

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 530  
(A-07)

Introduced by: American College of Preventive Medicine  
American College of Occupational and Environmental Health  
American Association of Public Health Physicians  
Academy of Pharmaceutical Physicians and Investigators

Subject: Collaboration Between Human and Veterinary Medicine

Referred to: Reference Committee E  
(Paul C. Matson, MD, Chair)

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1 Whereas, The majority of the emerging infectious diseases, including the bioterrorist agents, are  
2 zoonoses; and  
3  
4 Whereas, Zoonoses can, by definition, infect both animals and humans; and  
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6 Whereas, By their very nature, the fields of human medicine and veterinary medicine are  
7 complementary and synergistic in confronting, controlling, and preventing zoonotic diseases  
8 from infecting across species; and  
9  
10 Whereas, Collaboration and communication between human medicine and veterinary medicine  
11 have been limited in recent decades; and  
12  
13 Whereas, An initiative, often called the “One Health” initiative, is being developed to improve the  
14 lives of all species--human and animal--through the integration of human and veterinary  
15 medicine (J. Zinsstag, et al. *Lancet* 2005; 366: 2142-2145 and E.P.J. Gibbs. *Veterinary Record*  
16 *2005*; 157: 673-679); and  
17  
18 Whereas, “One Health,” previously coined as “One Medicine” by Calvin Schwabe, aims to  
19 promote and implement close meaningful collaboration/communication between human  
20 medicine, veterinary medicine, and all allied health scientists with the goal of hastening human  
21 public health efficacy as well as advanced health care options for humans (and animals) via  
22 comparative biomedical research; and  
23  
24 Whereas, The challenges of the 21st Century demand that these two professions work together;  
25 and  
26  
27 Whereas, The President of the American Veterinary Medical Association is advocating for an  
28 initiative to promote collaboration between human and veterinary medicine  
29 (<http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/sep06/060901d.asp>); and  
30  
31 Whereas, Our AMA recognizes the ways in which animals and animal care may affect human  
32 health and disease through policies on the use of animals in research, medical education, and  
33 product safety testing (H-295.957, H-460.932, H-460.979, H-460.985); xenotransplantation (H-  
34 370.972, E-2.169); animal-transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in humans (H-150.959,  
35 D-150.990); non-therapeutic use in animals of antimicrobials that are also used in humans (H-  
36 440.895); and protection against avian influenza (D-440.962, D-440.965); therefore be it  
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- 1 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support an initiative designed to promote  
2 collaboration between human and veterinary medicine (Directive to Take Action); and be it  
3 further  
4
- 5 RESOLVED, That our AMA support joint educational efforts between human medical and  
6 veterinary medical schools (Directive to Take Action); and be it further  
7
- 8 RESOLVED, That our AMA encourage joint efforts in clinical care through the assessment,  
9 treatment, and prevention of cross-species disease transmission (Directive to Take Action); and  
10 be it further  
11
- 12 RESOLVED, That our AMA support cross-species disease surveillance and control efforts in  
13 public health (Directive to Take Action); and be it further  
14
- 15 RESOLVED, That our AMA support joint efforts in the development and evaluation of new  
16 diagnostic methods, medicines, and vaccines for the prevention and control of diseases across  
17 species (Directive to Take Action); and be it further  
18
- 19 RESOLVED, That our AMA engage in a dialogue with the American Veterinary Medical  
20 Association to discuss strategies for enhancing collaboration between human and veterinary  
21 medical professions in medical education, clinical care, public health, and biomedical research  
22 (Directive to Take Action).\*

\* The language shown in this last Resolved statement incorporates the change recommended by Reference Committee E (see below). The original resolution, including this one amendment, was adopted by the AMA House of Delegates on June 25, 2007.

Fiscal Note: Implement accordingly at estimated cost of \$2,000 for meeting costs and staff time.

