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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL COLLEGES (AAVMC) NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Washington, D.C. – The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) has named Dr. Andrew Maccabe as its new executive director, effective May 15, 2012. Dr. Maccabe is currently employed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Infectious Diseases. He serves as CDC's liaison to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, where he coordinates policy and programs between the two agencies. Prior to his appointment with the CDC, Dr. Maccabe served as Associate Executive Director at AAVMC where he led national programs in veterinary medical education.



In anticipation of entering his new position at AAVMC, Dr. Maccabe said, "I'm energized by the challenges we face and excited by the opportunities we have to advance veterinary medical education." Dr. Maccabe strongly believes that AAVMC represents the future of veterinary medicine. "The colleges are training the next generation of veterinarians who will lead our profession tomorrow. Thirty years from now, they will be practicing in ways that few of us can even imagine today," he said.

While veterinary medical education and the veterinary profession have been facing hardships such as budget cuts and a decline in veterinary visits, more opportunities are opening for veterinarians in new areas such as food safety and security, animal health and welfare, public health, epidemiology, and research. To prepare for the future, the AAVMC is working with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and others to emphasize the importance of preventive pet healthcare, and also has spearheaded the North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium (NAVMEC), which released the *Roadmap for Veterinary Medical Education in the 21st Century: Responsive, Collaborative, Flexible*.

Among its many recommendations for improving veterinary medical education, the NAVMEC *Roadmap* emphasizes the importance of the One Health concept, an initiative which Dr. Maccabe is uniquely qualified to champion. The AAVMC One Health philosophy accepts the inextricable connection between human and animal health and the need to safeguard both. Put into practice, the One Health approach fosters collaborations and the free flow of information among multiple, interrelated fields: medicine, public health, the environment, and agriculture. Dr. Maccabe emphasizes that "veterinary medical colleges conduct the biomedical research that provides the scientific foundation for the profession and improves our understanding of human and animal health."

Dr. Maccabe began his professional career in Jefferson, Ohio where he worked in a mixed animal veterinary medical practice with primary emphasis on dairy herd health. In 1988, he was commissioned as a Public Health Officer in the U.S. Air Force where he managed the preventive medicine activities of several Air Force installations and directed programs in occupational health, communicable disease control, food safety, and health promotion.

Dr. Maccabe received his Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees from The Ohio State University in 1981 and 1985, respectively. He completed his Master of Public Health degree at Harvard University in 1995 and his Juris Doctor degree, *Magna Cum Laude*, at the University of Arizona in 2002.

Dr. Maccabe succeeds Dr. Bennie I. Osburn, who has served as interim executive director since 2011.

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The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) is a nonprofit membership organization working to protect and improve the health and welfare of animals, people and the environment by advancing academic veterinary medicine. Its members include all 33 veterinary medical colleges in the United States and Canada, nine departments of veterinary science, eight departments of comparative medicine, 12 international colleges of veterinary medicine, and three affiliate members. **On the Web:** <http://www.aavmc.org>