



**REPORT CARD:** In the National Research Council's ranking of 5,000 U.S. doctoral programs, pharmacology-toxicology and physiology at DMS were among the top 10 such programs nationally and molecular and cellular biology was in the top 20.

For a **WEB EXTRA** with links to articles about McCollum's appointment and accomplishments as dean at DMS, see [dartmed.dartmouth.edu/w10/we05](http://dartmed.dartmouth.edu/w10/we05).

## Heartfelt remembrances of a modest Texan

Imagine a born-and-bred Texan without a hint of a swagger. A dean who eschewed the perks of the office while presiding over a period of enormous growth. A researcher so modest that many people didn't know about his significant scientific accomplishments. That's a start on conjuring up what made Dr. Robert McCollum tick.

**Dean:** The dean of Dartmouth Medical School from 1982 to 1990, McCollum died of heart failure on September 13 at his home in Etna, N.H. He was 85.

His obituary in the *New York Times* hailed his contributions to helping to isolate the polio virus in the early 1950s, distinguish serum hepatitis from infectious hepatitis, and identify the cause of infectious mononucleosis.



DMS Dean Emeritus Robert McCollum.

And his tenure as DMS's dean, after 12 years as chair of epidemiology and public health at Yale, was one of notable productivity: research income rose 377%; eight new endowed chairs were funded; and the agreement was forged to move DHMC to Lebanon, N.H.

But it was McCollum's personal qualities that were at the fore at an October 16 celebration of his life. Born in Waco, Texas, he graduated from Baylor, then earned an M.D. at Johns Hopkins and a doctorate in public health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He is survived by his wife, Audrey; son, Douglas; and daughter, Cynthia, all of whom spoke at the October 16 event. They shared amusing anecdotes, including the fact that McCollum had a stash of much-wrinkled wrapping paper that he reused for years, so committed was he to the environment.

**Rung:** A number of colleagues and friends also spoke. "I remember when I was the lowest rung on the academic ladder—a brand new assistant professor," said Dr. David Nierenberg, now senior associate dean for medical education. "There was this . . . dean who would come up to me in the hall, know my face, know my name, and ask me in detail how things were going. . . . It just amazed me that a dean who had so much to worry about was actually concerned about a brand new rookie."

**O'Donnell also extolled McCollum's "infectious smile" and "integrity."**

Nierenberg also commented on McCollum's "wonderful, laconic, usually dry, sometimes ironic sense of humor."

Jane Hebb, who worked with McCollum in the bioepidemiology section after he stepped down as dean, offered an example: "He would always send us postcards of . . . creepy-looking insects" when he traveled, she said. So one year "a coworker made him a birthday cake and baked a big, black gummy rat in the cake to get even. How he laughed when he cut into the cake and found the rat."

**Listen:** Dr. Joseph O'Donnell, who has been involved with student affairs ever since McCollum tapped him for that duty, said, "What I remember most about Bob was his ability to listen, to hear diverse opinions—and to mold them into a whole. . . . Decisions were joint, with lots of input, honesty, and trust."

"I marvelled at Bob's humility, his complete disregard for the trappings of power," O'Donnell went on. "My enduring memory of him was ensconced in his little, unpretentious office with . . . piles of paper all around, writing thousands of hand-written notes to celebrate the achievements of others. . . . Bob reveled in the success of others."

O'Donnell also extolled McCollum's "infectious smile, . . . integrity, and genuineness," attributing to those qualities his "success at fund-raising . . . [donors] just loved him," he said.

Lots of people did, it's clear.  
DANA COOK GROSSMAN

## THEN & NOW

A reminder of the pace of change, and of timeless truths, from the 1980 DMS admissions brochure:

"A medical school's reputation is ultimately established by . . . [its graduates'] competence and compassion. . . . Dartmouth Medical School alumni are among the nation's most respected physicians and scientists, and their contributions to the . . . profession belie their small numbers. [DMS] now has 1,565 living alumni."



