

DARTMOUTH MEDICINE seeks to convey the breadth and depth of the education, research, and clinical activities of DMS and DHMC; to serve as a publication of historical record; to stimulate thought and discussion on issues in medicine and medical education; and to reflect the range of opinions and activities among Dartmouth medical students, faculty, and alumni. Abbreviations used in these pages include DMS (Dartmouth Medical School), DHMC (Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center), MHMH (Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital), and DC (Dartmouth College). The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of DMS or DHMC.

DARTMOUTH MEDICINE is published four times a year—the Fall issue in mid-September, Winter in mid-December, Spring in mid-March, and Summer in mid-June.

We are happy to send DARTMOUTH MEDICINE—on a complimentary basis—to anyone who is interested in the subjects we cover. Call or write (see below) if you'd like to be added to our rolls. Please note, however, that the complimentary subscription offer can be extended only to U.S. addresses.

Our mailing list comes from seven separate databases, so some readers may receive more than one copy. Please share extras with someone else, or let us know (see our contact information below) the name and address and the codes above your name on all the copies you receive, and we'll be glad to eliminate the duplication.

The contents of this magazine may not be reproduced without permission, but we are often able—and glad—to extend such permission.

To reach DARTMOUTH MEDICINE:
 U.S. Mail: 1 Medical Center Drive
 (HB 7070), Lebanon, NH 03756
 FedEx/UPS: 21 Lafayette Street,
 #303, Lebanon, NH 03766
 Phone: 603-653-0772
 Fax: 603-653-0775
 E-mail: DartMed@Dartmouth.edu
 Web: dartmed.dartmouth.edu

© 2009 Dartmouth College
 DMS28M0909LP



DARTMOUTH MEDICINE

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of Dartmouth Medical School and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
 VOL. 34, No. 1 FALL 2009

FEATURES

Medicine in the Mountains
 By Rosalie Hughes and Katherine Kosman **26**

The people of the Himalayas live amid the world's highest peaks but suffer some of its lowest health indicators. Two young women with Dartmouth ties—a recent graduate of Dartmouth College and a current student at Dartmouth Medical School—recently traveled with health-care teams to remote villages there.

Clock-wise
 By Amos Esty **38**

A pair of Dartmouth Medical School researchers has become increasingly wise to the ways of the circadian clocks that control the daily routines of virtually every organism on Earth—from human beings to the simple fungus that they study.

Pondering Personhood
 By Robert Martensen, M.D. **44**

Two comatose teenage boys, 20 years and 200 miles apart, lead a noted ethicist and medical historian to ponder the nature of personhood—the nuances of determining if and when death is inevitable. This feature is excerpted from a new book by a DMS alumnus.

ONLINE

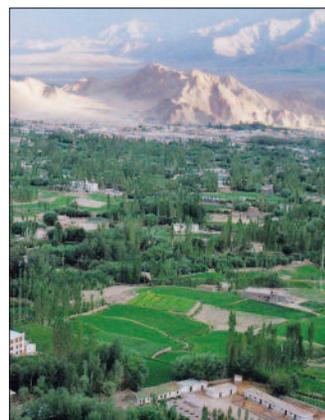
Check out our online edition at dartmed.dartmouth.edu and all of the multi-media **WEB EXTRAS** for this issue at dartmed.dartmouth.edu/f09/we.



5



10



26

DEPARTMENTS

Discoveries **3**

An accelerated IVF protocol 3
 Assessing preop MRIs 5
 Low-down on low-back pain 7
 . . . and more

Vital Signs **9**

Integrated system is set up 9
 Class Day ceremonies 10
 A vision of health 12
 . . . and more

Letters **21**

Point of View **24**

By Stephen H. Hennigan, M.D.

Grand Rounds **25**

By Vijay Thadani, M.D., Ph.D.

Transforming Medicine Campaign **52**

Faculty Focus **54**

David W. Roberts, M.D.

Alumni Album **56**

Charles Staley, M.D., '87

Student Notebook **60**

By Omri Ayalon

Art of Medicine **64**

Thomas C. Monego

COVER

Prayer flags fluttering from stores and trees, stunning scenery, and grinding medical hardships: these are among the memories that two young women came away with from their time in the Himalayas. The related feature starts on page 26. The cover photo is by Katherine Kosman, DMS '11.