DUDLEY J. WEIDER, MD

Dr. Dudley Johnston Weider died on Friday, February 18, 2005, at the age of 66. At the time of his death, he had practiced at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for 35 years.

Dr. Weider was a graduate of Dartmouth College (AB 1960) and of Tufts University Medical School (MD 1964). Following his internship at St. Luke’s Hospital in Cleveland, he joined the US Public Health Service Hospital in Kotzebue, Alaska. Subsequently, he completed his residency in otolaryngology at the Cleveland Clinic and entered practice as Chief of Otolaryngology at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. In 1974, he joined the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic surgical staff. He achieved the academic rank of Professor of Surgery in 1989.

Dr. Weider was a member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, the American College of Surgeons, The Triologic, the AMA Centurion Club-Deafness Research Foundation, the New England Otolaryngological Society, the Society of University Otolaryngologist-Head and Neck Surgeons, and the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honorary Society. In addition, he held memberships and elected offices in numerous other medical and community service organizations.

Dr. Weider was an avid adventurer. He enjoyed the full range of winter activities and was an accomplished alpine and Nordic skier. He enjoyed cycling, running, and mountaineering. It is perhaps fitting and poetic that he died suddenly while skiing at the Dartmouth Grant for a holiday weekend with fellow adventurers.

JOHN MORRISON HEAD, MD

Dr. John Morrison Head of Norwich died Sunday, June 19, 2005, at the age of 78. He had served as Chief of the surgical service at the White River Junction Veterans Administration Medical Center for 15 years before his retirement in 1994.

Dr. Head graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Missouri in 1946 and from Harvard Medical School in 1950. He completed his internship at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1951 and worked with the Public Health Service Hospital in Portland Maine prior to returning to Massachusetts General Hospital to complete his residency in general surgery. Following his residency, he joined the staff of Massachusetts General Hospital and maintained a private practice there for 20 years before joining the Dartmouth Medical School faculty and assuming his leadership role at the White River Junction Veterans Administration Medical Center. He held an academic appointment with Harvard Medical School and was a Thoracic Surgery consultant to several hospitals in the Boston area. From his work at the Shriners Burns Institute of Boston, he became a leading authority on pulmonary burns.

His talents extended to the field of music. He was a gifted cellist, having performed as soloist with the St Louis Symphony Orchestra at age 15 and on numerous occasions in the Boston area in subsequent years. He was an active member and supporter of the Upper Valley Music Center, where he served on the executive board until his death.
IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM T MOSENTHAL, MD

William T Mosenthal died on November 26, 2003, at the age of 87. He had practiced surgery at the Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital for nearly 35 years before retiring from clinical practice in 1981. After retiring from surgery, he moved on to a second career, teaching Anatomy at Dartmouth Medical School until 2002.

Dr Mosenthal was a graduate of Dartmouth College (AB 1938) and of Cornell University Medical College (MD 1942). After two years of training in general surgery at the Roosevelt Hospital in New York, he joined the Army Medical Corps and served as a Captain in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Dr Mosenthal completed his surgical training at the Roosevelt Hospital after returning from his military service. He joined the Hitchcock Clinic with a staff position at the Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital and a faculty position at Dartmouth Medical School immediately upon completion of his surgical training. He led the Section of General Surgery at Dartmouth-Hitchcock for a decade before his retirement, served on the Clinic Board of Governors for many years, and was active in a wide variety of Medical Center committees and programs. He achieved the academic rank of Clinical Professor of Surgery in 1971 and was granted a dual appointment as Professor of Anatomy in 1981.

In 1955, he established the nation’s first ICU at the Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, and in 1994 the hospital dedicated its Intensive Care Unit to Dr Mosenthal. He also created a school for the postgraduate training of OR nurses.

Dr Mosenthal was an effective teacher and role model for many medical students and surgical residents. On three occasions, the graduating class of Dartmouth Medical School honored Dr Mosenthal with the class’s Basic Science Teaching Award. The Dartmouth – Mosenthal Surgical Society was established by the medical students in 1995 to recognize Dr Mosenthal’s contributions to the career development of students interested in surgery.

John Lyons, a surgical colleague, eulogized Dr Mosenthal at his memorial service, saying “He was part of an extraordinary group of well-trained young physicians who came here shortly after the war…He was the last surviving member of that exceptional group. His death truly marks the end of an era (at Dartmouth-Hitchcock)…He was a master surgeon and a gifted teacher of that craft and art.”

