



January, 2015

AVMA Executive Board and Staff Members
C/O Dr. Ted Cohn, President, AVMA
Dr. Ron DeHaven, Executive Vice President, AVMA

Dear Drs. Cohn, DeHaven, Members of the AVMA Executive Board and AVMA Staff,

We are pleased to inform you that over the past year the One Health Initiative Autonomous *pro bono* Team (OHI) and the One Health Commission (OHC) have established a working relationship of mutual support that we believe will synergize the shared objectives of the AVMA, OHI and OHC for advancing the One Health approach to global health. We are seeking AVMA's help to make this fact widely known.

The full OHI team supports mutual OHI-OHC collaborations. As you may recall, this team includes two nationally and internationally known One Health leader physicians, two veterinarians and a prominent health scientist/epidemiologist. They are:

- Laura H. Kahn, MD, MPH, MPP, a prominent author and research scholar
- Thomas P. Monath, MD, an eminent virologist/vaccinologist & former AVMA One Health task force member
- Bruce Kaplan, DVM, a retired private veterinary medical practitioner, former CDC epidemiologist and USDA-FSIS public affairs/communications professional
- Lisa A. Conti, DVM, MPH, a renowned public health administrator and co-author/editor, with Peter Rabinowitz, MD, MPH, of the landmark One Health textbook, 'Human- Animal Medicine', [Elsevier](#)
- Jack Woodall, PhD, co-founder of ProMED-mail, retired CDC laboratory director & WHO epidemiologist.

Additionally, the OHI team's [Honorary Advisory Board](#) counts among its members many distinguished national and international One Health professionals.

Since 2006 the One Health Initiative team has worked closely with many U.S. and International One Health programs, organizations, educational institutions and noted individual One Health proponents. Since its inception in October 2008, the [OHI website](#) has actively advocated, worldwide and with remarkable success, for the One Health way of thinking. It has been called by some the "New York Times of One Health." Its global circulation is strengthened by up-to-date One Health News, Publications and Upcoming Events postings related to animal, human and environmental health. It is estimated to be accessed each month by about 20,000 visitors from over 150 countries and has approximately 109 [reciprocal links](#) with prominent One Health organizations worldwide. The OHI website issues weekly and sometimes daily updates and news items of interest to the One Health community and to the public. Dr. Laura Kahn's powerful and cogent article '[Who's in charge during the Ebola crisis?](#)' is a recent example. The OHI website also permits site users to access select, time-limited articles through its News page.

Over the past year, the OHI team has provided invaluable advice and collaboration to the One Health Commission, advancing their mutual goals of implementing the One Health approach. Dr. Kahn is helping lead the Commission's Professional Education Team that is preparing a series of CE/CME webinars targeted at clinical physicians and veterinarians. Additionally, on November 10th 2014, Dr. Kahn was a featured speaker in the OHC's first "International Who's Who in One Health" webinar (see below). Dr. Kaplan has used his public affairs and public relations expertise to help the OHC draft press releases, advised on speakers for the international webinar, and serves as a consultant to the Commission's Communications Committee.

Working together to create a sustainable One Health organization, the entire One Health Commission Board supports mutual OHC-OHI collaborations and each Board member has voted to be listed as an individual supporter on the OHI website. Currently leading the One Health Commission are:

- Cheryl Stroud DVM, PhD, Executive Director, former AVMA representative to the OHC who, in 2010-2014, pioneered and chaired the North Carolina One Health Collaborative (NC OHC)
- Deeanna Burlison RN, MSN, Associate Executive Director, who has extensive human health care experience in civilian and military settings
- The Executive Committee of the OHC Board comprised of
 - Joann M. Lindenmayer, DVM, MPH, Chair, AVMA representative to the OHC and Senior Manager of Disaster Operations for Haiti, Humane Society International
 - Patricia Conrad, DVM, PhD, Vice Chair, AAVMC representative to the OHC and Co-Director of the One Health Center of Expertise at UC Davis Global Health Institute
 - Al Osbahr, MD, Immediate Past Chair, AMA representative to the OHC and Medical Director of occupational health services at Catawba Valley Medical Center in Hickory, N.C.
 - Marianne Smith-Edge, MS, RD, Treasurer, representative for the International Food Information Council
- Thirteen additional members of the [OHC Board of Directors](#)

As you know, the One Health Commission was chartered in June 2009 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization under the able leadership of Dr. Roger Mahr. In late 2012 Dr. Mahr conducted an extensive membership drive that resulted in significant expansion of the OHC Board of Directors. Then, when Dr. Mahr retired, the Board appointed Dr. Cheryl Stroud in late 2013 to be Executive Director and moved the Commission's headquarters from Iowa State University, where it had been hosted for three years, to the Research Triangle Park region of North Carolina. In February 2014, at its first annual in-person Board meeting in Atlanta, the OHC Board Chair position passed from physician Dr. Al Osbahr, who had Chaired the Board for four years, to Dr. Joann Lindenmayer. Also at that meeting a new charter statement was developed specifically adding the word 'plants' to the mission and proclaiming the Commission's intent to "educate and create networks to improve health outcomes and well-being of humans, animals and plants and to promote environmental resilience through a collaborative, global One Health approach." Using its non-profit status, the Commission works to develop, fund and implement sustainable One Health actions with the slogan, 'Connect, Create, Educate'.

