

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

John Wennberg, M.D., the Peggy Y. Thomson Professor of the Evaluative Clinical Sciences and the founding director of Dartmouth's Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences (CECS), recently received three significant hon-



ors: He was named "the most influential health-policy researcher of the past 25 years" by the journal *Health*

Affairs. He received the 2007 Ernest Amory Codman Award from the Joint Commission, the accreditation body for health-care organizations, for his leadership in using outcomes measures to improve health-care quality and safety. And he received the Vermont Medical Society 2007 Founders' Award for his pioneering work in evaluating the practice of medicine. For more about Wennberg's career, see this issue's cover story, starting on page 30.

Jonathan Skinner, Ph.D., a professor of community and family medicine at DMS and the John Sloan Dickey



Third Century Professor of Economics at Dartmouth College, was elected recently to the Institute of Medicine, the premier health advisory organization in

MEDIA MENTIONS: DMS

Among the people and programs coming in for prominent media coverage in recent months was a DMS pharmacologist who commented on a study suggesting that a smear of broccoli extract may prevent damage from ultraviolet light and arrest skin cancer. The *Washington Post* was among



the news outlets reporting on the finding: "It's very important work," said **Michael Sporn**, professor of pharmacology at Dartmouth Medical School, who for nearly two decades headed the National Cancer Institute's program on cancer prevention by means of natural products. "The use of dietary substances, like the antioxidant vitamins C and E, has been pretty much a colossal failure for protection against almost any kind of human disease," Sporn said, "because when you eat them they don't go where you want them to . . . and as soon as your body uses them up, they're gone."

Public Radio International's *Fair Game* featured Dr. **Diane Harper**, a member of the DMS faculty and "a lead researcher in the development of new HPV [human papillomavirus] vaccines." She told PRI: "This is the most common virus that infects humans and yet, most of the time, it goes away. But when it stays, it can actually cause cervical cancer . . . without any symptoms or any warning at all." Harper also commented on the claim that the vaccines promote promiscuity, saying, "In part, that was propagated by the fact that there was a big push put on to make sure that young girls, prior to sexual activity, were vaccinated." Now, she said, evidence shows "that the vaccines are equally effective in women who have and have not had previous HPV infections."



The *Boston Globe* wrote about football helmets fitted with motion-sensing chips to help doctors study concussions. "'Over the last 10 years, there's been an increasing recognition that even though we classify concussion as a 'mild' brain injury, there is a group of people . . . who don't seem to get better,' said Dr. **Tom McAllister**, director of neu-

ropsychiatry at Dartmouth Medical School, who works with [Dartmouth's] football team. 'The helmet research helps us understand sports-related concussion and perhaps will lead to improvements in helmet technologies, or perhaps rule changes.'"

"U.S. plans for an influenza pandemic have failed to take into account children, who will likely be among the biggest spreaders of the disease and its most vulnerable victims," reported Reuters News Service. "Federal and state governments haven't stockpiled enough flu-fighting drugs, and no one has laid out a coherent plan for what to do with tens of millions of schoolchildren if schools and day-care centers are closed, the experts said. 'We at this point are not adequately prepared to insure the health and well-being of our nation's children if and when a pandemic strikes,' said **Henry Bernstein**, of the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth."



"When young grade-schoolers find an animal or character they like, it's common for them to fixate on it," reported *Parenting* magazine in an article on kids' obsessions. "Sometimes it's a coping mechanism—if a best friend's just moved away, for instance, he may develop an intense interest in a favorite book series or hobby as a way to deal. Repeating a certain kind of play can also help kids master skills, says **Craig Donnelly**, M.D., chief of child psychiatry at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Other kids are simply imagining what life as a pirate or princess is like, and they can spend days—or months—acting out that fantasy."