Received: 05/24/07

#### **RELEVANT AMA POLICY**

##### **H-295.957 Use of Animals in Medical Education**

Our AMA has adopted the following guidelines on the use of animals in medical school curricula and continuing medical education courses: (1) Where appropriate, medical school faculty should consider using non-animal models in education activities; when animals are used in the curriculum, education goals should be clearly stipulated. (2) Each medical school should disseminate a policy statement to students before matriculation regarding their participation in educational experiences involving animals. (3) All educational experiences involving animals should have the approval of the institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. (4) Involved faculty should discuss with students the learning objectives of any educational experience that utilizes animals, and faculty should remain available throughout the laboratory exercise for advice and guidance on the conduct of the educational experience. (5) All educational experiences involving animals should be carried out in a humane manner without inflicting pain on the animal. This includes the appropriate use of anesthetic and analgesic drugs. (6) At the conclusion of study, animals should be euthanized in the manner described by the American Veterinary Medical Association. (CSA Rep. A, I-90; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, I-00)

##### **H-460.932 Increased Public Education Regarding Animal Research**

Our AMA: (1) supports providing educational materials on the appropriate and compassionate use of animals in biomedical research to students of all grades from kindergarten through grade 12; (2) encourages physicians to work actively in their communities to introduce educational materials on the appropriate and compassionate use of animals in biomedical research into the curricula of all grades from kindergarten through grade 12; and (3) continues to oppose the use of violence, intimidation, and distortion by the opponents of the appropriate and compassionate use of animals in biomedical research. (Sub. Res. 511, A-96; Reaffirmed and Modified: CSAPH Rep. 3, A-06)

**See also:**

**H-460.979 Use of Animals in Research**

**H-460.985 Support for Use of Animals in Teaching, Product Safety Testing and Research**

**H-370.972 Xenotransplantation: Scientific Implications**

**E-2.169 The Ethical Implications of Xenotransplantation**

**H-150.959 Risk of Transmission of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy to Humans in the United States**

**D-150.990 Chronic Wasting Disease: Implications for Human Health**

**H-440.895 Antimicrobial Use and Resistance**

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**AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES (A-07)**

Report of Reference Committee E

Paul C. Matson, MD, Chair

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In keeping with Resolution 601 (A-96), the Reference Committee recommends the following consent calendar for acceptance:

**RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION AS AMENDED OR SUBSTITUTED**

(27) RESOLUTION 530 - COLLABORATION BETWEEN HUMAN AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

RECOMMENDATION A:

Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that the sixth Resolve of Resolution 530 be amended by insertion and deletion on page 2, line 20 to read as follows:

RESOLVED, That our AMA engage in a dialogue with the American Veterinary Medical Association to discuss strategies for enhancing collaboration between human ~~the—medical~~ and veterinary medical professions in medical education, clinical care, public health, and biomedical research (Directive to Take Action).

RECOMMENDATION B:

Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution 530 be adopted as amended.

Resolution 530 asks that our AMA (1) support an initiative designed to promote collaboration between human and veterinary medicine; (2) support joint educational efforts between human

medical and veterinary medical schools; (3) encourage joint efforts in clinical care through the assessment, treatment, and prevention of cross-species disease transmission; (4) support cross-species disease surveillance and control efforts in public health; (5) support joint efforts in the development and evaluation of new diagnostic methods, medicines, and vaccines for the prevention and control of diseases across species; and (6) engage in a dialogue with the American Veterinary Medical Association to discuss strategies for enhancing collaboration between the medical and veterinary medical professions in medical education, clinical care, public health, and biomedical research.

Your Reference Committee heard significant testimony in support of this resolution. The President of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) testified that collaboration between human and veterinary medicine is crucial in the current global environment of emerging infections. Many examples of the benefits that have already been derived from such collaboration were presented by the USPHS. These include facilitating investigations of complex zoonotic disease outbreaks, rabies control efforts, and foodborne illnesses evaluations. Finally, testimony suggested that joint AMA and AVMA tactical and strategic planning in this arena will greatly enhance public health communications and educational public affairs programs. Your Reference Committee concurs and recommends adoption of Resolution 530 with a clarifying edit made in the sixth resolve.