

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ONE HEALTH NIGERIA E-GROUP (AND ON THE LIST CREATOR)

OneHealthNigeria@googlegroups.com (OHN) is a private initiative created to actively promote the One Health Initiative Concept (<http://www.onehealthinitiative.com/index.php>). As the list creator, I am a Nigerian Veterinary Epidemiologist and a pioneer supporter of the One Health Initiative in Nigeria. In 2008, I sponsored a proposal for the adoption of the One Health Initiative by the Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association NVMA at her 45th Annual Congress in Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria (see below). The proposal was adopted on presentation on 22nd October 2008 (This was reported in one of the One Health Initiative publications). A second proposal seeking the initiation of partnership between the NVMA and the Nigerian Medical Association NMA was stepped down).

As Acting Head of the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria; between 1st August 2008 and 31st July 2010, I was actively involved in the kick-off of the Nigerian Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training concept NFELTP which for the first time worldwide included the training of Veterinary Epidemiologist to the usual training of Medical Field Epidemiologists and Laboratory Epidemiologist. During the period, I

- was involved in the development and review of the NFELTP Veterinary Epidemiology curriculum,
- involved in the training of the first batch of NFELTP students;
- attended the first African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) sponsored West Africa Region Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programs (FELTPs) Workshop on zoonotic diseases, Accra Ghana, May 2009 and
- Was a trainer/facilitator at the National Zoonoses Outbreak Surveillance and Management workshop, Jos, Nigeria October 2009.

On completion of my tenure as Acting Head of Department on 31st July 2009, I was invited to spend my sabbatical leave at AFENET/NFELTP Abuja Nigeria, with One Health Education and related activities forming a bulk of my sabbatical leave TOR. Negotiations are on and I am due to resume 1st August 2011 D.V.

My creation of the OHN is thus a private initiative to use my privileged professional connections and position to fuel the adoption and implementation of the One Health Initiative in Nigeria. My intended spending of my sabbatical leave with AFENET/NFELTP; the ongoing efforts to create the CDC Nigeria, and the Federal Government of Nigeria approving the establishment of National Zoonoses Centre(s); all present a perfect setting for me to devoting myself to the promotion and implementation of the One Health Initiative in Nigeria. The creation of OHN egroup is just one step in the process.

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Websites: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/onehealthnigeria>;
<http://groups.google.com/group/onehealthnigeria>

PROPOSAL FOR THE ADOPTION OF A
CONGRESS RESOLUTION SEEKING
THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT,
ACCEPTANCE, ADOPTION AND
SUPPORT OF THE "ONE HEALTH"
INITIATIVE BY THE NIGERIAN
VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

*Presented during the Annual General Meeting of the 45th Annual Congress of the Nigerian
Veterinary Medical Association NVMA holding in Owerri, Imo State on 22nd October 2008*

By:

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‘The One Health Concept’

Variously referred to as the "*One World, One Health, One Medicine*", "*One World, One Medicine*", "*One World, One Health*" or simply "*One Health*" concept, the "*One Medicine*" is an initiative that calls for all health sciences professionals, the health sciences colleges and schools—including veterinary schools and human medical colleges—health sciences associations, government agencies and related industries to coordinate efforts on a global basis to combat disease and promote health (AVMA Press Release (2007). AVMA Celebrates Unity among Health Professions on World Veterinary Day March 30 2007). "Animal health is truly at a crossroads," Dr. Mahr, the President of the American Veterinary Medical Association AVMA said recently. "Its convergence with human and ecosystem health dictates that the '**One World, One Health, One Medicine**' concept must be embraced. We need our colleagues in human medicine, public health, and the environmental health sciences.

Vision Statement: One Health (formerly called One Medicine) is dedicated to improving the lives of all species—human and animal—through the integration of medicine and veterinary medicine.

Mission Statement: Recognizing that human and animal health are inextricably linked, One Health seeks to promote, improve, and defend the health and well-being of all species by enhancing cooperation and collaboration between physicians and veterinarians, and by promoting strengths in leadership and management to achieve these goals.

