

An opinion...

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Neglected “Other” One Health Heroes!

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The International One Health movement generally puts focus on the crucial public health aspects of this life protecting-life saving concept. The physicians, veterinarians and other health scientists/professionals associated with zoonotic disease prevention and control are indeed essential for our global health. These professionals are important in solving many of the riddles associated with biosecurity and threats of bioterrorism too.

However, One Health also encompasses cancer research, cardiovascular diseases, obesity, orthopedic prosthetic device advances, vaccine development, environmental health, plant health etc. Without including these health and health care concerns ... “One Health” becomes “Some Health”.

- In the 1970s and early 1980s the 20th century public health community recognized and promoted this concept (under the heading of ‘One Medicine’) without any participation by or recognition of their counterpart clinical-colleagues that are equally important.
- Private practitioners of human and veterinary medicine continue to be largely unaware of One Health and not participatory to any noticeable extent. They have therefore not expressed their powerful voice on the issue.
- The knowledgeable clinical health/academic communities of veterinary medicine and medicine have not, to date, acknowledged that many of their visionary “other” colleagues are a crucial part of the One Health big picture.
- Limited input has evolved from environmental health and plant health experts.
- Most are unaware of and/or do not grasp the significance of including plant health.

To name a small number (there are more throughout the world!) of these unheralded “other” One Health heroes in the U.S.:

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Submissions of One Health opinions (letters of commentary) for publication consideration are encouraged and welcomed.