stomach cancer, he contacted a local physician who put him in touch with a doctor there. That was the start of a long correspondence and a fruitful relationship. Raizman now visits Northern India about every two years. (His audience with the Dalai Lama came on the first trip.) Early on, he helped his colleague in the western-style hospital. Raizman personally donated an endoscope plus other equipment and supplies. Now that the hospital is running fairly well, he travels to more remote communities and refugee camps to provide care.

Raizman, a private-practice gastroenterologist and medical director of the UPMC Monroeville Surgery Center, sits on the School of Medicine’s Board of Visitors. He was recently asked to be on the steering committee for the new area of concentration program in global health. AOCs give Pitt med students a chance to earn certificates in specific areas of interest; certificates are offered in seven areas, including geriatrics, women’s health, and medical humanities. Raizman not only signed on to the global health steering committee, he donated seed money for the AOC and to support students interested in donating their time and skills in the developing world.

Students can grow in many ways by providing health care where it’s so desperately needed, says Raizman. They can refine skills in physical diagnosis, because laboratory analysis and equipment are simply unavailable in hard-to-reach places like Northern India. Other effects of such experiences are more difficult to define, says Raizman, noting that his own sense of compassion has deepened. Working in India requires him to think less about peripherals like staffing and equipment and more about caring for patients—what’s most important. It’s never too early to learn such lessons, he says: “When we train young physicians, the perspective they have is the perspective that we give them.”

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THE ROAD TO DHARAMSALA
RAIZMAN’S WORLD VIEW
BY CHUCK STARESINIC

Medical students who are wondering how to get from Scaife Hall to, say, the residence of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, India, might start by talking to Richard Raizman (MD ’71). He knows a bit about that journey. In fact, students interested in expanding their course of study to explore almost any country from Albania to Zanzibar will find support, encouragement, and a role model in Raizman.

A decade ago, Raizman knew little about Northern India or the 100,000 Tibetan exiles living there, but he knew gastrointestinalology. And when he learned that many Tibetan communities in India suffered a high incidence of gastrointestinal problems, including...