

FACTS & FIGURES

Resident expert

Training tomorrow's doctors



104,521

Total number of medical residents training in the U.S. (residents are physicians who have graduated from medical school and are doing added training for their licensure; they provide care at teaching hospitals under the supervision of faculty physicians)

3 to 8

Number of years typically required to complete residency, depending on the specialty

8,227

Number of accredited residency programs in the U.S.

1944

Year residency programs were established at Hitchcock

315

Number of residents in New Hampshire in 2003-04

46

Number of accredited residency and fellowship programs at DHMC

329

Number of residents and clinical fellows at DHMC

12

Number of states with fewer than 400 medical residents

SOURCES: DHMC AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION; DHMC FIGURES ARE 2004; OTHERS ARE 2005 UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE

If question on grads' minds is "Got match?" answer is "You bet!"

Jeffrey Barrett and Sue Ann Hennessy couldn't stop grinning. They hugged, exchanged excited chitchat, and hugged again—looking more like a couple of teenagers than a fourth-year medical student and an assistant dean.

Barrett, originally from Jamaica, had just learned that he had been assigned by the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) to do his psychiatry residency at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx—his first choice. "We're so proud of the accomplishment he's made," Hennessy, assistant dean for student affairs, said later. "Dr. Martha Regan-Smith, myself, and a lot of other deans at the Medical School, we've been his family away from home."

Incredible: When Barrett received his "Match Day" envelope—and the letter inside telling him where he would be doing his residency—he also sought out Dr. David Nierenberg, senior associate dean for medical education, to shake his hand and give him a hug. "He has been a mentor and incredible teacher to me," said Barrett of Nierenberg.

The hugs, smiles, and exclamations of Barrett and his mentors were actually not the exception but the norm for DMS students on Match Day 2005 in mid-March. Students and their spouses, partners, and friends, as well as numerous professors and

administrators, filled the chairs and overflowed into the aisles of Auditorium G at DHMC for the Match ceremony. Given the importance of residency in a physician's training, the excitement was understandable.

Hugs: Match Day is "a highlight of [students'] medical education. . . . It's everything that they have worked for," said Hennessy, by way of explaining the emotion in the room. "You know, when you're happy you usually hug the people you love or you care about . . . who [have] been there for you. . . . And generally," she adds, "students are very, very happy with their matches."

This year, more than 25,300 medical students participated in the NRMP, which uses a computer algorithm to match medical school graduates with openings in more than 8,000 accredited U.S. residency programs. Nationally, the most popular specialty choices this year were dermatology, emergency medicine, and several surgical disciplines; DMS graduates, however, once again showed a commitment to primary care, with family practice, internal medicine, and pediatrics topping the list.

Practice: Dale Ross is one of the '05s who chose family practice. Originally from northern Idaho, he is particularly interested in rural family practice and "getting out in the community." His wife, Angel, and their two children donned black cowboy hats for Match Day, and the whole family is looking forward to moving to Casper, Wyo., where Ross will be training at the University of Wyoming.