Scenes from Dr. Koop’s 90th birthday party: 1 the guest of honor and the event’s co-chairs, Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Orrin Hatch; 2 four former surgeons general—Drs. David Satcher, Antonia Novello, Koop, and Richard Carmona; 3 Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, with Koop; 4 Dr. Judah Folkman of Harvard and Dr. Anthony Fauci of the NIH; 5 Dr. Roy Schwarz, former vice president of the AMA (and a current DMS Overseer), with Koop; 6 Dr. John Seffrin, CEO of the American Cancer Society, with Koop; 7 the cake, adorned with a bow tie of Koop’s own design; 8 the event co-chairs making remarks about the guest of honor; 9 another speech, this one by Dr. Timothy Johnson, medical editor for ABC News; and 10 DMS’s dean, Dr. Stephen Spielberg.

New DHMC complex is to be named in honor of Dr. Koop

Dr. C. Everett Koop, a Dartmouth alumnus and former U.S. surgeon general, took on big tobacco and talked openly about AIDS when few others would. His name was in the headlines then, and it will soon be emblazoned at DHMC—on a new research complex. “I take great pride in the fact that the four institutions concerned”—the Medical School, Hospital, Clinic, and College—were unanimous in the naming decision, said Koop at a celebration in his honor at DHMC.

The $140-million Koop Medical Science Complex will provide a new home for DMS’s Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences and flexible lab space for translational research. Linking its two wings will be a gathering space to be called LeBaron Commons. For more on the complex, see http://dartmed.dartmouth.edu/fall06/html/vs_building.php.

Jennifer Durgin

This architect’s rendering shows the two wings of DHMC’s Koop Complex-to-be.

Hospital of Philadelphia. He served as U.S. surgeon general from 1981 to 1989. In addition to being the government’s chief spokesperson on AIDS in the tumultuous years after the disease’s identification, he advised the public on a variety of other matters: smoking’s effect on health; diet and nutrition; environmental health hazards; and the importance of immunization and disease prevention.

In 1992, he established the C. Everett Koop Institute at Dartmouth, where he is still active as the Institute’s senior scholar and a relentless advocate for public health and health education. He is also the Elizabeth DeCamp McInerny Professor of Surgery at Dartmouth Medical School.

Golden: “I frequently muse upon the fact that I’ve had a very wonderful life,” Koop told Dartmouth Medicine recently. “I think I was practicing pediatric surgery right in the middle of the golden era of surgery. And I think that the eight years that I spent as Surgeon General was right on the cusp of the best years in public health. So I’ve seen the best. I’ve been part of the best. And that brings a sense of gratification.”

When asked what he might have done if he hadn’t been a physician, he chuckles. “It’s funny—if I hadn’t been a physician, I probably would have . . . run a bookstore,” he says. “I would have always been associated with finding eager young minds who wanted to learn more, because that is the biggest kick I get out of what I do.”

Laura Stephenson Carter

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