The Commission's Board Structure and By-Laws are under revision and a dynamic, international [Council of Advisors](#) is being established and activated. The Commission now hosts eight active volunteer One Health 'action' teams:

- The "Who's Who in One Health Webinar Team" just delivered in November 2014 the first [International Who's Who in One Health Webinar](#) that featured presentations by 15 prominent One Health leaders from around the globe. This webinar was viewed by over 1000 individuals from more than 40 countries and those recordings are now posted on the OHC website
- The "Professional Continuing Education Team" is creating a CE/CME webinar series targeted jointly at clinical veterinary medical and human health practitioners on One Health topics that fall at the interface of their work arenas; the first one will address 'Asthma and Allergies in People and Pets.'
- The "Institute of Medicine Team" is working toward facilitating a study on gaps in One Health Professional Education among veterinary medical and human medical schools and professional public and environmental health programs.
- The "Communications/Public Service Announcements Team" is creating and will soon distribute the first in a series of One Health public service radio announcements. The first one, 'What is One Health?' is soon to be released with plans for four more.
- The "One Health Documentary Team," a partnership between the OHC and the NC-OHC, is working with a documentary film maker to explore creating a 6-8 segment television documentary film series on compelling One Health topics.
- The Team for "Bringing the Environment into One Health", led by Peter Daszak, PhD of EcoHealth Alliance, is in development
- A Writing Team preparing "The Economic Value of the One Health Approach" white paper
- An OHC website support team is currently in training

Additional volunteer teams are planned.

Each organization – the One Health Initiative and the One Health Commission - has its own unique contributions to make to advance the One Health agenda. We recognize that our combined impact will be greater working in unison than if we operate independently. Both organizations have recognized the other’s contributions to a shared One Health agenda on our respective websites and have established bilateral links to news items, events and publications of interest to One Health stakeholders. However, because our collaboration is relatively new, it is generally known only to the leadership of the OHC and OHI.

We believe it is time to recognize this collaboration more widely so that we may expand our joint effectiveness to advance the One Health paradigm shift. For this reason, we, the undersigned, respectfully request that the AVMA recognize the OHC-OHI collaboration in JAVMA News, the AVMA Communications Division and other media venues within the scope of AVMA’s outreach. For example, we can envision seeing a headline such as *"One Health Initiative and One Health Commission Teams work together to promote One Health approach!"* Drs. Stroud and Kaplan and the respective teams will gladly work with AVMA reporters to develop such a piece using the information in this letter. An announcement of this nature will boost the powerful synergy of both organizations in the U.S. and worldwide, and will inform the broad spectrum of veterinarians, physicians, general public, plant pathologists, environmentalists, other health professionals, news media, agricultural professionals and governmental/political leaders of our collaborative efforts to advance a One Health agenda.

We are confident that AVMA leadership will see the value of this OHI/OHC alignment as we all work together toward a trans-disciplinary, One Health, default way of doing business. Dr. Cohn is a well-known One Health supporter and long-standing One Health advocate. Dr. Clark Fobian, the AVMA’s immediate past president, has expressed strong support of the OHI team and for OHI / OHC collaborations in a 2013 letter to Dr. Kaplan and the OHI team. It is our sincere hope that the AVMA membership and the public at large may be informed in AVMA publications of these evolving and mutually supportive collaborations.

Thank you, in advance, for your timely attention and kind consideration. We look forward to your response. If useful, Drs. Kaplan and Stroud would welcome a conference call to discuss how to share this excellent One Health news with the AVMA membership and beyond.

With Warm Regards,

OHI Team

Bruce Kaplan, DVM
Laura H. Kahn, MD, MPH, MPP
Thomas P. Monath, MD
Jack Woodall, PhD
Lisa A. Conti, DVM, MPH

OHC Team

Cheryl Stroud, DVM, PhD, Executive Director
Deeanna Burleson, RN, MSN, Associate Executive Director
Joann Lindenmayer, DVM, PhD, Chair of Board
Patricia Conrad, DVM, PhD, Vice Chair
Al Osbahr, MD, Immediate Past Chair
Marianne Smith-Edge, MS, RD, Treasurer
And the additional 13 OHC Board Members

cc: Dr. Clark K. Fobian, AVMA Immediate Past President
Dr. Joseph H. Kinnarney, AVMA President-Elect
Dr. Kurt J. Matushek, Editor-in-Chief, JAVMA
Susan C. Kahler, Senior News Editor
Diane A. Fagen, Librarian
Dr. Lynne White-Shim, Assistant Director, Scientific Activities Division, AVMA liaison to OHC
Dr. Mark Starr, AVMA Representative, OHC Council of Advisors Member
Dr. Mark Lutschaunig, Director, AVMA Governmental Relations Division