Dear VPH SPIG Members,

We would like to welcome you all to our first issue of the APHA Veterinary Public Health (VPH) Special Interest Group (SPIG): One Health Newsletter. Thank you to everyone as we begin this new installment of monthly news stories, member updates, and research articles. It is exciting to be given the opportunity to share emerging information in the field and celebrate publications through our newsletter and social media outlets. We strive to maintain our goal of influencing the human-animal connection, while advancing the one health concept. We welcome everyone to continue to contribute as we hope to influence change!

Thank you,
Venita, Chelsea (Alex), and Jessica
Communications Committee

RWJF CLINICAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM
MELISSA A. GREEN, MPH

Applications for the RWJF Clinical Scholars Program are now open! This program provides grant funding and executive level leadership training and coaching at no cost to participants. Providers serving in the US and US Territories are eligible for the program. Veterinary teams are also encouraged to apply! Applications are now open for the Robert Wood Johnson national leadership programs.

Each program provides grant funding and leadership training to leaders passionate about health equity. Below is a description of each program, application deadlines, and links to upcoming webinars. Clinical Scholars is most appropriate for health affairs faculty and alumni. Health Policy Research Scholars, Culture of Health Leaders, and Interdisciplinary Research Leaders may be a great fit for your doctoral students, staff and personal networks, and faculty.

Clinical Scholars Program

RWJF Clinical Scholars are teams of health care professionals motivated to leverage their passion and ideas to improve health beyond the clinical setting. Team members are licensed teams of providers with 5+ years clinical experience from health fields such as allied health, dentistry, nursing, medicine, social work, and/or veterinary medicine. Teams receive 3 years of program funding and executive coaching and leadership training to address a complex health issue in their community.

Applications are due March 14th at 3pm EST.

View an archived applicant webinar http://cc.readytalk.com/play?id=94pm0s and start your application today at clinical-scholars.org

See more details on the program components and current projects. http://clinicalscholarsnli.org
“Tell me and I forget, show me and I remember, involve me and I understand.”

By: Amanda Berrian, DVM MPH PhD

Using this creed, researchers from the University of Pretoria and the University of California, Davis, led by Amanda Berrian, DVM MPH, PhD, developed the One Health Training and Leadership (OHTL) program. This program sought to turn 10 residents of the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa into community One Health leaders. These selected individuals underwent professional development to strengthen and broaden their leadership and communication skills. These individuals learned the concepts of inquiry-based learning and how to effectively facilitate a training workshop. Trainees then hosted a workshop series for the broader community where they implemented an experiential One Health curriculum.

The OHTL curriculum consisted of four proficiencies: infectious pathogen transmission, understanding infectious disease risk, understanding risk mitigation, and One Health in action.

Through these four proficiencies, participants developed a greater understanding of the mechanisms of disease transmission in both people and animals, including how to assess their own households and environment for disease risk.

Participants, under the guidance of the trainers, were able to photo-document the high-risk interfaces they identified; the photographs became part of their individual, actionable risk mitigation plans through which they outlined steps to make their home environments safer for people and animals.

At the end of this inaugural session of the OHTL program, nearly 90% of enrollees completed the multi-week training and over 80% participated in an impact assessment. Assessments provided evidence of the facilitators’ improved self-efficacy as leaders as well as the implementation of disease risk mitigation strategies by the workshop attendees, including improved personal and domestic hygiene practices and enhanced livestock/poultry housing. Results of this assessment are available in an open access publication in the international, peer-reviewed journal One Health.
A Local Health Department’s One Health Approach to Bridging the Gap Between Veterinary and Medical Professionals

By: Bonnie Chu, DVM and Tiffany Guidry, BS

Recent studies show the collaboration of human and animal health practitioners has advanced science and improved the overall health of communities. Emerging diseases such as avian influenza, Ebola and Zika have highlighted the gaps present between the veterinary and medical professions and the need for more collaborative efforts. Disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and Harvey stressed the importance of the human-animal bond aspect during disaster preparedness and recovery. Harris County Veterinary Public Health (HCVPH), a division of the local health department Harris County Public Health, has created an opportunity to address this issue in order to build a healthier, more resilient community in the Houston, Texas area.

In 2008, HCVPH surveyed local veterinarians and veterinary technicians. Survey results depicted gaps in awareness and education within the veterinary community on zoonotic and infectious diseases. In order to address this issue, HCVPH organized and executed the 1st Annual Zoonotic Disease Conference specifically aimed at veterinarians, licensed veterinary technicians and clinic staff. The 1st Annual Zoonotic Disease Conference held March 28, 2009 offered 6 continuing education (CE) hours to 88 attendees covering critical and relevant public health and zoonotic disease information. The annual conferences covered a variety of zoonotic disease topics including rabies, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Zika, MRSA and leptospirosis. Yearly attendee surveys showed a dramatic increase in zoonotic disease understanding, and the popularity of the conference increased via word-of-mouth. Not only did the conference grow in size, but it also reached new areas of interest in the community: human health professionals wanted to attend.

