

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.

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## FEATURES

### **Blood Pressure** By Laura Stephenson Carter **26**

Ensuring a sufficient and safe supply of donated blood is a growing challenge for medicine. A member of the Dartmouth faculty is a national leader in the field.

### **One March Morning** By Timothy Rooney, M.D. **34**

The old Vermonter's stoicism made a strong impression on the medical student who was helping to care for him. Would modern medicine be able to repair his twisted, diseased intestine? Or would healing be dependent on the will of the gnarled old farmer?

### **Exhuming Bonaparte** By Robert E. Gosselin, Ph.D., M.D. **38**

Napoleon Bonaparte died in 1821, but the cause of his demise is still being debated. Experts continue to dig up—figuratively and even literally—facts about his final illness. A retired Dartmouth toxicologist who has long been fascinated with the French leader paints a picture of the puzzling case as if it were a modern clinicopathologic conference.

### **Life's Final Passage** By Richard A. Parker, M.D. **48**

A DMS alumnus shares his thoughts about the end of life—reflections that are pertinent for health-care providers who want to ease their patients' final passage, as well as for individuals who want to be prepared for their own or a loved one's last journey.



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## COVER

Blood is all over movie screens these days (for a story on that subject, see page 8), but it's sometimes in short supply in operating theaters. See page 26 for the inside story on blood transfusions. The cover photo, of an archetypal bag of donated blood, is by Steve Allen.