

17th June 2011

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave. SW
Washington D.C. 20201

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington D.C. 20528

Dear Madams Secretary,

RE: Institute of Medicine (IOM)/National Research Council "One Health IOM Study/Report" Funding

In February of this year, I had the privilege to Chair the Organising Committee of the first International Congress of One Health held in Melbourne, Australia. At this meeting we had delegates from around the world (some 24 countries) (see <http://www.onehealth2011.com/congress.php>). This meeting served to highlight some of the critical issues that need attention in this general area and in particular, the research, educational and policy issues that need to be addressed.

Subsequent to this, I have addressed a number of international conferences and workshops and these general themes continue to be highlighted as areas of attention. In late June we are holding a meeting London at the UK Health Protection Agency headquarters to consider a proposal to establish an international alliance around One Health in part to assist in progressing these issues.

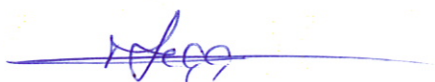
I am aware that in 2008, the Institute of Medicine/National Research Council (IOM/NRC) proposed to conduct a study of One Health, with the intent of exploring common educational needs for human and animal medical practice, untapped opportunities for mutually beneficial biomedical research, enhanced food safety through better networked human and animal care systems, and improved surveillance for both naturally occurring (and maliciously designed) emergent zoonotic diseases. In short, the study would provide a roadmap for action and implementation that would be immensely beneficial to public health, agriculture and biosecurity.

Regrettably, adequate funding for this important study has not yet been obtained yet I would contend that the need today is as great as first envisaged in 2008. It is estimated that the study would require funding of approximately \$1.2 million.

I would lend strong support for funds being made available for such a study and urge that you could give this serious consideration,

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Prof Martyn Jeggo
Director
CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory