

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’

Various 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 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 Ibironke, 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.