After several years of collaboration with Baylor College of Medicine - National School of Tropical Medicine in the renowned Houston medical center, the 10th annual conference in 2017 celebrated wonderful, exciting changes. The 10th annual conference held September 30 – October 1, 2017 changed its name to the One Health Conference, included over 325 attendees from a variety of health professions, and offered CE credits to physicians and nurses for the first time. It included zoonotic disease topics such as Toxoplasmosis from a veterinarian and physician’s perspective, but also highlighted topics such as One Health, the human-animal bond, antibiotic resistance and environmental health.
It became the first One Health conference in the Houston area bringing together animal and human health professionals under one roof to promote collaborations. Veterinarians, physicians, nurses, researchers, public health professionals and students networked, discussed similarities and differences in human and animal medicine, and received up to 14 hours of CE over two days of lectures, panel sessions and presentations. Professionals under one roof to promote collaborations. Veterinarians, physicians, nurses, researchers, public health professionals and students networked, discussed similarities and differences in human and animal medicine, and received up to 14 hours of CE over two days of lectures, panel sessions and presentations.

Collaborations between human and animal health professionals can make a significant impact in the Houston community and result in a healthier human and animal population. Through this annual conference, HCVPH has been able to develop a comprehensive network of One Health stakeholders, educate the veterinary and medical community and establish HCVPH as the local resource for zoonotic disease issues. This is a summary of one health department’s journey to promote the One Health Concept and put it into practice.

World Bank One Health Operational Framework
By: Catherine Machalaba, MPH

The World Bank has released an Operational framework for strengthening human, animal and environmental public health systems at their interface (“One Health Operational Framework”). This new framework aims to provide a basis for understanding and implementing a One Health approach in global investment. Building on World Bank’s prior “People, Pathogens, and our Planet” reports, it examines the strategic context, rationale and case for investing in One Health, provides an inventory of tools and other resources from the human health, agriculture, environment and disaster risk reduction sectors to facilitate multi-sectoral coordination, and incudes technical guidance for appropriate One Health entry points and operations along the prevent-detect-respond-recover spectrum of preparedness. The Operational Framework is available for free download at: http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/703711517234402168/Operational-framework-for-strengthening-human-animal-and-environmental-public-health-systems-at-their-interface
LETTER FROM UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, VPH FIELD PLACEMENT COORDINATOR

By: Thomas D. Rose, DVM, MPH

Dear Veterinary Medicine and Public Health Advocates:

I bring you greetings from the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program at the University of Missouri. The purpose of this letter is to introduce you, or reintroduce you to our program, discuss the expansion of our Veterinary Public Health emphasis area, and explore opportunities for internship placements for our students.

The MPH program at MU has been in existence since 2007, training graduate level students in one of two areas of emphasis: Health Promotion and Policy (HPP) and Veterinary Public Health (VPH). Many of our students are also dually enrolled in other graduate programs, including the MU College of Veterinary Medicine.

We are pleased to announce that beginning with the Fall Semester 2018 our Veterinary Public Health Emphasis Area (MPH) will be available to distance students in an entirely online format. This is the first and only such program in the nation. We expect this program to be of great interest to veterinarians and other veterinary health professionals seeking to further their training and expand their career opportunities while meeting the public health needs of our communities and nation. More information about the MU MPH program can be found at https://healthprofessions.missouri.edu/mph/ as well as information about the online program at https://online.missouri.edu/vph.

The MPH degree program is comprised of 45 hours of course work, including core classes and electives. All students are required to complete a 360-hour internship experience in actual public health settings (students dually enrolled in the DVM program must complete 240 hours). For VPH students, these internships should provide opportunities to investigate and experience the interaction of veterinary medicine and public health. Potential areas of focus include food safety, zoonotic disease surveillance and prevention, the One Health Initiative, animal control, public policy and regulations, and emergency response and preparedness. Our students have had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of internship experiences. These have included partnering on water safety projects with Engineers without Boarders in Ecuador, assisting with research on turtle migrations at the Saint Louis Zoo Institute for Conservation Medicine, studying the incidence of chronic wasting disease in deer with the MO Dept. of Conservation, and performing research into the human animal bond at the Veterinary Health Center.

We would be very interested in learning of potential internship opportunities you might be able to provide for our students, many of whom, through our new online option, may actually be residing in your states and communities. We hope you can spread the word and we look forward to hearing from you.