

*People and programs
that keep the school
healthy and vibrant*



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."



A Tibetan community in Bir, Northern India

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 gastroenterology. And when he learned that many Tibetan communities in India suffered a high incidence of gastrointestinal problems, including



Raizman (with beard) with colleague Tsetan Sadutshang (left) talking with a patient at a clinic in Bir

BOOSTER SHOTS

Recently retired Pitt neurosurgeon and clinical professor **Peter Sheptak** (MD '63, Res '68) could be excused if he seemed to celebrate Mario Lemieux's goals more than most. The Pittsburgh Penguins star center twice had back surgery performed by Sheptak, the team neurosurgeon. In addition to being an irrepressible sports fan, Sheptak was known on campus as a major teaching influence in the Department of Neurological Surgery for more than 35 years. His colleagues have initiated a campaign for an endowed chair in his name.

Ross Musgrave (MD '43), Distinguished Clinical Professor of Surgery and executive director emeritus of the Medical Alumni Association, welcomed students into his home for dinner and into his office for advice about life and careers. If a student had a big residency interview pending, Musgrave might prep him or her with mock interview questions or even go over proper appearance. (However, it appears he never recommended his signature lapel flower.) A problem-based learning classroom, where students tackle complex, real-world problems in small groups, was recently named in Musgrave's honor. It is the first PBL room with a namesake. —CB and CS

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