

Dartmouth Medicine seeks to convey the breadth and depth of the education, research, and patient-care 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. Among abbreviations used regularly in these pages are DMS (Dartmouth Medical School), DHMC (Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center), MHMH (Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital), DC (Dartmouth College), and HS (housestaff). The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of DMS or DHMC.

Dartmouth Medicine is published four times a year—in Fall (September), Winter (December), Spring (March), and Summer (June). It is produced using a Macintosh G4 and Quark XPress 4.11.

We are happy to send Dartmouth Medicine—on a complimentary basis—to anyone who is interested in the subjects that are covered in the magazine. Write us if you'd like to be added to our rolls. We regret, however, that the complimentary subscription offer can be extended only to addresses within North America.

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© 2001 Dartmouth College
Printed by Lane Press
Burlington, VT
DMS23M0301LP

Printed on recycled paper



DARTMOUTH MEDICINE

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of Dartmouth Medical School and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
Vol. 25, No. 3 Spring 2001

FEATURES

The Millennium Flight By Susan A. Reeves, R.N. 26

It was New Year's Eve of 1999. Some donated organs were desperately needed for a transplant patient in Boston. And all other possible medical helicopters were spoken for. It was a tough dilemma that faced a DHMC administrator on that momentous night . . .

Deepest Secrets By Laura Stephenson Carter 34

Divining the deepest secrets of the human brain is painstaking work. Two neuroscientists at Dartmouth have devoted their careers to probing neurons and synapses in an effort to better understand this most mysterious of organs.

Cross Purposes By Timothy Rooney 40

There is growing recognition of the importance of cross-cultural issues in medicine. No matter how well-intentioned a caregiver is, it's not possible to truly serve patients without understanding *their* cultural tenets. This point is illustrated by a medical student's perspective on two clinical rotations.

An Audacious Effort By Drew Remignanti, M.D. 44

Smallpox was eradicated worldwide in the 1970s, and the hope is that within a few years polio, too, will have been wiped from the face of the earth. A Dartmouth graduate who spent two months in Pakistan helping with that effort tells his story.



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COVER

The cockpit of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center's air rescue helicopter is no stranger to drama. In fact, it's the "everyday" nature of a dramatic event that took place on New Year's Eve of the millennium that was most remarkable to the DHMC administrator who tells the tale. The cover photograph is by Jon Gilbert Fox. The associated feature starts on page 26.