

# 1st International One Health Congress

Human Health, Animal Health, the  
Environment and Global Survival

Melbourne Convention Centre, Victoria, Australia  
14 – 16 February 2011



From 14 – 16 February 2011, Melbourne Australia will host the Inaugural International One Health Congress. The Congress will bring together experts working in the areas of animal and human disease and will address the need and growing interest to broaden the agenda of One Health and incorporate a truly global perspective by including environmental issues.

The “One Health” concept has gained considerable momentum during the planning of the Congress and a clear need for an ongoing Congress forum has been identified. More than that, the idea of establishing an International Society of One Health has emerged as an idea that has great substance and has already garnered worldwide support.

Working alongside other established initiatives such as the One World Website and linking with International and National bodies promoting the One Health concept, Drs. Martyn Jeggo, Chair of the 2011 Congress Committee and David Heymann, Chair of Scientific Committee propose that an *International Society of One Health* be established and share the following early initial thoughts for your comment(s):

## **International Society for One Health**

The International Congress in Melbourne will allow for open and global consideration of the interrelated issues of animal and human health and the relationship with the environment, and plans are underway for a follow on Congress in two years in Canada. To continue this momentum the *Society* would:

- create the framework to foster projects that can work across all three areas of One Health (Humans, animals and the environment)
- while initially focusing on public health (infectious diseases) at the first Congress meeting, include One Health comparative biomedical clinical research at subsequent meetings
- institutionalise the One Health Movement to provide a formal setting for funding and activities
- promote the exchange of research data, information and knowledge
- promote knowledge exchange through scientific visits and secondments
- seek funding and related resources for research activities
- seek funding for fellowships and scholarships
- host and manage a Biennial International Congress
- establish a One Health Scientific Journal
- provide activity updates through a regular Newsletter
- implement as appropriate priority activities identified by policy setting Organisations (National Governments, WHO, FAO, OIE).



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The International Society would be established initially by an interim Board with the following proposed membership:-

- Two senior members of the Organising Committee of the *1<sup>st</sup> International One Health Congress*
- A Representative of OIE
- A Representative of WHO
- A Representative of FAO
- A Representative of the UN
- A Representative of the World Bank
- A Representative from the major international development agencies
- A Representative of the US One Health Initiative Autonomous *pro bono* Team
- A Representative of the US CDC or member of the Stone Mountain working group
- A Representative from each WHO region
- A Representative of the Next Host Country (in this instance, Canada)

In addition to the interim Board, it is also proposed that there be a Scientific Advisory Committee that would be created before the next Biennial international congress and oversee the Scientific Program.

The Society would be established as a not-for-profit charitable company that is incorporated (within Australia), and have as a key responsibility, the task of mobilising, generating and allocating resources for specific activities as outlined above. Upon the official establishment of the Society, the interim Board would be tasked with preparing drafts of all governance documents for endorsement at the next One Health International Congress.

We invite your comments for discussion during the International Congress in February.

Yours Sincerely,

Martyn Jeggo

Chairman, Organising Committee

David Heymann

Chairman, Scientific Advisory Committee



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In order to progress ideas and reach consensus on the way forward delegates at the One Health Congress are invited to provide feedback to the proposal above through answering the following questions and adding any further comment they wish:-

1. Would you support the establishment of International Society for One Health?
2. Would you see the aims as appropriate at this stage?
3. Would you see the activities as described appropriate at this stage?
4. Would you see the proposed Board representation and other organisational arrangements as appropriate?
5. Would you see the composition of the Board as appropriate?
6. What further suggestions would you make if developing this concept
7. Additional Comments

Optional – Name and Organisation/affiliation

