

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 here include DMS (Dartmouth Medical School), DHMC (Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center), DH (Dartmouth-Hitchcock), 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

**Changing the Rules**  
 By H. Gilbert Welch, M.D., M.P.H. **26**

The incidence of conditions like hypertension and diabetes has skyrocketed in recent years. Some of that increase is real. But some of it is due to changes in the way diseases are defined. In this excerpt from a soon-to-be-published book, a member of the DMS faculty explains the downsides of that trend.

**Book Case** **36**

Medicine today may seem to have all too much to do with technology, devices, and numbers. Here, an assortment of Dartmouth-Hitchcock clinicians and DMS alumni make the case for looking to books as a way to retain the art of medicine.

**A View of the Forest**  
 By Amos Esty **44**

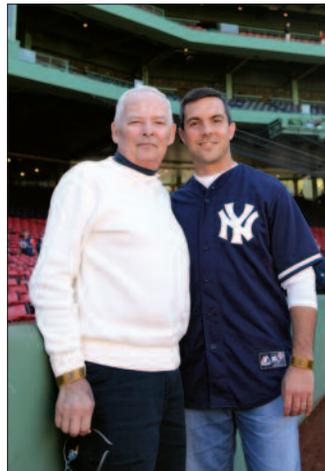
If the minutiae of science and anatomy are the “trees” of medicine, then the “forest” is an understanding of how the parts of the medical system fit together, of the change in medical practice from a solo pursuit to a team enterprise, of the rising cost of care. And more. DMS now gives students that big-picture view starting on their first day.

## ONLINE

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## COVER

Many diseases have numerical cutoffs that have shifted in recent years—a trend that has a member of the Dartmouth faculty worried. See page 26 to read an excerpt from a forthcoming book that he's written on the subject. The cover image is by Stocksnapper.