**4,505**

DMS alumni today, some of whom hold multiple degrees

**75%**

Percent who hold an M.D.

**10%**

Percent who hold a Ph.D. or M.S. in the sciences

**16%**

Percent who hold an M.P.H. or health-policy degree



**IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE:** No, it's med student Mike Piccioli. The intellectual prowess he flexes in class is matched by his physical prowess. Piccioli pulled a 24-ton fire engine 75 feet in 29 seconds to become New Hampshire's Strongest Man.

For a **WEB EXTRA** with links to more photos of the new art installation, see [dartmed.dartmouth.edu/w10/we06](http://dartmed.dartmouth.edu/w10/we06).



## Kids plus paint equals exuberance

The grounds of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center got a little brighter this fall—and not just during the peak of autumn foliage season. A colorful new art installation, part of a project called Inside & Out, was placed in a grassy area near the East Patient Tower.

**Needs:** Suzannah Luft, a second-year medical student and a Schweitzer Fellow at DMS, conceived of the project while teaching children's art classes this past summer at the AVA Gallery in Lebanon, N.H.

"One of the empowering things about art is you can work with other people to make something really special," says Luft. She decided to help her students create colorful life-sized self-portraits to bring some cheer to an unadorned corner of the hospital grounds. Her eight students ranged in age from 7 to 13, and

all have some special need, such as autism, developmental delays, or a chronic disease.

**Pose:** Luft had each of the kids strike a pose—waving or doing a handstand—while she traced the pose onto cardboard. Then Jeffery Sass, a metal sculptor affiliated with the AVA Gallery, transferred the silhouettes to aluminum, which he cut and polished. Next, "the kids went wild with acrylic paint," Luft says.

Every step the students took was a learning experience. "I really believe that art is essential for your soul," says Luft. Even mixing paint—discovering that red plus blue makes purple—was an opportunity for language interaction, she says.

Once the silhouettes were complete, it was time to install them in a permanent location. Luft knew just the place. Volunteering at DHMC last year, she

had noticed that several inpatient rooms in the East Patient Tower looked out on a weather-stained concrete wall. "It was so dismal," she says.

No longer. Patients in those rooms now look out at a crowd of colorful silhouettes. To top it off, Luft says, "the hospital painted that wall light blue so it looks like they're dancing against the sky."

The project is the first art piece created for Inside & Out, a collaborative public art project.

In 2008, the New England Foundation for the Arts awarded DHMC and the AVA Gallery a \$10,000 grant to develop a comprehensive, collaborative art plan for the DHMC campus. "We wanted to identify places and projects where we could collaborate with the community," explains Elisabeth Gordon, coordinator of the DHMC Arts Program. "This was the first of those projects."

Gordon is now trying to secure funding to add more artworks to Inside & Out. In the meantime, she's thrilled that the first installation has been such a hit. "I've gotten a lot of good feedback from patients and staff," she says.

**Gaze:** Luft, too, is delighted to have made a difference, both for her special-needs art students and for the patients who can now gaze at the result from their hospital room windows. "I really believe that art is essential for your soul and your spirit and your mental health," she says.

KIRSTEN WEIR

## THEN & NOW

A reminder of the pace of change, and of timeless truths, from the 1970 MHMH-DHMC annual review:

"In the spring of 1953, we moved into a shiny new, modern, gem-of-a-place with the latest equipment and the delight of air-conditioning. Imagine being gowned, rubber-gloved, masked, and having your hair covered throughout a six-hour operation on a hot, humid August day, and you can truly appreciate what a tremendous advance . . . came about with air-conditioned operating rooms!"



12

Operating rooms in 1970

1991

Year the Lebanon DHMC opened, with 16 ORs and an eco-friendly AC system

31

Operating rooms today



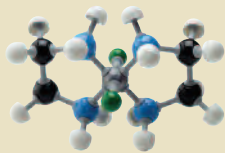
MARK WASHBURN

These boldly colored metal figures—newly installed on the DHMC grounds, within view of a number of inpatient rooms—were the work of a group of art students with special needs, led by a second-year medical student. There are eight figures in all.

