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COOPERATION AT THE INTERFACE OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH

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Increasing awareness of the interrelatedness of human and animal health and of the impact on health of the natural environment, in which we all live, has become popularized in the concept of “One Health”. Changes in land use patterns and agricultural practices together with increases in urbanization, global travel, and the movement of goods and livestock has resulted in ever-increasing opportunities for pathogens to move quickly between humans, wildlife, and domestic animals.

Putting the One Health concept into practice requires cooperation at all organizational levels of the human and animal health protection system. The importance of this cooperation is underscored by the recognition that nearly 70 percent of recently emerging infectious diseases in humans have a zoonotic origin.

The local, national, and global responses to the spread of the 2009 H1N1 pandemic influenza strain provide recent examples of the importance of this cooperation. Ongoing efforts to enhance cooperation with the goals of recognizing problems early, responding quickly with appropriate control measures, and implementing upstream prevention strategies will be discussed.



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