

For a **WEB EXTRA** with a video about a recent MEX-AMBUANCE trip south, see dartmed.dartmouth.edu/sp10/we07.



tables; one stretcher he'll use in the clinic, the second as a bargaining chip to acquire an on-road ambulance from the Red Cross, since the Unimog works best on mountain roads.

Markowitz continues to chip away at the project, finding new ways to help. For example, a photo of the team atop a 17,159-foot volcano appeared in *National Geographic Adventure*. It turned out that the magazine editor's father was in marketing with the Solar Oven Society, which sells solar ovens to resource-poor countries at low prices. Through this contact, Markowitz and his team were able to purchase and deliver 11 ovens: one to an elementary school in Tlachichuca, one to another town, and nine to a nearby mountain village, Hidalgo. MEX-AMBUANCE has also donated computers to Tlachichuca and Hidalgo.

Recently, the project joined forces with Rainier Mountaineering, Inc., a climbing service in Washington State. Rainier climbers will now help deliver supplies to Tlachichuca.

Toy: From a volcano climb in 1999 and a little toy ambulance, MEX-AMBUANCE has blossomed into a mammoth medical and educational mission. "What might have started out as a seed in my head has flowered into something that has been watered by many," says Markowitz. "We just want to do some good. Only through many hands does that happen—and for those many hands, Dr. Reyes and myself are forever grateful."

MATTHEW C. WIENCKE

CLINICAL OBSERVATION

In this section, we highlight the human side of clinical academic medicine, putting a few questions to a physician at DMS-DHMC.

Torunn Rhodes, M.D.

Associate Professor of Pediatrics

Rhodes specializes in neonatology and neonatal pulmonology and is medical director of DHMC's home oxygen and ventilator program for infants. She has been on the Dartmouth faculty since 1987.

How did you get interested in neonatology?

I had no exposure to newborns in medical school—they were off limits for clumsy medical students—but as soon as I set my foot in Dartmouth's Intensive Care Nursery (ICN) as a pediatric intern in 1982, I knew that was what I wanted to do with my professional life. I believe strongly in family-centered care and strive to get the infants home as soon as possible where they can be better co-managed with the family.

What do you like most about your job?

That's a very difficult question to answer. My job is a tapestry of intense experiences, all interwoven and important: the complex medical management in the ICN, the emotional rollercoaster we are privileged to go on with parents, the close working relationships with the staff. If I must pick, I would say the constant daily challenge. It is never a dull moment and there are always opportunities for learning. I love to go to work every day.



What advice would you offer to someone new in your field?

Listen to parents. Don't be afraid to love your patients. Practice evidence-based medicine.

What's the hardest lesson you ever had to learn?

The lesson I am still learning—to accept the things in my life that I cannot change.

Where did you grow up?

In Norway, in a small, idyllic coastal town. I explored the fjords and islands all summer, and skied in the nearby mountains and played in the snow all winter.

When you were young what did you want to be?

A telegraph operator on a Norwegian ocean liner that would take me all over the world (remember, this was 1950!)

What is your most memorable accomplishment?

Probably the Canadian Ski Marathon, which I did with my daughter in 1996. It is North America's longest and oldest Nordic ski tour. We ended up with blisters and frostbite, but triumphant.

What about you would surprise most people?

I am an open book, no surprises.

What's the last movie you saw?

The Hurt Locker. It brought the war in Iraq close to home—it was heartbreaking.

What's your favorite nonwork activity?

Spending time with my two granddaughters.

If you invented a time machine, where would you go?

Forward five generations to 2160, so I could look at the world as I want it to be—one country, with peace and justice for all. I could get to know my great-great-grandchildren.

What is a talent you wish you had?

Playing the violin.

What was your first paying job?

I have worked all my life. My very first job was at age 8, picking up daily groceries for an elderly neighbor for about \$1 a week. She would also give me a Christmas present wrapped in colorful cellophane paper from America. It was the most elegant package under our tree.

If you could trade places with anyone, real or imaginary, who would it be?

Honestly, I would not trade with anybody.

