Features

Defense Mechanism
By Amos Esty

Our national defense is in jeopardy, argues DMS faculty member Kendall Hoyt, due to a decline in the success of the U.S. vaccine industry. During the 20th century, many diseases—from polio to smallpox—were felled by vaccines. But in the 21st, we’ve been unable to develop agents against either natural scourges like SARS or bioweapons like anthrax.

Ice Pick
By Malcolm Schongalla

When a Dartmouth medical student picked Antarctica as the place to serve one of his elective rotations, he was consigning himself to seven weeks of ice, snow, and cold. But he came away with warm feelings for those who work at the far end of the Earth.

Up, Up, and Away!
By Jennifer Durgin

Launching a research career in the biomedical sciences takes more than just the right degrees and training. To become successful, young scientists must also land at a supportive institution, get guidance from a savvy mentor, and find what some call the “fire in the belly.” At DMS, several new initiatives are helping junior researchers learn to soar scientifically.

Departments

Discoveries 3
Measuring overtreatment 3
No laughing matter 6
App-raising seniors’ health 8
. . . and more

Vital Signs 9
Probing murky waters 9
Revealing a Berlin “wall” 13
A bit of abracadabra 14
. . . and more

Letters 22

Point of View 24
By Rosalie Hughes

Student Notebook 25
By Erin Sullivan, M.D.

Faculty Focus 50
William Black, M.D.

Alumni Album 52
Andrew Auerbach, M.D., ’92

Grand Rounds 54
By Mary Turco, Ed.D.

Art of Medicine 64
Seymour E. Wheelock, M.D.

Cover

Cutting-edge medicine is all relative. In an Antarctic research camp, it’s a magic-markered sign on an insulated tent. That’s one of the lessons that medical student Malcolm Schongalla learned during an elective at the far end of the Earth. See page 32 to read about his experiences (and see more of his photographs).