of preventive screenings—to Dartmouth's Dr. K. Helen Weiss, should I be tested for breast cancer? "Maybe not and here's why," said Weiss. "Breasts were not designed to screen for cancer."

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