

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.

Dartmouth Medicine is published four times a year—in Fall (September), Winter (December), Spring (March), and Summer (June). It is produced using a Macintosh G3 and Quark XPress 4.04.

We are happy to send Dartmouth Medicine—on a complimentary basis—to anyone who is interested in the subjects that are covered in the magazine. Write us if you'd like to be added to our rolls. We regret, however, that the complimentary subscription offer can be extended only to addresses within North America.

Because our mailing list comes from eight separate databases, some readers may receive duplicate copies. Please share extra copies with someone else, or send us the address panels from all the copies you receive and we will be glad to eliminate the duplication.

Dartmouth Medicine
One Medical Center Drive (HB 7070)
Lebanon, NH 03756
Phone: 603/650-4039
Fax: 603/650-4085
E-mail: dartmed@dartmouth.edu

© 1999 Dartmouth College
Printed by Lane Press
Burlington, VT
DMS23M1299LP

Printed on recycled paper



DARTMOUTH MEDICINE

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of Dartmouth Medical School and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
Vol. 24, No. 2 Winter 1999

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.



4



20



32

DEPARTMENTS

Vital Signs 3

On the threshold of the new millennium, there are 142 new students in four different degree programs, a new chair for a brand new department, new research results, and more.

Letters 17

Faculty Matters 18

By Mae C. Jemison, M.D.

Bench to Bedside 19

By Alan Eastman, Ph.D.

Development 46

Faculty Focus 48

Peter Silberfarb

Alumni Album 50

Robert Martensen '74

Student Perspective 55

By Jennifer Vines

From the Dean 56

By John C. Baldwin, M.D.

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).