

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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FEATURES

Drama on Denali By John Morton 20

When DMS faculty member Dudley Weider set out to climb North America's highest peak, it was supposed to be an adventurous vacation. But the expedition took a harrowing turn when Weider was called on to save several lives.

Facing Death 28

Three very personal perspectives on death offer insights for both patients and doctors. Sharing their stories are the widow of a DHMC cancer patient; a faculty member who has studied the care of dying patients; and a DMS alumna whose own experiences with illness have affected the way she practices.

At last . . . By Mary Daubenspeck 32

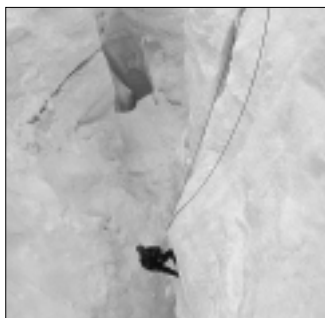
Palliative care—the care of patients for whom curative treatment is no longer an option—is receiving increased attention nationwide, including at DHMC.

So, you want to be a doctor? By Laura Stephenson Carter 40

The decision to go into medicine should not be made lightly, given the years of training and the financial burden involved. Yet how do premeds find out if medicine is really what they envision it to be? Dartmouth undergrads are getting a better view of the profession than ever, thanks to the DMS faculty.



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COVER

Dartmouth otolaryngologist Dudley Weider was hoping to get to the summit of Denali in June of 1998. Instead, he was drawn into a series of dramatic rescues detailed in the story starting on page 20. The cover photograph, of two fellow climbers negotiating the summit ridge, is by Scott Darsney of Mountainworld Images (scott@mtnworld.com).