The Dartmouth Ears program (you can find more about the origin of our name below) is an opportunity created by Geisel and Nathan Smith Society students at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) and Veterans Administration White River Junction Medical Centers (VAMC). It pairs undergraduates with medical students in a patient visitation program on the Medical Specialties floor at DHMC and on the medical & psychiatric floors at the VAMC. The program seeks to help patients by being present to hear their stories and offer encouragement.

Due to unexpected administrative issues, Dartmouth Ears at DHMC was delayed from its scheduled start date in the fall. We are pleased to announce that the visitation program is back on track and will be held over the Winter and Spring terms of this year (14W and 14S).

If you are interested in applying to participate in Dartmouth Ears at DHMC, please read the following:

We require that students commit to visiting the ward to which they are assigned over the winter & spring terms on a weekly basis from January through the end of Spring term (early-June). Days/times of the week at which students may volunteer are flexible, and transportation can almost be arranged, so that this is not an impediment to participation. A mandatory orientation for students will be held during the week of November 11th at DHMC (exact date/time TBD).

Please note, we only accept applications from students who have previously participated in the Nathan Smith Society Shadowing Program. Please also be aware that in order to visit patients in the hospital setting, students selected to participate are required to provide records of a current flu immunization, hepatitis B vaccination and recent TB test. All participating students will be given ID badges and Dartmouth Ears shirts.

If you would like to apply to participate in Dartmouth Ears, please fill out our SurveyMonkey (http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FYDSQKS) by Thursday, November 7th. If you have any questions about the program, please email Geoffrey Noble (Geoffrey.P.Noble.GR@dartmouth.edu) or David Qian (David.C.Qian.GR@dartmouth.edu) or Aditi Misra (Adwiteeya.Misra.14@dartmouth.edu). If you previously filed an application for the fall term, please do so again.

Thank you for your interest in Dartmouth Ears.

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The name for Dartmouth Ears comes from the Buddhist tradition. "Why does the Buddha have such big ears?" Buddhas are always portrayed as having large, pendulous ears. In Western culture, small ears close to the head are thought to be the most beautiful, but in some Eastern traditions large ears are looked upon as auspicious because they indicate wisdom and compassion. So, the Buddha is depicted as having big ears because he is the compassionate one. He hears the sound of the world - hears the cries of suffering.