

World Veterinary and Medical Associations Collaboration on One Health

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In October 2012, the World Veterinary Association (WVA) representing the global veterinary profession and the World Medical Association (WMA) representing the global medical profession signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate in a unified approach to tackle common health issues to improve Global Health. The WVA–WMA collaboration plan focuses on zoonotic diseases, responsible use of antimicrobials and enhancing collaboration on education, clinical care and public health. WVA and WMA are holding periodical meetings to discuss issues of common interest and participating in each other’s events to highlight the work and progress of their profession, addressing health concerns on a global level. In the past years, the two organisations prepared and published joint statements and supported each-other on various health issues such as rabies control, antibiotic resistance and the regular availability of Ketamine (non-scheduling). In May 2015, for the first time in history, the two world associations, in conjunction with the Spanish medical and veterinary associations, organised a Global Conference on One Health with the theme: *Drivers towards One Health –“Strengthening collaboration between Physicians and Veterinarians”*. The Global Conference brought together Veterinarians, Physicians, Students, Public Health Officials, and NGOs representatives from 40 countries around the world. The event signified the acknowledgement by both disciplines, at the highest level, of the importance of cooperation between the veterinary and medical professions. The conference concluded that in order to make a difference, the health professions need to work on Leadership, Networking, Cooperation, Communication, Facilitation, and Building trust at all levels starting from veterinary and medical schools. The two associations started to prepare a follow-up conference to take place in the end of 2016. This initiative encouraged a number WVA and WMA members to adopt this model of collaboration and to sign similar agreements between Veterinary and Medical associations at national level to use the *One Health* Approach in their countries.