THEN & NOW

A reminder of the pace of change, and of timeless truths, from the Winter 1990 *Dartmouth Medicine*:

“The questions scientists ask,” wrote the late Dr. Mahlon Hoagland, former chair of biochemistry at DMS, “generally take the form of predictions: If I do this, that should happen. If a hypothesis offers no way to prove itself true or false, it is not useful scientifically. It should be thrown away; it is a belief. Knowledge advances on the wings of testable ideas, not of beliefs.”



1956

Year that Hoagland codiscovered transfer RNA

1934

Year that tRNA's other codiscoverer, Dr. Paul Zamecnik, graduated from Dartmouth Medical School

2009

Year that both died

Haitian students: From havoc to Hanover

Regina Duperval could find plenty to complain about: Her country lies in ruins, her education was interrupted, and she was nearly killed by the earthquake in Haiti a year ago.

But “complain” is a word that seems to be missing from her vocabulary. The closest Duperval, now a DMS first-year, comes to griping is to note that her birthday falls on January 1, Independence Day in Haiti, which means that every birthday she must eat a traditional Haitian soup made of giraumon, a squash-like vegetable. “I’m just fed up eating the same thing!” she laughs.

Duperval and fellow Haitian Yamile Blain were medical students at the State University School of Medicine in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, when the January 2010 earthquake destroyed their school completely. They are at Dartmouth through a special partnership between DMS and their school in Haiti. Though many U.S. universities accommodated Haitian undergraduates after the earthquake, DMS is the first medical school to take in students from Haiti.

**Adjust:** Dr. David Nierenberg, DMS’s senior associate dean for medical education, spearheaded the effort, working closely with the Haitian school’s vice dean, Dr. Dodley Severe. Medical education in Haiti typically runs six years, combining premedical college work and medical courses. Duperval and Blain had started

their third year in Haiti, which is similar to the first-year curriculum in the U.S. However, their classes in Haiti were conducted in French. Both are fluent in English—that was one criterion in the selection process—but the language adjustment, along with the colder weather, is among the differences they’ve had to get used to.

**Floor:** At the time of the earthquake, Duperval was watching TV with four other women on the top floor of a friend’s three-story house. The house started shaking, and the ceiling collapsed on top of them so they could barely move. Eventually, with help from a stranger, all five were able to pull themselves out. The house had collapsed completely—the third floor was at street level. “The people living on the first and second floor, they all died,” says Duperval.

“That was the longest night of my life. I couldn’t sleep at all,” says Blain. “I didn’t want to stay in the house. I was so scared, any kind of vibration would scare me.”

The days following the earthquake were just as chaotic. For example, Duperval recalls a woman who fell onto a charcoal grill, suffered third degree burns, and died because she was unable to get to a hospital. Both she and Blain worked for Red Cross Emergency Services in the quake’s aftermath.

Duperval’s dream is to become a pediatrician and estab-



JON GILBERT FOX

Yamile Blain, left, and Regina Duperval, right, joined DMS’s first-year class.

lish an orphanage in Haiti. “I think children and I, we get along very well,” she says. As for Blain, she’s interested in either surgery or emergency medicine. “I like surgery,” she says. “I like working with my hands.” And, she adds, “I found out during the earthquake that everybody was scared and a lot of people got crazy, and no one really knew what to do. So that’s why I’m interested in emergency medicine—knowing exactly what to do in a critical situation.”

**Plan:** In the meantime, both are enjoying their time at DMS, though the plan is that they’ll return to their school in Haiti when it reopens.

DMS is enjoying their presence, too, says Nierenberg. “In fact, we wish we could invite more than two to join us,” he says. But space constraints in certain labs allowed just for two. “However,” Nierenberg adds, “we expect to continue working with Vice Dean Severe to develop this educational partnership.”

MATTHEW C. WIENCKE