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FEATURES

Care Package
By Deborah Lee Luskin **30**

Medicine is, at its core, the provision of care to patients. But in this country there's a lot of financial and regulatory baggage that goes along with providing care. Here is how one DMS alumnus—with more than a little help from his wife—handled that baggage.

Making Choice an Option
By Maggie Mahar **38**

Are patients who sign informed-consent paperwork really informed about the treatment they're about to undergo? Of course not. The fine print on such forms is for lawyers, not sick people. But *should* patients understand the risks and tradeoffs of treatment options they face? Of course. Dartmouth has been leading the way, not just asking for informed consent, but giving patients informed choice.

Being Present
By Robert Rufsvold, M.D. **48**

Sometimes the suffering in the developing world seems too intractable, too overwhelming, to dispel it, even a small part of it. But far away from home—about as far as he could get, in the Afar region of Ethiopia—one DMS alumnus concludes that just being present, fully present, may be enough.

ONLINE

Check out our online edition at dartmed.dartmouth.edu and this issue's multimedia **WEB EXTRAS** at dartmed.dartmouth.edu/fall07/html/we.php.



10



19



48

DEPARTMENTS

Discoveries **3**

Good news for bad backs 5
Putting folate to the acid test 6
... and more.

Vital Signs **9**

Celebrating community 9
The money-medicine mess 14
Pharm-freebie-free team 19
... and more.

Student Notebook **25**

By Cary Boyd, Ph.D.

Letters **26**

Transforming Medicine Campaign **58**

Faculty Focus **60**

Gregory Holmes, M.D.

Alumni Album **62**

Edward Harris, Jr., M.D., '60

Point of View **64**

By Harise Stein, M.D.

Grand Rounds **66**

By Gerald T. O'Connor,
Ph.D., Sc.D.

Art of Medicine **72**

Frank Gorga, Ph.D.

COVER

There's a lot of paperwork that goes on behind the scenes within health care today. See page 30 to read about the impact that has had on one DMS alumnus. The cover photograph was taken by Max Aguilera-Hellweg and colorized by Jennifer Durgin.