Pinnacle Society convenes

The leadership of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center recently hosted the members of DHMC’s Pinnacle Society at a convivial luncheon in their honor. Dartmouth Medical School Dean John Baldwin, M.D.; Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic President Thomas Colacchio, M.D., and Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital President James Varnum were all on hand to welcome the Society members to the luncheon and to thank them for their generous support of DHMC throughout the year. The Pinnacle Society was established in 1999 to recognize donors who make substantial planned gifts to the Medical School, the Hospital, or the Clinic.

This year’s luncheon featured a presentation by Peter Silberfarb, M.D., chair of the Department of Psychiatry, who described some of the nationally significant research being done in the department.

Among those enjoying the information-sharing and fellowship at the event were 1 William Wilson of Hanover, who is now retired but was for many years the executive director of MHMH; 2 Henry Fuller of Marlborough, N.H. (left) and Edward Hamilton of Hanover (right), shown chatting here with Clinic President Tom Colacchio; 3 Edmund and Lynn Kohn of Cornwall, N.Y., pictured here with MHMH President Jim Varnum; 4 Madith Hamilton of Hanover and DHMC’s new vice president for development, Brian Lally; 5 Fritz and Ela Cluthe of Short Hills, N.J., pictured here with luncheon speaker Peter Silberfarb; and 6 Edward Hamilton, pictured again, this time with DMS Dean John Baldwin.
A margin of excellence  

By Sandy Adams

Unrestricted support—gifts large and small from donors who say, in effect, “Use this as you think best”—has always been essential in providing a margin of excellence for the medical education, scientific research, and patient care that occurs at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.

Jan and Bill Wesson are DHMC patients as well as donors. They have found their care at Dartmouth to be efficient and genuine, and they believe deeply in DHMC’s role as a health-care provider for northern New England. Residents of New London, N.H., and of Barbados, the Wessons provide significant support to DHMC and call it “an incredible asset to the Upper Valley and the whole region.”

Harold Smith* has also been a patient at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Earlier this year, he sent DHMC $5 and enclosed a note with his check. “I am currently working very little,” he wrote, “and money is tight, but I felt that after your hospital wrote off much of my bill because of my lack of insurance and inability to pay, the least I could do was send this. It’s not much, but every little bit helps.”

The Wessons’ devoted giving and Harold Smith’s small but very noble gesture both exemplify philanthropy that is close to the heart and close to home.

The gifts from the both the Wessons and Harold Smith exemplify philanthropy that is close to the heart and close to home.

A common method of making an unrestricted gift to DHMC is to write a check or make a gift of securities through one of the Medical Center’s two annual funds—the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Annual Fund or the Dartmouth Medical School Annual Fund. Last year, donors like the Wessons and Harold Smith gave more than $1,000,000 through these two annual giving programs, adding immeasurably to the quality of health care, medical education, and biomedical research at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.

In recent years, donors who have made unrestricted gifts have contributed enormously to the institution’s ability to provide financial aid and scholarship funds for DMS students. Unrestricted funds also provide a critical portion of the financial underpinnings that enable DHMC to provide charitable care for anyone who may need it, regardless of his or her ability to pay. Unrestricted giving assists in the purchase and upgrading of life-saving equipment, such as special incubators for tiny patients in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit or a sophisticated analyzer used in studying genetics. Unrestricted giving helps the DHMC leadership to develop vital services that can assist people throughout northern New England, like the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Air Response Team (DHART) helicopter and its specially-trained personnel, or to offer a breast-cancer support group for women in the Upper Valley.

Unrestricted gifts to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center benefit a wide variety of vital programs and services at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic, and Dartmouth Medical School. To make a gift through the annual giving program, write to Lisa Webster Drucker, Director of Annual Giving, at the Office of Development, One Medical Center Drive, Lebanon, NH 03756, or call her at 603/650-4044. An online pledge may also be made, at http://www.dartmouth.edu/dms/dms_alum/pledgedev/pldg.html.

For, as Harold Smith noted, every little bit truly does help!