

## INTEGRATIVE APPROACHES TO DISEASE CONTROL: THE VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

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Partnerships and collaborations at local, national, regional and global levels are a critical component of the One Health approach to controlling infectious diseases. Such partnerships require participation by local and national government agencies, non-governmental organizations, industry and universities, and international organizations such as the OIE, FAO, and WHO. We believe that effective, enduring international collaborations on detecting and managing infectious diseases, similar to other sciences, are formed primarily through self-organizing networks of scientists. These networks, in turn, are supported by national, international, or institutional incentives to enhance their effectiveness and promote information exchange and assimilation beyond the network itself. Development of scientific networks for studying infectious diseases in public health and domestic animal health have been relatively common for some time, and have been increasing over the last 20 years. This is likely due to the direct link between these fields and the obvious desire to improve the quality of human life, as well as protecting national and global economies and security. However, the link between these goals and wildlife health are often not as clear. Consequently, fewer networks devoted to wildlife health have been developed. We will discuss efforts to promote the development of networks that focus on infectious diseases in wildlife at country, regional and continental scales.

