

DARTMOUTH MEDICINE seeks to convey the breadth and depth of the education, research, and clinical 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

A Question of Balance By Constance E. Putnam 34

“What ifs” are always perilous. But sometimes powerful lessons can be learned from the past. A close examination of perhaps the most cataclysmic period in Dartmouth Medical School’s history suggests that sometimes upheaval will temper rather than topple an institution.

Primary Resource By Laura Stephenson Carter and Fitzhugh Mullan, M.D. 44

Primary care has often been overshadowed by the glamour of specialty care, especially at academic medical centers. Here are some waypoints in the history of primary-care medicine—both nationally and at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center—plus profiles of two primary-care physicians with Dartmouth ties, excerpted from a recent book on primary care’s role in American medicine.

Telling Johnny’s Story By Deborah Schiff, M.D. 50

A graduate of Dartmouth Medical School writes about a particularly memorable patient. And in the process, she proves yet again the truth of Dr. Francis Weld Peabody’s oft-quoted observation—that “the secret of the care of the patient is in caring for the patient.”



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COVER

It is lost to history what these earnest microscopists in the DMS Class of '62 were looking at—but not what course their alma mater charted before or since. In a newly published book, medical historian Constance Putnam recounts how the nation’s fourth-oldest medical school has evolved over the centuries. See page 34 for an excerpt from her book.