

Resolution for the Florida Medical Association House of Delegates July 2011

Collaboration between Human Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, and the Environmental Sciences (One Health)

Submitted by: Escambia County Medical Society [Pensacola, Florida USA]

Whereas, The health of people, animals and their environments are interrelated; and

Whereas, Important psychosocial effects of the human-animal bond exist; and

Whereas, The majority of households include at least one animal; and

Whereas, The majority of emerging infectious diseases, including bioterrorist agents, are zoonoses, diseases affecting both people and animals; and

Whereas, By their very nature, the fields of human medicine, veterinary medicine, and the environmental sciences are complementary and synergistic in confronting, controlling, and preventing zoonotic diseases from infecting across species; and

Whereas, Many chronic health problems such as cancer, diabetes, and obesity are shared by people and their companion animals; and

Whereas, Environmental health hazards may be shared by people and animals including toxicants, allergens, and psychosocial issues; and

Whereas, Collaboration and communication among human medicine, veterinary medicine, and the environmental sciences has been limited in recent decades; and

Whereas, An initiative called "One Health" exists to improve the lives of all species through the integration of human medicine, veterinary medicine, and the environmental sciences; and

Whereas, "One Health", aims to promote and implement close and meaningful collaboration/communication among human medicine, veterinary medicine, and environmental sciences professionals with the goals of improving the public's health and the efficacy of disease care; and

Whereas, The challenges of the 21st Century demand that these professions work together; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our Florida Medical Association support the "One Health" initiative designed to promote collaboration among the health professions by improving the lives of all species through the integration of human medicine, veterinary medicine, and the environmental sciences; and be it further

RESOLVED, That our FMA engage in a dialogue with the Florida Veterinary Medical Association and the Florida Public Health Association to determine and implement strategies for enhancing collaboration among the human medical, veterinary medical, and environmental sciences professions in medical education, clinical care, public health, and biomedical research.

NOTE: Adopted by the Florida Medical Association (USA) July 31, 2011