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compact—about 800 words. They're engaging, accessible, and usually very moving. And subscriptions are free.

The goals of this endeavor are many—to humanize medicine, to foster communication among and between health professionals and patients, and to find a language with which we can discuss the elephant in the room—our health-care system. I invite your readers to peruse the *Pulse* website (www.pulsemagazine.org). We just celebrated our first birthday, and during that time our circulation has risen to more than 3,000.

And thank you again for the kinds of personal stories you run in DARTMOUTH MEDICINE.

PAUL GROSS, M.D.
DARTMOUTH COLLEGE '74
Bronx, N.Y.

Kindred souls

I just read "My Story" by P.J. Hamel, and I can't tell you how much I enjoyed it. What an article! She truly is a fantastic writer; her heartfelt story really touched my heart and soul!

I have a friend who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer, and I sent her the link to this story (dartmed.dartmouth.edu/sp09/102). I believe it will be a tremendous help for her to read this excellently written article!

CINDY MARTIN
Exeter, R.I.

An account to remember

I want to thank P.J. Hamel for her beautifully written account of her experience with breast cancer. I was deeply moved by the description of her ordeal and

the range of emotions it evoked, from terror on first hearing her diagnosis to joy on finding she had survived—all told with unflinching honesty.

And I felt proud of DHMC upon reading her expression of gratitude to the people there who helped her. I'm inspired by her courage and am holding her in my prayers.

DANIEL LEDERER, M.D.
HOUSESTAFF '72-73
Providence, R.I.

Abiding appreciation

I thoroughly enjoyed the article by P.J. Hamel in the Spring issue of DARTMOUTH MEDICINE. I am also a survivor of breast cancer (it's been two years since I finished chemotherapy) who was fortunate enough to receive my treatment at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center.

I personally identified with much of P.J.'s story, especially the very positive impact that surviving cancer has had on her life. A fellow survivor once told me that she believed her cancer was a tremendous gift. At the time I was in the middle of my chemotherapy regimen, and I could not comprehend what she was talk-

ing about. But now that I have come through the ordeal, I know exactly what she meant. Living through breast cancer has given me a deep and abiding appreciation for life that I did not have before that experience.

I feel truly blessed to have been diagnosed in an era when the treatments are so effective, and I feel deep sympathy for those who have lost a loved one to this disease.

Like P.J., I also feel blessed by the amazing team of professionals I encountered at DHMC. I cannot say enough good things about the entire team at Norris Cotton—especially Rick Barth, Gary Schwartz, Dale Collins, Petra Lewis, Margie Cole, all the anesthesia docs, and every nurse who helped me along the way. Everyone I encountered demonstrated a rare blend of professionalism, expertise, and compassion that helped me feel confident and calm during a very trying year.

I would highly recommend the Norris Cotton team to anybody struggling with breast cancer who lives anywhere near the Upper Valley. Don't go to New York or Boston and hassle with

city life—the best care imaginable is right here at DHMC. In fact, I called the head of the National Cancer Institute to get his opinion, and he agreed.

Thanks again to P.J. for sharing her brave and inspiring story, which reminded me of how great it is to be alive and well!

ROBIN BENNETT
OSBORNE, Ph.D.
Thetford, Vt.

Osborne is an adjunct assistant professor of psychiatry at DMS.

What a trip

I would like to offer my congratulations on P.J. Hamel's excellent article in the Spring issue of DARTMOUTH MEDICINE. It was probably the best recollection of a trip through breast cancer that I have read. Kudos to her!

My own trip was much like P.J.'s except for reconstruction. I am sending the article to my family and friends.

PRISCILLA ROBICHAUD
Lebanon, N.H.

Make that the A-list

My attachment to DHMC has been tenuous at best: I was operated on about 10 years ago for a plaque-infested carotid artery—very successfully—by Dr. Robert Zwolak, a Dartmouth vascular surgeon. I return for a check-up every nine or so months.

Somehow, I got on the list of subscribers to your magazine, and I find it fantastic. It contains great articles, serious stories, excellent letters, and so forth.

I am writing to ask you to please keep me on your mailing
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Letters

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list. Out of the flood of magazines that I receive, yours is one of the very best.

DONALD R. HART, JR.
Salisbury, Conn.

Appetite for history

I read with great interest the article by Dr. Lee Witters in the Winter 2008 issue (“Diabetes Detectives”—see dartmed.dartmouth.edu/w08/f02). I wish I’d known while I was a student that there’s so much historical material about medicine in the Dartmouth archives.

I’ve always been fascinated by the history of medicine, and my interest was given a boost after I read Constance Putnam’s history of DMS (*The Science We Have Loved and Taught*, published by University Press of New England). Dr. Witters’s article whetted my appetite even more. Thank you for publishing a very interesting read.

ARIEL VITALI, M.D.
DMS ’94
Lubbock, Tex.

DHART on board

I enjoyed the article about the rollover incident on I-91 and the DHART response to it (“Help from on High”—see dartmed.dartmouth.edu/su08/f02). I posted it on the bulletin board at the Killington, Vt., Firehouse because Alf Rylander, who figures prominently in the story, was our first-response instructor for several years; we’re proud to have been associated with him. I also sent a copy of the article to my son, who is a Blackhawk medevac pilot with the Vermont Army National Guard.

Thank you for the great story.

DEBBIE BURKE
Killington, Vt.

Reading matter

My husband and I would like to be placed on the mailing list to receive your magazine. Our granddaughter has been in treatment for cancer at Dartmouth for the last year, and I have read your many informative articles during our long visits. Thank you.

RICHARD AND DONNA MOORE
Chichester, N.H.

We are happy to place on our mailing list anyone who’s interested in the subjects that we cover. See the box on page 23 for details. ■

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