

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 here include DMS (Dartmouth Medical School), DHMC (Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center), DH (Dartmouth-Hitchcock), MHMH (Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital), and DC (Dartmouth College). The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of DMS or DHMC.

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# Fall 2011 Vol. 36, No. 1 1 Dartmouth Medicine

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## FEATURES

**Moving Back Care Forward**  
 By Amos Esty **24**

There are a number of options when it comes to dealing with chronic back pain, but all of them come with caveats and qualifications. So at the Dartmouth Spine Center, information is an essential part of the prescription.

**Once Upon a Time**  
 By Alissa Poh **32**

To today's students, the DMS of the past probably seems as unbelievable as a fairy tale: A place with no women students or faculty. But that time wasn't so very long ago.

**9/11 + 10**  
 By Jennifer Durgin **40**

The impact of 9/11, even 10 years on, still resonates throughout the U.S. To mark the anniversary, a member of the DMS faculty, who in 2001 was the commander of the Pentagon's medical clinic, reflects on the day's events.

**At Home**  
 By William B. Toms, M.D. **44**

For over 40 years, family physician Bill Toms has processed the emotions of medicine by writing "short stories in verse." He shares here some insight into his relationship with a patient with whom he's always felt at home.

## ONLINE

Check out our online edition at [dartmed.dartmouth.edu](http://dartmed.dartmouth.edu) and all of the multimedia **WEB EXTRAS** for this issue at [dartmed.dartmouth.edu/f11/ve](http://dartmed.dartmouth.edu/f11/ve).



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Susan Whelihan

## COVER

Most Americans experience back pain sometime during their life. But there's little consensus about how to treat it. Dartmouth's Spine Center has become a national model in the field by being transparent about the choices facing patients and the outcomes they achieve. See page 24 to learn about the program's guiding principles. The cover illustration is by Russell Thurston.