



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In the tradition of Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann Medical College

Thomas J. Henderson, M.D., DUCOM '06, has been selected to be chief resident in the Emergency Medicine Department of York Hospital, York, Pa., for the 2008/09 academic year.

Former Fellows and Residents

Apurv Khanna, M.D., Resident, HU, Internal Medicine '96, a hypertension specialist, joined the Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

Jonathan Kiev, M.D., Resident, HU, General Surgery '94, a thoracic surgeon specializing in minimally invasive surgical procedures, joined Annapolis (Maryland) Thoracic Surgery Associates at their location in Anne Arundel Medical Center's Donner Pavilion. He had practiced at the Virginia Commonwealth

University as an associate professor of surgery since 2003, and was director of thoracic surgical services at the VCU Health System.

David S. Krause, M.D., FACP, Resident, MCP, Internal Medicine '78, was appointed senior vice president of research and development and chief medical officer at Zelos Therapeutics, a developer of treatments for bone disorders. Krause has served as a clinical and regulatory advisor to Zelos since 2006.

Jack Sobel, M.D., Resident, MCP, Infectious Diseases '78, was one of three faculty members at Wayne State University School of Medicine who received the honor of Distinguished Professor. Sobel has been a professor in the Department of Internal Medicine since 1985, the same year that he was named chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases.

Tales of a Three-Legged Cat Help Families Cope with Loss

Henry, a three-legged cat, has been inspiring children, parents and families across the country. A homeless mountain cat found with his leg dangling following an accident, Henry needed emergency amputation to save his life. This should have been the end of his life, but instead served as a new beginning. He moved into a home, gained a family, and has answered more than 27,000 letters from people in similar situations. Henry has his own website, makes occasional local appearances, and publishes books about his story to help families cope with disability. His newest mission is to help the families and children of wounded heroes returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Henry was a refugee from the Cedar Fires in Southern California in the fall of 2003. A mountain home in Julian, Calif., owned by psychotherapist Cathy Conheim and retired obstetrician-gynecologist **Donna Brooks, WMC '65**, housed dozens of people following the fire, and Henry arrived with one of the fire victims. Conheim and Brooks, who live in La Jolla, Calif., were faced with a tough decision: euthanize Henry to stop his suffering or amputate his limb and hope for recovery.

They decided on the second option. Not cat fanciers themselves, they offered Henry a temporary home until he recovered, only to realize that the resilient kitty had become a permanent part of their lives. Conheim started telling Henry's story via email to her friends, who told more friends. By word of mouth, Henry's story of courage and survival was inspiring responses from people Conheim had never met. She started replying to these emails in Henry's voice, and he became known as a "therapet," providing guidance and comfort for humans coping with their own disability or that of a family member.

"People talk to animals differently," says Conheim. "For people who have suffered a loss in their lives or are ill, sometimes it's easier to relate to an animal that's dealt with that adversity."

As a result, Henry's world became the basis of a larger program, "The Just Me Project." The project distributes a kit to challenged families. Kits contain a child's book (*What's the Matter with Henry? The True Tales of a Three-Legged Cat*) and a workbook (*Kibble for Thought, Homework for Humans*), as well as CDs of music to reduce stress.

"It's a structured program to build coping skills and engage participants in reframing their experience," says Conheim. "Henry the cat establishes a vocabulary that allows children and adults to sort through their complex feelings."

Brooks and Conheim themselves have funded the publication of Henry's books, and they donate any profits to animal shelters. The book *Henry's World: A Three-Legged Cat's View of Human Absurdity* has sold thousands of copies online and through catalogues. Over 30,000 of Henry's books are out in the world, and he has raised \$50,000 to help other animals.

With the help of various charity organizations, at least 2,000 "Just Me Project" kits have been distributed to the families of wounded war heroes. Brooks and Conheim have formed a nonprofit and are seeking funding to expand the "Just Me Project" to all families of those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as all children with chronic illness, amputations or other long-term challenges. For more information, visit www.henryworld.org.

