

Session 1:

Prevention/control of transboundary diseases,
zoonoses and emerging infections

The challenges of globalisation for veterinary education

D. Sherman

Clinical Associate Professor,
Tufts University Cummings School
of Veterinary Medicine,
North Grafton, Massachusetts,
02464, United States of America

Livestock contribute significantly to the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people worldwide. Many countries count receipts from trade in livestock and animal products as significant portions of their GNPs. Moreover, global demand for foods of animal origin continues to grow.

In recent years, there has been a notable increase of infectious livestock diseases, including many zoonoses. These have negatively affected animal and human health around the world. In addition, livestock production practices in both developed and developing countries are increasingly associated with environmental degradation, including global warming, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity. These developments put greater responsibility on veterinarians to provide effective services to farmers, monitor and control the spread of infectious diseases, ensure food safety, protect the public health, and promote sustainable livestock production practices consistent with environmental health and biodiversity.

This paper will review key factors contributing to the emergence of infectious diseases and livestock-associated environmental degradation and suggest ways in which the veterinary curriculum can prepare graduates to effectively address these challenges.