"With their efforts to win more government funding stymied in Washington, medical researchers . . . are taking their lobbying campaign on the road—and into the presidential campaign," according to the *Baltimore Sun*. "The doctors and scientists plan to raise the profile of their issue by advertising and organizing in the early voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada, and South Carolina. . . . Despite intense lobbying,



COMING OF AGE: Given that Vermont is the fastest-aging state in the nation and New Hampshire is the fourth-fastest, the Health Resources and Services Administration is giving Dartmouth \$1.24 million over three years to develop a geriatric education center.

the U.S. Skinner was recognized for his research on the economic impact of geographic variations in health-care expenditures. He is affiliated with the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice (formerly CECS).

Ambrose Cheung, M.D., a professor of microbiology and immunology, was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in the biological sciences section, for his contributions to the understanding of bacterial virulence and molecular pathogenesis.



Kris Strohbehn, M.D., an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was elected president of the American Urogynecologic Society.

Joseph O'Donnell, M.D., a professor of medicine and senior advising dean for Dartmouth Medical School, was recently presented with the 2007 Margaret Hay Edwards medal by the American Association for Cancer Education.



William Hickey, M.D., a professor of pathology, has been appointed a member of the board of governors of the College of American Pathologists.

Bruce Stanton, Ph.D., a professor of physiology, was elected to the board of trustees of the Mount Desert Island Biological Labora-

tory. He studies the molecular mechanisms of cystic fibrosis.

Joel Lazar, M.D., an assistant professor of community and family medicine, received the top prize in the prose category of the Family Medicine Education Consortium's Creative Writing Competition. His winning entry was a short story titled "Ceremony."



Timothy Lahey, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine, received the 2007 Astellas Young Investigator Award from the Infectious Disease Society of America. He studies HIV infection.

Three members of the faculty—**Joseph O'Donnell, M.D.**, a professor of medicine and senior advising dean; **Seddon Savage, M.D.**, an adjunct associate professor of anesthesiology and director of the Dartmouth Center on Addiction, Recovery, and Education; and **William Cooley, M.D.**, an adjunct associate professor of pediatrics—were inducted into the National Academy of Practice in Medicine.

Catherine Pipas, M.D., an associate professor of community and family medicine and assistant dean of medical education, received a presidential commendation from the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine for her contributions to the organization's Predoctoral Directors Development Institute.



Gerald O'Connor, Sc.D., Ph.D., a professor of medicine and one of the founders of the Northern New England Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, was presented with the Richard C. Talamo Distinguished Clinical Achievement Award. And **Hebe Quinton, M.S.**, a research associate in medicine, received the inaugural Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Quality Improvement Award. Both are also affiliated with the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice.

Therese Stukel, Ph.D., an adjunct professor of community and family medicine, was named a fellow of the American Statistical Association.

Four DHMC residents in internal medicine were recently honored by the New Hampshire-Vermont American College of Physicians. Second-year resident **Anthony Yin, M.D.**, and third-year resident **Elizabeth Cogbill, M.D.**, received the associate member presentation grand prize; their presentation was titled "Heralded by the Nose." And second-year resident **Felicita Thol, M.D.**, and third-year resident **Annette Beyea, M.D.**, received first prize for "A Case of Hemoptysis."

The Northern Mountain Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science recognized two DHMC staff members with 2007 awards: **Darlene Royce**, a research assistant in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, was named Technologist of the Year; and **Nina Bishop**, a lead laboratory animal technician in the Animal Resources Center, received the group's Horizon Award. ■

THEN & NOW

A reminder of the pace of change, and of timeless truths, from the Spring 1984 issue of this magazine:

That issue's cover story was written by Dr. John Wennberg, the subject of *this* issue's cover story. Almost 24 years ago, he wrote: "My colleagues and I have conducted a series of studies of variations in the use of medical services. . . . These have provided many examples of uncertainty in medical decision-making of which practicing physicians have been unaware. . . . The attention paid to our findings encourages us to feel that we are at grips with problems of major importance to the future of medicine. We hope we can help to resolve them."



2007

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