

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. Abbreviations used in these pages include DMS (Dartmouth Medical School), DHMC (Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center), MHMH (Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital), and DC (Dartmouth College). The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of DMS or DHMC.

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FEATURES

What System? By Doug McInnis

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No one ever sat down and designed the U.S. health-care "system." It simply evolved, in bits and pieces. As it now threatens to crack under its own weight, a DMS faculty member is a leading proponent of the need to stop tinkering and rethink things—from a "microsystem" perspective.

The Anatomy of an Epidemic By Laura Stephenson Carter **36**

June 2006 marks the 25th anniversary of the first published report about AIDS—a paper coauthored by a DMS alumnus. In the quarter of a century since then, the disease has swept the globe and killed 25 million people.

The Sick Shriners

By Roger P. Smith, Ph.D., and Nicholas Jacobs, Ph.D.

Hundreds of Shriners were in town for an annual high-school all-star football game and pre-game parade. What started as a festive day, filled with miniature motorbikes and capering clowns, turned chilling as the Mary Hitchcock Emergency Room began to fill up with sick Shriners.

COVER

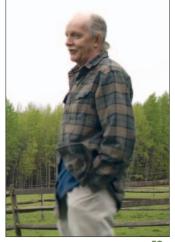
Dartmouth's Paul Batalden is a leading proponent of a concept called "microsystems" that might be just what the doctor ordered to cure the ailing U.S. health-care system. To learn how, see page 28. The cover photo is by Chris Milliman.



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