



PRESS RELEASE

Record participation in the 7th VICH Outreach Forum

The 7th VICH Outreach Forum – VOF meeting held on 21 - 22 June 2016 in Brussels was attended by 22 delegates from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East representing 12 countries and 3 International Organisations, in addition to the 7 VICH member countries. The meeting was co-chaired by VICH and the OIE, and took place in conjunction with the 33rd VICH Steering Committee meeting.

The participants to the VOF heard representatives from Saudi Arabia and Uganda, new members of the VOF, describe the local regulatory systems and how the technical requirements set in VICH Guidelines are increasingly gaining importance for the registration of veterinary medicines.

The Steering Committee, the OIE and the Forum participants discussed the status of development of VICH Guidelines on stability to address climatic zones III and IV (hot and dry/humid conditions), and a draft Concept Paper for general guidance on combination products. Feedback was received from all VOF members on their general approach on the use of VICH Guidelines, in particular the acceptance of studies conducted according to the VICH Guidelines. Further discussions focused on VOF members' need for the implementation of the VICH training strategy, on actions taken by Steering Committee members and observers related to the management of antimicrobial resistance for the registration of veterinary medicines and on experience of VICH members with anthelmintics and parasiticides' resistance.

The Steering Committee adopted a Concept Paper on the development of further guidance on testing of veterinary vaccines for freedom from extraneous viruses, which will be published on the VICH website.

The Steering Committee took note of the progress of the discussions in the Task Force for the development of a general combination products guideline.

The Steering Committee also reviewed and acknowledged the progress of the work of the Expert Working Groups on Pharmacovigilance – Electronic Standards Implementation, Safety, Quality, Biologicals Quality Monitoring, Metabolism and Residue Kinetics, and Anthelmintics.

The Steering Committee agreed that Australia and New Zealand, which had a joint VICH observer delegation, would in the future be represented individually.

All VICH draft and final Guidelines are available on the VICH website (www.vichsec.org).

The 34th VICH Steering Committee meeting and the 8th VICH Outreach Forum meeting are scheduled to take place for the first time in an Outreach country, between 27 February and 2 March 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

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: Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)

New Zealand: New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries

AMA: Animal Medicines Australia

AGCARM: 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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