

## DMS Receives \$3.4 Million Grant for Genetics

Dartmouth Medical School has been awarded \$3.4 million from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) to support the medical school's new Department of Genetics. The competitive four-year grant will serve as a cornerstone for the broad-based endeavor that Dean John Baldwin, MD, initiated to develop a focus and a formalized academic community for Dartmouth in the burgeoning field of genetics.

"We are deeply gratified that the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, one of the nation's foremost biomedical research organizations, has looked favorably on our proposal for genetics at Dartmouth," said Baldwin. "Genetics is the vanguard of molecular biology, and its intersection with computational advances is perhaps the most compelling aspect of science in the new millennium. It is the quintessence of the explosion of knowledge about basic mechanisms of normal and abnormal biology. We stand on the threshold of transforming medicine from palliation to ascertainment of wellness and

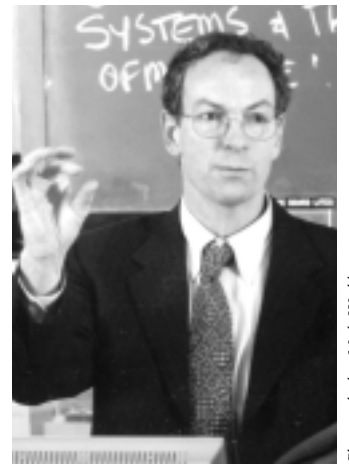
curative approaches to disease."

The Dartmouth College Board of Trustees, at its November meeting, approved Baldwin's appointment of pioneering DMS geneticist Jay Dunlap, PhD, as the inaugural chair and professor of genetics. "The grant is a sterling validation of our vision for a world-class department that connects the many facets of genetics at Dartmouth," said Dunlap.

The new department will bridge basic and disease-oriented research, drawing on the patient care programs at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and the biological science, information technology and engineering resources of Dartmouth College, as well as the expertise of other medical school departments. It will be headquartered on the seventh floor of the Remsen-Vail complex, where state-of-the-art laboratories are being constructed. The grant to DMS is the sixth largest of the HHMI grants to 41 of the nation's 126 medical schools to help find new ways to combine basic biomedical research and clinical treatment.

## Computers Guide Health Care

The information processing and communications management tools of computers are changing the way medicine is practiced. "Computers are melting the glaciers of biomedical knowledge," and that knowledge is "running downhill in... torrents," said visiting lecturer



Photography by: Mark Washburn

*Richard Rockefeller, MD*

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He discussed "Clinical Guidance Systems and the Future of Medicine" in talks at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and at Dartmouth Medical School. A family practitioner, Rockefeller is founder and president of the Health Commons Institute of Falmouth, Maine, which advocates informed shared decision making by patients and doctors through computer-based technology.

The health-care systems the Institute promotes offer guidance, not guidelines, Rockefeller emphasized. Clinical guidance systems are analogous to the aviation guidance systems that pilots use in the cockpit to navigate the skies to their destination. They give health-care professionals and patients continuous information to take them where they want to go, efficiently and safely.

"These systems don't have to be 'bossy,'" said Rockefeller. Rather they use common logic to guide gently and help "bust... assumptions" perhaps made too rapidly, based on past experience. He cited an example where an interactive program helped make a common diagnosis of sleep apnea for a patient who presented with uncommon problems. Moreover, the systems have implications for medical education as well as clinical practice. The human brain has only so much room, and the explosion of biomedical knowledge has resulted in overload. Inevitably, material is squeezed out, a brain drain Rockefeller terms "cerebrophthisis." He noted that, "We cannot be expected to manage and pass on all the knowledge in our heads." Computers, on the other hand, which process enormous quantities of information, can decompress the overburdened brain and make up for the "voltage drops" along the path of knowledge transfer.

The backbone of the communication system is now the Internet. It will require rethinking and retraining, Rockefeller acknowledged, but there are multiple small, non-threatening steps one can take to harness the promise of clinical guidance.

Rockefeller, clinical instructor of family medicine in the Maine Medical Center-Mercy Hospital Family Practice Residency Program, received degrees in education and medicine from Harvard University. He serves on numerous boards, including the board of directors of Rockefeller University and chair of the U.S. Advisory Board to Doctors without Borders.

