“When trying to decide which of 100 companies to invest in, leadership is always top on the list,” says Sisitsky. “The highest performing organizations have one thing in common, high-performing leaders who build great teams with a shared sense of purpose—the reason everyone gets up in the morning. The medical school has that in spades.”

Sisitsky and his wife, Holly Hagens, recently pledged $1 million to the Geisel School of Medicine’s Interaction campaign—which is part of Dartmouth’s The Call to Lead campaign. The couple is working with Geisel Dean Duane Compton, PhD, to determine which of the many Geisel campaign priorities their gift will support.

“By contributing to the medical school, I can marry my love of Dartmouth with my increasing enthusiasm and love for the medical school,” says Sisitsky, who has served on the Geisel board for three years and became chair in 2018.

Sisitsky’s love of Dartmouth runs deep. “My father is Dartmouth Class of ’67, and it was not an easy thing for him to go to college. Dartmouth was pivotal in his life just as it was for me and my brother Peter.”

So although Sisitsky lives in San Francisco with his wife and three children, serves on multiple corporate boards, and oversees billions of dollars of healthcare investments for TPG Capital, he always makes time for Dartmouth and especially Geisel. “I make time for what I’m most passionate about,” he says.

INNOVATION THROUGH INTERACTION

Geisel’s $250-million Interaction campaign, launched in April 2017, is centered on three strategic imperatives: educate complete physicians, pursue bold ideas, and transform healthcare. The name of the campaign reflects the belief that the best way to spark innovation is through interaction—interaction between creative minds and diverse disciplines.

“Through this campaign, we’re investing in our greatest strengths and the areas in which we can have the greatest positive impact on the world,” says Duane Compton, PhD, dean of Geisel. “To have the support of someone as knowledgeable, successful, and thoughtful as Todd is a tremendous validation of who we are as an institution and where we are going.”

As Sisitsky has gotten to know the medical school, he’s been especially impressed with Dartmouth’s Norris Cotton Cancer Center. He had assumed Dartmouth would have a good cancer center, but he says he was “blown away” by the research, excellence in patient care, and impact regionally and nationally.

“This is a very high impact medical community,” he adds. And gifts from Sisitsky and other generous donors to the Interaction campaign will amplify Dartmouth’s influence on medicine and health for years to come. “If you want to have a broader impact on the world, this is a great place to start.”

JENNIFER DURGIN