

DARTMOUTH MEDICINE seeks to convey the breadth and depth of the education, research, and clinical 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. Abbreviations used in these pages include DMS (Dartmouth Medical School), DHMC (Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center), MHMH (Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital), and DC (Dartmouth College). The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of DMS or DHMC.

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FEATURES

On the Other Hand . . .
By Laura Stephenson Carter **26**

Resolving the ethical dilemmas presented by modern medicine is not for the faint of heart. As technology introduces ever more perplexing questions, medical ethicists have stepped in to help caregivers, patients, and families chart the right course. Here's an inside look at DHMC's ethics committee, one of the nation's oldest.

Diabetes Detectives
By Lee Witters, M.D., et al. **36**

Sometimes illumination comes from looking to the future—teasing out new knowledge at the lab bench. But sometimes it comes from delving into the past. A professor of endocrinology and three undergraduates perused 19th-century documents for clues to the changing understanding about one of today's most common chronic conditions.

Avoiding the Shoals of Contracts and Codes
By Emily R. Transue, M.D. **42**

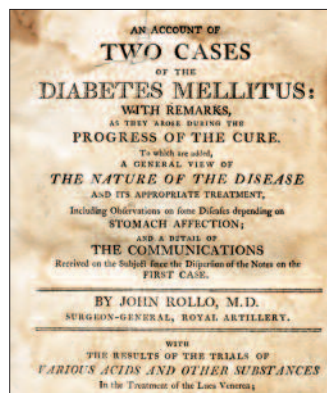
When a DMS graduate enters practice, she learns that the patient-care part of medicine, which she loves, is subsumed in a sea of insurance contracts and billing codes. In this excerpt from a book about her experiences, she tells of navigating a whole new aspect of medicine.

ONLINE

Check out our online edition at dartmed.dartmouth.edu and this issue's **WEB EXTRAS** at dartmed.dartmouth.edu/winter08/html/we.php.



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COVER

Occasionally, medicine's humanitarian ends aren't well served by modern machinery. If a comatose patient on a ventilator won't ever wake up, for example, is the ventilator really serving a purpose? That's a question ethicists can help answer, as explored in the feature on page 26. The cover photo is by Jon Gilbert Fox.