## Dartmouth Community Medical School Reprises Successful Program

Dartmouth Community Medical School traveled to Manchester, NH, this fall for a repeat performance of "Medicine in the 21st Century." The seven-week lecture series, first presented in Hanover on the DMS campus, spring 1999, was held in the Goulet Science Center at St. Anselm College. Like the Hanover sessions last April and May, the Manchester programs attracted capacity crowds.

The course focused on two major aspects of medicine in the 21st century: the new biology and its impact on our understanding of health and disease, and the new technologies and how they are advancing medical diagnosis and influencing treatment decisions. Outstanding faculty from DMS again served as instructors. They discussed with the audience topics in a broad range of disciplines including molecular biology, genetics, cancer and health delivery systems. Interviews with several faculty members were aired as part of a health week program that radio station WZID, Manchester, produced.

Plans are under way for the Spring 2000 program scheduled for April and May in Hanover. A provocative series of discussions on topics ranging from HIV and AIDS to environmental toxins is planned, taught by a multidisciplinary faculty from DMS, Dartmouth College and Vermont Law School.

### FACULTY

**Suzanne Boulter, MD**, assistant professor of community and family medicine, was selected 1999 New Hampshire Pediatrician of the Year. A board member of several New Hampshire groups promoting children's health, she was cited for her "outstanding dedication and service to the children of the state."

**James Strickler, MD**, professor of medicine and of community and family medicine, emeritus, and former dean of DMS, has been named co-chairman of the board of directors of the International Rescue Committee. He has been a member of the IRC

board since 1982 and chairman of the executive committee since 1990. The IRC is one of the largest voluntary nonsectarian relief agencies in the world, providing assistance to refugees and displaced people in 28 countries.

### STUDENTS

The DMS Annual Fund Student Phonathon, held October 1999, was a success, the Development Office reports. Students surpassed their \$70,000 goal with a record-setting \$77,000. Money raised is already at work providing academic scholarships, supporting training and research, and improving and expanding programs at DMS.

### Dartmouth Medical School Research Awards

The Office of Grants and Contracts reports the following new and competing awards to Dartmouth Medical School for October and November, 1999.

#### Community & Family Medicine

D. Campbell	State of New Hampshire	New Hampshire Cancer Registry
P. Carney-Gersten	National Cancer Institute	Contribution of NHMN Data to the Surveillance Consortium
M. Karagas	National Institutes of Health	NCI Pilot

#### Medicine

P. Ely	Medarex	Bispecific Antibody Therapy for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
C. Von Reyn	U. Mass. Medical Center	New England AIDS Education and Training Center
L. Witters	Joslin Diabetes Center	Endothelial Dysfunction in Subjects with Glucose Intolerance

#### Microbiology

S. Fiering	Rockefeller Foundation	Production of Transgenic Mice with Controlled Copy Number and Integration Site by Utilizing the Flp and Cre Site-Specific Recombinases
M. Laspia	University of Vermont	Oxidative DNA Damage, Transcription, Repair and Aging

#### Pediatrics

E. M. Frank	NH Hwy. Safety Agency Media One	Statewide Child Passenger Safety Program Media Violence: Nonviolent Programming Contest
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#### Psychiatry

T. Mellman	Bristol-Myers Squibb	A Study Comparing Nefazodone and Sertraline for the Treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
M. Sateia	Merck & Company	A Double-Blind, Parallel, Placebo-Controlled, Multicenter, Polysomnographic Study of the Effects of L-759.274t

#### Surgery

K. Moodie	Collagenesis, Inc.	The Biological Behavior of Human Collagen Matrix Implanted in Feline Bladder Neck The Biological Behavior of Species Specific for Implants
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### AMA Visitors



Photography by: Audrey Fogg

*Dartmouth Medical School Dean John Baldwin, MD, (center) met recently with AMA President Thomas Reardon, MD, (left) and AMA Chairman of the Board D. Ted Leves, MD, at DHMC during their recent visit to New Hampshire. The AMA officials accompanied David Charlesworth, MD, incoming president of the New Hampshire Medical Society, in his visit to strengthen ties between DMS and the Society.*