Nothing endures but change,” observed the Greek philosopher Heraclitus in the sixth century B.C. British satirist Jonathan Swift put the idea this way in 1707: “There is nothing in this world constant but inconstancy.”

To say that the situation hasn’t changed in the 26 centuries (or three centuries) since those nearly identical aphorisms were penned is in a way a double redundancy. But tautology be damned—change is without question a constant in our lives these days, and nowhere is that more true than in medicine and science.

Even 22 years ago, the Russian-born science fiction writer Isaac Asimov noted that “It is change, continuing change, inevitable change, that is the dominant factor in society today. No sensible decision can be made any longer without taking into account not only the world as it is, but the world as it will be.”

That must mean, then, that the decisions being made these days at Dartmouth Medical School and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center are sensible ones, for things are surely changing here and there’s an air of excitement about the place. The faculty is growing. The facilities are being expanded. Funded research took an unprecedented 38% leap in the last fiscal year. New departments and research centers are being formed, in disciplines like the neurosciences and immunotherapy—the latter a concept whose legacy includes over 200 patents (and an eponymous foundation), noted that change has particular relevance to science: “Research is a high-dat hat word that scares a lot of people,” he wrote. “It needn’t. It is rather simple. Essentially, research is nothing but a state of mind—a friendly, welcoming attitude toward change.”

And humanitarians as well as scientists understand that fact; American poet Kathleen Norris pointed out that “disconnecting from change does not recapture the past. It loses the future.”

Change is obviously a subject to which aphorists have devoted a lot of thought over the ages. It’s also a subject that has been much on our minds at Dartmouth Medicine lately—for the issue that you hold in your hands includes one of the biggest changes in our nearly 27 years of publication: It is the first ever printed in full color throughout!

This is something we’ve wanted to do for some time, but the cost has been prohibitive. What finally allowed us to take the step was not a budget increase, but leaps and bounds in printing and photographic technology. We are delighted that the magazine’s appearance will now better reflect the vividness of the stories and the excitement of the news that we have to share in its pages.

We also made a far more subtle change in the last issue—just a tweaking, really—in the titles for a few of our one-page essay sections. What used to be “Faculty Matters” is now “Grand Rounds”; what was “Student Perspective” is “Student Notebook”; and “From the Dean” is now “For the Record.”

But there’s one thing we have no intention of changing or even tweaking, and that’s our commitment to trying to pique your interest regarding the scientific curiosity and the humanitarian spirit that make this place so special. Do let us know what you think of our new look. And we always welcome hearing how you think we’re doing generally.

Dana Cook Grossman