Dr Mosenthal led a very full life. He is survived by five children, 10 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife, Marie Hastings, and two of his seven siblings. Dr Mosenthal was an active member of the Hanover Country Club, an avid Boston Red Sox fan, a gardener, an accomplished musician on the French horn, a stamp-collector, a wood worker, and squash player to the age of 87.
In Memoriam

SETH RESNICOFF, MD

Dr Seth Resnicoff died on Tuesday, July 5, 2005, at the age of 68. His surgical practice served central New Hampshire for 33 years and he was a senior general surgeon at the Concord Hospital at the time of his death. Dr Resnicoff entered the University of Buffalo medical school after three years of undergraduate study, graduating in 1962, with honors for surgical research and anatomy. He served as captain of the US Army from 1963 to 1965. He was stationed at Brook General Hospital at Fort Sam Houston, Texas where he treated soldiers during the early years of the Vietnam War. Dr Resnicoff completed his surgical training at the Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York, from 1965 to 1971, having served as chief resident in cardiovascular surgery during the last two years of residency.

In 1990, he helped establish the Dartmouth Surgical Residency Training Program in Concord, New Hampshire and in 1995, developed the Surgical Training and Endowment Fund to provide lectures, books and gifts for the surgical residents under his supervision.

Throughout his career, Dr Resnicoff contributed his time to local and regional medical and business communities. He held the position of chair of the Department of Surgery at the Concord Hospital, vice president of the New England Surgical Society, and secretary and treasurer of the New Hampshire Medical Society. He also served on the Board of Directors at Concord Saving Board, and as chair of the board and president of Strategic Healthcare – a fiscal intermediary providing low rate medical liability insurance to local physicians. In addition, Dr Resnicoff devoted himself to several philanthropic efforts at Concord Hospital, chairing the professional division of the Capital Campaign for Concord Hospital’s Center for Cancer Care. He also led several community based funding campaigns including serving as chair of the annual campaign for the Concord YMCA, acting as director and president of the United Way of Merrimack County, and director of the NH Heart Association. He also served on the Board of Trustees at the Derryfield School in New Hampshire, as well as the Mayhew Foundation in Bristol, New Hampshire.

Seth will be remembered by his colleagues and partners as a superb clinician, mentor, and teacher.
IN MEMORIAM

RADFORD CHAPPLE TANZER, MD

Dr Radford Chapple Tanzer of Hanover died Thursday, June 12, 2003, after a brief illness at the age 97. He had practiced surgery at the Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital since 1939. He retired from practice in 1970 as a Professor of Plastic Surgery Emeritus at Dartmouth Medical School and continued to serve as visiting professor at the University of Florida Medical School in Gainesville, during the winter months, for several more years.

Rad Tanzer was born and raised in Little Falls, N.Y. The son of a dentist, he was the oldest of five children and first came to Hanover, New Hampshire as a Dartmouth freshman in September 1921 (AB 1925). Dr Tanzer’s postgraduate studies took him to Harvard University Medical School (MD 1929) in Boston. After completing his residency in Surgery at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY, he joined the DMS faculty as its 16th physician in 1939. He studied under two great plastic surgery pioneers: as a senior fellow at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital under Dr Jerome Webster and in England (1939) under Sir Harold Gillies.

Following the War, in 1946, he returned to Hanover as one of only three full-time plastic surgeons in northern New England (ME, NH, VT). He started the Section of Plastic Surgery in Hanover, became chairman, and opened the first approved residency training program in plastic surgery in New England at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital.

Dr Tanzer was a founding member of the American Board of Plastic Surgery and, in 1959, helped establish the New England Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons. He served as President of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons in 1972. Dr Tanzer’s innovative work in ear reconstruction was perhaps his most important contribution to plastic surgery. In 1951, with his first ear reconstruction in Hanover for a child born with one ear missing, he had begun to develop a multi-staged procedure for rebuilding the external ear using a framework of autogenous cartilage. He subsequently presented his work to the 1958 annual meeting of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons in Chicago. During the next 15 years he completed 44 well-documented cases of ear reconstruction with an almost perfect record of follow-up.

Dr Tanzer’s first wife, Velma Maul Tanzer, died in 1990 after 47 years of marriage. He is survived by his second wife, Sheila Harvey, and three sisters, eight nieces and nephews and four stepchildren. Dr Tanzer was a vestryman of his Episcopal Church in Hanover and a director of the United Way of the Upper Valley. He reached his 90’s before he became convinced, by an unexpected fall, to stop riding his bicycle. For the final few years of his life he was the proud holder of the Boston Post, gold-topped cane presented to the oldest resident of the Hanover area.

Before his death, Dr Rad Tanzer and his wife Sheila, established a legacy for plastic surgery at Dartmouth Medical School. Their endowment will support teaching the medical arts and science of plastic surgery at DHMC.