

DARTMOUTH MEDICINE seeks to convey the breadth and depth of the education, research, and patient-care 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. Among abbreviations used regularly in these pages are DMS (Dartmouth Medical School), DHMC (Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center), MHMH (Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital), DC (Dartmouth College), and HS (housestaff). The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of DMS or DHMC.

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# DARTMOUTH MEDICINE

*A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of Dartmouth Medical School and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center*  
VOL. 25, No. 2 WINTER 2000

## FEATURES

### **Desperately Seeking Sound Bites** By Laura Stephenson Carter 20

The mainstream media—print and broadcast—is a major source of health information. How do physicians and researchers communicate their work to the public? And what can readers expect from the popular press's coverage of medicine and science?

### **Unforgiving Forests** By John Morton 28

In 1959, two members of the DMS faculty set out in a small plane on a medical mission to northern New Hampshire. They never returned. Four decades later, the impact of their death in the North Country's unforgiving forests still resonates through Dartmouth and the region's wilderness rescue community.

### **A Balancing ACT(G)** By James Wright 36

The four simple nucleotides—adenine, cytosine, thymine, and guanine—that make up DNA conceal a world of complexity. Both academe and society will have to deal with that complexity, maintains Dartmouth College's president.

### **End of an Era** By Jonathan Weisberg 40

S. Marsh Tenney, who was charged by the Dartmouth Trustees with revitalizing DMS in 1956, died in October at the age of 78. Had his "refounding" of the institution not been such a success, DMS would probably not exist today, and DHMC would be a very different place.



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## COVER

Doctors and researchers today are often called upon to explain their work in the popular press. What happens when the sound-bite mentality meets the complexity of science? The cover illustration is by Douglas and Susan Harp of Hanover. The associated feature starts on page 20.