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

Jay Dunlap, Ph.D., a professor and chair of genetics, received the first Robert L. Metzenberg Award from the Genetics Society of America, for his contributions to understanding the genetics of the fungus *Neurospora*; the award was presented at the annual Fungal Genetics Conference.

Allen Dietrich, M.D., a professor of community and family medicine, received the 2005 Curtis G. Hames Research Award. The award honors dedication to research in family medicine; the recipient is selected by the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the North American Primary Care Research Group, and the Hames Endowment.

Surachai Supattapone, M.D., Ph.D., an assistant professor of biochemistry, was named a member of the Clinical Neuroimmunology and Brain Tumors Study Section of the National Institutes of Health.

Nancy Speck, Ph.D., a professor at Dartmouth Medical School. The team also writes a regular series of articles for the Washington Post; their latest piece was titled “Overstating Aspirin’s Role In Breast Cancer Prevention: How Medical Research Was Misinterpreted to Suggest Scientists Know More Than They Do.”

A recent Dartmouth study about the relationship—or the lack thereof—between malpractice awards and insurance premiums drew press from all over the country, including the *Boston Globe*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and the Associated Press, National Public Radio, and the *Los Angeles Times*. “Physicians and insurers may fear multimillion-dollar jury awards,” the *LA Times* reported, “but the average court judgment in 2003 was $461,000, said Amitabh Chandra, a Dartmouth College economist and one of the authors. And 96% of malpractice cases that year were settled out of court for an average of $257,000, he said. . . . The researchers concluded that malpractice payments had risen in line with medical care costs, while doctors’ insurance premiums grew far faster—by double-digit percentages for some specialties. They suggest that recent malpractice premium increases may have had more to do with insurers’ documented losses in the bond market from 1998 to 2001.”

A recent feature in the *New York Times* Magazine about the importance of autopsies in assessing “diagnostic and treatment routines” and catching “mistakes and bad habits” said few hospitals today value autopsies. But “hospitals that do—teaching hospitals like New York’s Mount Sinai; Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, in Lebanon, N.H.; and Baylor University Medical Center, in Dallas—manage to absorb the costs [and thus] have a
biochemistry, was appointed chair of the Hematopoiesis Study Section of the National Institutes of Health.

Gilbert Fanciullo, M.D., an associate professor of anesthesiology, was elected to the board of the American Pain Society.

James Bernat, M.D., a professor of medicine, testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions about end-of-life issues and advance directives. He is former chair of the American Academy of Neurology’s ethics committee.

Ronald M. Green, Ph.D., an adjunct professor of community and family medicine, was recently awarded a fellowship by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. The fellowship will support his examination of ethical, religious, and literary perspectives on genetic enhancement.

Patricia Ernst, Ph.D., an assistant professor of genetics, received a Kimmel Scholar Award from the Sidney Kimmel Foundation.

Nicholas Shworak, M.D., Ph.D., an assistant professor of medicine, was selected as the American Heart Association’s Lobby Day representative for New Hampshire. One researcher was chosen from each state to exemplify the objectives of the association’s funding process.

Andrew Pomerantz, M.D., an associate professor of psychiatry, based at the White River Junction, Vt., VA, was honored as Associate Professor of Psychiatry, based at the White River Junction, Vt., VA, was honored as the Claremont, N.H., Valley Regional Hospital, part of DHMC’s Regional Cancer Program.

Dartmouth Medical School was again ranked among the top 50 medical schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. DMS was 35th in the research category and 34th in a category that factors in the percentage of graduates who go into primary care. DMS was also 17th in the “Rural Medicine” specialty category. The rankings are based on reputation, research funding, student selectivity, and faculty/student ratios.

The DHMC Adult Diabetes Self-Management Program was recently accorded recognition as an “outstanding program” by the American Diabetes Association.

Manager of the Year and Federal Employee of the Year by the Federal Association of Vermont.

Dean Seibert, M.D., an associate professor of medicine emeritus, was elected to the DMS chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA), the national medical honor society. Three third-year DMS students were also elected to AOA: Lisa Ernst, Greg Fuhner, and John Raser.

Jeffrey Barrett, a fourth-year medical student, was awarded a Minority Medical Student Travel Scholarship by the American Psychiatric Association.

Karen Skalla, A.R.N.P., received the Oncology Nursing Society Pat McCue/New Orleans Chapter End-of-Life Nursing Career Development Award. She is an oncology nurse practitioner at the Claremont, N.H., Valley Regional Hospital, part of DHMC’s Regional Cancer Program.

In this section, we highlight tidbits from past issues of the magazine. These messages from yesteryear remind us of the pace of change, as well as of some timeless truths.

From the Summer 1990 issue

Fifteen years ago, Dartmouth Medicine invited Montgomery Brower to write a feature. A 1981 Dartmouth College graduate who’d been a staff writer for People magazine for seven years, he described, at age 31, a change of heart:

“I hesitated when the chief of cardiac surgery at Leningrad’s Pavlov Institute of Medicine invited me, on a visit to Russia back in 1986, to observe some of his doctors at work. During my five years as a magazine journalist, I had so far avoided any conspicuous gore, and I was not sure I could stomach the sight of a Soviet citizen laid open by a scalpel. But before I could muster any excuses, I had been masked and gownned and led into the operating room, where one of the surgeons motioned me to step up onto a stool on the floor behind the patient’s head.

“I braced myself for a shock, stepped up, looked down, and was instantly awestruck. There before me lay a secret revealed: the heart tossing in its place, the lungs emptying and filling in a steady rhythm, every part real and alive. . . . For the next half hour, I watched and listened, my fears forgotten. . . . Later, as I left the operating room, I felt a new excitement. ‘I wonder,’ I found myself thinking, ‘if I could be a doctor.’ . . .

“As an undergraduate at Dartmouth, I had seen myself as strictly a humanities type. Although I had enjoyed my science courses in high school, I had concluded, after some unhappy experiences with mathematics, that I was constitutionally incapable of grasping quantitative subjects. I vilified most premed students as unimaginative careerists and celebrated my own literary bohemianism, probably in part because I feared the science that I was sure I could never understand, let alone enjoy. . . . The scientist and the humanist within us make rival claims to truth, and in the 20th century neither seems to understand the other. In that epiphany moment over the operating table in Leningrad, I believe I saw the human heart in both its guises: as a wellspring of feeling and as a wonderwork of biological engineering.”

Writing’s loss has clearly been medicine’s gain. Brower graduated from Cornell Medical College and is now deputy medical director of Massachusetts’s Bridgewater State Hospital.