

F A C T S & F I G U R E S

Organ recital

A paean to the history of organ transplantation

Prelude

16th century

An Italian surgeon successfully transplants skin flaps from patients' own arms to reconstruct their noses

17th century

A Dutch surgeon performs the first successful bone graft, transplanting pieces of a dog's skull to repair a human cranium

Intermezzo

1905

An Austrian surgeon performs the first successful cornea transplant

1954

A Boston surgeon performs the first successful kidney transplant

1968

Congress passes the U.S. Uniform Anatomical Gift Act



Coda

1992

Dr. Horace Henriques performs Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center's first successful kidney transplant

3-5 days

Usual hospital stay for a DHMC kidney transplant patient today

82%

Average three-year graft survival for U.S. kidney transplantations

93.5%

Average three-year graft survival for DHMC kidney transplantations

SOURCES: UNIV. OF EDINBURGH, SCIENTIFIC REGISTRY OF TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS, DHMC

DMS graduates have a Match Day plea: 'The envelope, please!'

It was just before noon on Thursday, March 16, as anxious DMS seniors began filing into DHMC's Auditorium E. The occasion was Match Day—when medical students all across the country receive their residency assignments.

Flipping: "I was actually pretty calm until about three hours ago, then my stomach started flipping around in circles," said Chad Bingham, who'd brought along his wife, Misty, and their two young children. "I'm hoping to match with DHMC in general surgery," he added.

The tension and anticipation were palpable as the fourth-years buzzed about the room, snapping pictures and guessing what news the white envelopes at the front of the room might hold. "This is destiny in the making!" senior Jean-Paul Dedam exclaimed.

For over 50 years, Match Day has been a pivotal point in the lives of doctors-to-be. This year, 15,008 U.S. medical school seniors participated in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). An additional 11,000 or so applicants—including students at non-U.S. schools and osteopathic schools—also take part in the NRMP. U.S. seniors with military scholarships, however, get their residency assignments outside the NRMP.

Using a computer algorithm, the NRMP matches the preferences of applicants with those of residency program directors to

fill openings at teaching hospitals throughout the nation. Just before Match Day, applicants learn if (but not where) they matched. At that point, applicants who didn't match take part in what is called "the scramble," as they or their advisors contact programs that still have open positions. On Match Day, the destinies of thousands of future doctors are revealed—simultaneously throughout the nation.

"It's exciting, but I'm not as nervous yet as I think I will be once they start handing out envelopes," said Kathryn Chatfield, whose cheering section included a proud aunt and uncle who had driven up from Boston for the event and a friend who'd surprised her by showing up.

Quieting the din with some words of encouragement, Dr. Susan Harper, assistant dean for medical education, noted, "This is the first time in the 10 years that I've been involved in the DMS Match that every graduating student who participated successfully matched."

Spectacular: And Dr. Stephen Spielberg, DMS's dean, added, "I got a quick peek through the list and it's spectacular—it's a credit to absolutely each and every one of you."

Holding high a plastic tumbler filled with sparkling cider, class marshal Matthew Baird offered a toast to his classmates, likening Match Day excitement to being a kid again. "I want to see lots of running and yelling and crying and hugging each other and acting like fools," he said, drawing whoops and laughter from his classmates. "We de-