

Dr. Laura H. Kahn's "One Health" response to this third annual e-discussion in support of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) [Annual Ministerial Review \(AMR\)](#) request ([SEE BELOW](#)). The 2009 AMR is focusing on **"Global Public Health"**

Thursday, January 29, 2009

Dear Drs. Conille and Tase,

I am a physician and researcher at Princeton University. A colleague forwarded your call for ideas to me.

In response to your first and second questions regarding how to renew primary care that can benefit both developed and developing countries and overcome shortages of health care workers, I would like to highlight an untapped resource: veterinarians.

Veterinarians study disease processes across many species. With some additional training, they could provide health care to humans as well.

The ***articles that I am attaching highlight the critical inter-connectedness between animal and human health. Indeed, in some developing countries, nomadic pastoralists place great emphasis on the health of their livestock and are more willing to let them be vaccinated than their children. They are more likely to accept vaccination of their children if their livestock get vaccinated at the same time.

"One Health" is a concept that promotes increased communication and collaboration across specialties. (<http://www.onehealthinitiative.com>) This concept opens many avenues to increasing access to care.

I am cc'ing my colleagues Drs. Bruce Kaplan and Tom Monath in case they have any additional comments.

Sincerely,

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Jakob Zinsstag, Marcel Tanner. "One Health": The potential of closer cooperation between human and animal health in Africa. *Ethioph. J. Health Dev.* 2008;22 (Special Issue)

Fasina FO, Kaplan B, Kahn LH, Monath TP. Improving vaccine coverage in Africa. *The Lancet*, Feb 2008; 371:386.

Kahn LH, Kaplan B, Monath TP, Steele JH. "Teaching 'One Medicine, One Health.'" *The Journal of American Medicine*, Volume 121, Issue 3, Pages 169-170 (March 2008).

[http://www.amjmed.com/article/S0002-9343\(07\)01082-0/fulltext](http://www.amjmed.com/article/S0002-9343(07)01082-0/fulltext)

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to this third annual e-discussion in support of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) [Annual Ministerial Review \(AMR\)](#). The 2009 AMR is focusing on “**Global Public Health**”, and this year’s online forum will examine two key aspects of the theme:

- (I) Strengthening health systems; and
- (II) Emerging and future health challenges.

As noted in yesterday’s message from Mr. Kemal Dervis, UNDP Administrator, and Mr. Sha Zhukang, Under Secretary-General of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the views and recommendations that emerge from the discussion will be an important contribution to the AMR preparations.

Beginning today and running through 11 February, the first part of this e-discussion will broadly look at the challenges countries face in strengthening their health systems in order to achieve their health goals. It raises two strategic sets of questions that can help guide policies at the national and international levels:

1. *How can we overcome health inequities, achieve universal coverage and renew primary health care (PHC)? What are examples of successes toward universal coverage that could be replicated or scaled up? How can countries learn from each others’ experience in this?*
2. *What steps can both developed and developing country governments take to overcome the shortage of health care workers? What can be done to limit the damage and create opportunities through increased migration of health professionals? What specific initiatives can the Economic and Social Council launch in July 2009?*

In the interest of distilling lessons that we can share with Member States to help them strengthen their efforts to achieve universal coverage of essential health services, we seek your experiences and views on these very specific questions.

The goal is to go beyond generic recommendations to focus on lessons learned and best practices that provide insight into what has worked and what has not. The [background note](#) provides some context on the core elements of this discussion.

Given the diversity of challenges and opportunities countries face, we are expecting a wide range of responses, experiences and recommendations.

As moderators, we look forward to reading your views, responding to your questions and guiding the first half of what we are sure will be a productive and stimulating discussion.

Warm regards,

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