PRESS RELEASE

5th VICH Public Conference - Reaching Out to the World

The programme of the 5th VICH Public Conference, which will be held in Tokyo, Japan on 28 & 29 October 2015, was finalized during the 31st VICH Steering Committee meeting. Under the theme, Reaching Out to the World, the following key topics of the programme include: the contribution of VICH to the global One Health approach, the contribution of VICH to animal welfare in tests for veterinary medicinal products and the benefits of the VICH Outreach Forum to all countries.

The 5th meeting of the VICH Outreach Forum, co-chaired by VICH and the OIE, took place in conjunction with the Steering Committee meeting from 23 to 26 February in Washington DC. The Forum members from 6 continents participated actively in the meeting, where the OIE reported on their activities concerning veterinary medicinal products since the last VICH Outreach Forum, and representatives from ASEAN, CAMEVET and China reported on the application of VICH guidelines in their regions.

The Steering Committee, the OIE and the Forum participants considered strategies to improve the application of VICH guidelines in Outreach Forum member countries and regions. Extensive discussions focused on pharmacovigilance, bioequivalence and waiving of target animal batch safety testing as well as GLP/GCP guidance.

The Steering Committee finalized the training and communication strategy which outlines the training on VICH guidelines in two levels: level 1 covers the general understanding of VICH and the guidelines, level 2 will consider training modules on specific guidelines. The material on the first level training will be placed on the VICH website. The Steering Committee continues to work on the challenges posed by implementation of the second level.

The Steering Committee mandated the Quality Expert Working Group to develop guidance on stability testing in the climatic zones III and IV.

The Steering Committee reviewed the discussion papers prepared by the Task Forces on combination products and on the revision of the VICH anthelmintic guidelines, and will consider driving these topics forward at the next Steering Committee meeting.


All VICH draft and final guidelines are available on the VICH website (www.vichsec.org).
The Steering Committee also reviewed and acknowledged the progress of the work of the Expert Working Groups on Pharmacovigilance – Electronic Standards Implementation, Safety, Bioequivalence, Biologicals Quality Monitoring, and Metabolism and Residue Kinetics.

The 32nd VICH Steering Committee meeting and the 6th VICH Outreach Forum meeting are scheduled to take place between 25 and 30 October 2015 in Tokyo, Japan in conjunction with the 5th VICH Public Conference.

MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE
EU: European Commission - European Medicines Agency
JMAFF: Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
USA: US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) – Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and US Department of Agriculture – Center for Veterinary Biologics (USDA/CVB)
AHI: US Animal Health Institute
IFAH-EUROPE: representing the European Animal Health Industry
JVPA: Japan Veterinary Products Association

OBSERVERS
Australia/New Zealand: Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)/New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries
AMA/AGCARM: Animal Medicines Australia/Agricultural Chemicals & Animal Remedies Manufacturers’ Association of New Zealand
Canada: Health Canada (HC) - Veterinary Drugs Directorate (VDD) and Canadian Centre for Veterinary Biologics (CCVB)
CAHI: Canadian Animal Health Institute
South Africa: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and Department of Health
SAAHA: South African Animal Health Association

ASSOCIATE MEMBER
OIE: World Organisation for Animal Health

INTERESTED PARTY
AVBC: Association of Veterinary Biologics Companies, USA

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