One Health shall be achieved through:

1. Joint educational efforts between human medical, veterinary medical schools, and schools of public health;
2. Joint communication efforts in journals, at conferences, and via allied health networks;
3. Joint efforts in clinical care through the assessment, treatment and prevention of cross-species disease transmission;
4. Joint cross-species disease surveillance and control efforts in public health;
5. Joint efforts in better understanding of cross-species disease transmission through comparative medicine research;
6. Joint efforts in the development and evaluation of new diagnostic methods, medicines and vaccines for the prevention and control of diseases across species and;
7. Joint efforts to inform and educate political leaders and the public sector through accurate media publications.

(Prepared by Laura H. Kahn, MD, MPH, MPP – Bruce Kaplan, DVM – Thomas P. Monath, MD)

The benefits of One Health

The benefits of a One Health approach include:

1. Improving animal and human health globally through collaboration among all the health sciences, especially between the veterinary and human medical professions to address critical needs
2. Meeting new global challenges head-on through collaboration among multiple professions—veterinary medicine, human medicine, environmental, wildlife and public health
3. Developing centers of excellence for education and training in specific areas through enhanced collaboration among colleges and schools of veterinary medicine, human medicine, and public health
4. Increasing professional opportunities for veterinarians
5. Adding to our scientific knowledge to create innovative programs to improve health

(One Health: A New Professional Imperative. © 2008—American Veterinary Medical Association)

Some major potential outcomes of “One Health”

1. Broader scope and strengthening of medical and veterinary education
2. Improved prevention and management of patients at risk of zoonotic infections
3. Integrated surveillance: improved early recognition and control of zoonoses
4. Integrated vaccination campaigns: improved coverage rates in developing world
5. Improved knowledge of common chronic diseases (e.g. obesity, cancer) affecting animals and humans
6. Integrated biomedical research: improved development of diagnostics, therapeutics, devices
7. Facilitated regulatory assessments

Any physician or veterinarian may be added to the International “One Medicine, One Health”

Movement by contacting bkapdvm@verizon.net and including curriculum vitae or brief biography, title, degree(s), affiliation, and address.

The expanding non-profit Kahn-Kaplan-Monath “One Health” e-mail distribution list now totals **535** individuals in **33** countries including: United States, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Malta, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nepal, Nigeria, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uruguay, and Switzerland.

The **Supporter List**: Supporters of One Health include

- 389 leading physicians, veterinarians, scientists and policy makers, leaders in

Government, Academia, Education, Industry, Public Health

- Former PHS Surgeons General (Koop, Carmona)
- 3 Nobel Laureates
- Multiple members of the National Academy

The following is a partial list of prominent "One Health" supporters as of 2008-10-13:

Organizations:

American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
 American Medical Association
 American Phytopathological Society
 American Society for Microbiology
 American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
 American Veterinary Medical Association
 Association of Academic Health Centers
 Association of American Medical Colleges
 Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
 Association of Schools of Public Health
 Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
 Croatian Society for Infectious Diseases
 Delta Society
 Immuno Valley Consortium in The Netherlands
 Indian Veterinary Public Health Association
 National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians
 Society for Tropical Veterinary Medicine
 World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

Prepared by Laura H. Kahn, MD, MPH, MPP - Bruce Kaplan, DVM - Thomas P. Monath, MD

(Source: <http://www.onehealthinitiative.com/supporters.php>. Accessed on 14th October 2008.)

The first Nigerian Veterinarian to enlist as a supporter of the "One Health" Initiative is Professor Oyewale Tomori, the Vice-Chancellor of the Redeemer University Lagos. The 2nd is Dr Tayo Babalobi, the mover of this resolution. As of date, the following Nigerian Veterinarians are listed (in alphabetical order) as supporters of the Initiative:

Adamu Ahmed Kaikabo, DVM
 Ademola Adeshupo Ibiro, DVM, Ib, MVPH, Ib, PhD, Pret. (pending)
 Aminu Shittu, DVM
 Babasola O. Olugasa, DVM, PhD
 Folorunso Oludayo Fasina, DVM, MSc

Muhammed Danlami Salihu, DVM, MVPH
Oluwakemi A. Osunderu, DVM, MSc
Oyewale Tomori, DVM, PhD
Tayo Babalobi, DVM, MPVM, PhD, MCVSN

(Source: <http://www.onehealthinitiative.com/supporters.php> Accessed 14th October 2008.)

I HEREBY PROPOSE THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, ACCEPTANCE, ADOPTION AND SUPPORT OF THE "ONE HEALTH" INITIATIVE BY THE NIGERIAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Thank you.

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22ND OCTOBER 2008.