

A BIG DEAL: DHMC recently acquired a large-bore MRI machine. Such scanners accommodate claustrophobic or obese patients more easily than conventional machines, and with much better resolution than open MRI scanners.



We do not have permission to include in our online edition the text that was in this box in our paper edition.

Match Day brings another sort of March madness

For fourth-year medical students, March madness has nothing to do with basketball. Instead, their frenzy centers on a day in March when all soon-to-be-doctors find out where they'll continue their training after they graduate.

Lively: Match Day, which fell this year on March 15, is a lively, informal ceremony at DMS—and 2007 was no exception. All the students gather at noon and, one by one, come up to receive their residency assignments in sealed envelopes. Some students tear open the envelope and read their letter before they even make it back to their seat, while others wait for a more private moment to peek at what their future holds. Laughter, gasps, shrieks of joy, and misty eyes always mark the occasion.

“The results were superb,” Dr. David Nierenberg, senior associate dean for medical education, wrote to the DMS community shortly after the event, “as we are now in the habit of seeing virtually every March.”

Of the 54 students slated to graduate this year, 47 participated in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP); 2 chose military residencies; and 5 are deferring residency. Internal medicine was the most popular choice of specialty at DMS, followed by pediatrics, orthopaedic surgery, and diagnostic radiology. In tune with the national trend, many fewer students chose fam-

ily medicine this year—down from 10 in 2005 and 6 in 2006 to just 3 in 2007. But overall the primary-care disciplines held strong, with 24 students choosing internal medicine, pediatrics, or family medicine. (See the box on page 14 for details.)

Another change this year is that 5 students opted to defer residency to pursue other interests. “Normally we see only one or two seniors deferring,” noted Nierenberg, “but with more seniors graduating with interests in research and completion of joint degrees, this may become increasingly common.”

New Hampshire, California, and New York were the most popular destinations for DMS '07s. Massachusetts, usually a hot spot for Dartmouth grads, gets only three this year.

Though these changes may seem dramatic, it's important to put them in perspective, said Nierenberg. “Results each year can go up and down sharply,” he noted, because each student represents nearly 2% of the class.

Coming: Match Day also brings word to DHMC of how many newly minted doctors will be coming to New Hampshire. This year, Dartmouth welcomes 102 new trainees, while the New Hampshire-Dartmouth Family Practice Residency gains 8.

Now, with Match Day well behind them and graduation a recent memory, both the outgoing graduates and the incoming residents will soon be consumed by a different kind of madness—making it through their first few months of postgraduate training.

JENNIFER DURGIN

CLINICAL OBSERVATION

In this section, we highlight the human side of clinical academic medicine, putting a few questions to a physician at DMS-DHMC.

Eva Rzucidlo, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Surgery (Vascular Surgery)

Rzucidlo's clinical work deals with diseases of the arteries and veins. She also studies signals in cells that control restenosis of vessels treated with stents and bypass grafts. She has been at DHMC since 2002.

Where did you grow up?

I was born in New Jersey but grew up in a suburb outside Washington, D.C., in Virginia. My father grew up in New Jersey and my mom grew up in Lodz, Poland.

If you weren't a physician, what would you like to be?

A fighter pilot or an archaeologist. At the time I was thinking about being a fighter pilot, there were very few women fighter pilots and I wanted to be a pioneer. I wanted to be an archaeologist because of the history of the origin of man fascinated me.



Of what professional accomplishment are you most proud and why?

I am proud of being a woman in vascular surgery—still a very male-dominated field—and of being one of a very few women who have chosen a career in academic vascular surgery and obtained a National Institutes of Health grant to research vascular disease.

Who are your fictional and/or real-life heroes?

My heroes in real life are my parents. I would not be where I am today or be the person that I am without all their hard work and sacrifice. My fictional hero is Wonder Woman. She was based on Princess Diana of the Amazon warrior tribe, and her alter ego was a nurse, Lieutenant Diana Prince. William Marston decided to create a superheroine to serve in a female role—someone

who was strong and independent, yet still feminine.

What's your favorite nonwork activity?

Shopping (not surprising, since I'm a woman) and spending time with my friends and family.

What about you would surprise most people?

I enjoy competitive rifle target-shooting.

Finish this sentence: If I had more time I would . . .

Take ballroom dancing lessons—especially the Latin dances.

If you could travel anywhere you've never been, where would it be?

Tahiti. I love warm climates and beautiful beaches.

What three people would you like to have over for dinner?

Jamie Hyneman (cohost of the TV show *Mythbusters*), Anthony Bourdain (writer, executive chef at Les Halles in New York City, and host of the TV show *No Reservations*), and Carlos Mencia (a comedian).

What historical event would you most like to have been present at in person?

I'd love to have been at the concert hall in Warsaw for Arthur Rubinstein's return to Poland after he'd been away for 20 years. To hear him play Chopin's Polonaise, op. 40, no. 1 (“Polonaise Militaire”), must have been breathtaking. The combination of strength and heartfelt poetry is a hallmark of Rubinstein's playing in this piece, which stirred the souls of patriots—especially of all Poles—during the German occupation.

What kind of music do you enjoy the most?

All kinds—my taste is very broad—but especially classical (in particular, Chopin), blues, salsa, rap, hip-hop, and classic rock. My favorite performances were *Mama Mia* in Las Vegas, B.B. King and Aretha Franklin in Boston, and Itzhak Perlman with the National Symphony. I recently saw Chris Botti at the Lebanon Opera House. He is an unbelievably talented trumpet player who puts a modern twist on classic pieces.

