



One Health Commission



Activities Overview

<https://www.onehealthcommission.org/>

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A Message from the Executive Director

'Connect, Create, Educate'

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Incorporated in 2009 in Washington, DC as a tax exempt [501\(c\)3 non-profit organization](#), the One Health Commission (OHC) was formed as an outcome of a One Health Initiative Task Force led by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Medical Association (AMA) and other partner organizations.



Cheryl Stroud, DVM, PhD
Executive Director

Headquartered in central North Carolina but working globally, the OHC endeavors to *'connect'* One Health stakeholders, to *'create'* networks and action teams that work together across disciplines to *'educate'* about One Health and One Health issues. Most of its work is accomplished by volunteers who are passionate and committed to doing what they can with what they have, where they are, to help the world understand just how urgent it is that we fully implement One Health, that we make it the default way of doing business at all levels of academia, government, policy and research.

The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has shown the world what the One Health Community has been teaching and warning about for twenty years. And it has shown those of us working to further One Health implementation that there is much work yet to be done.

This document is an overview of the One Health Commission's initiatives and actions since 2014. We invite you to get involved in any way you can, wherever you are, with what you have, doing what you can to help us *'connect, create, and educate'* about One Health.

Warmly,

Cheryl Stroud, DVM, PhD

Executive Director

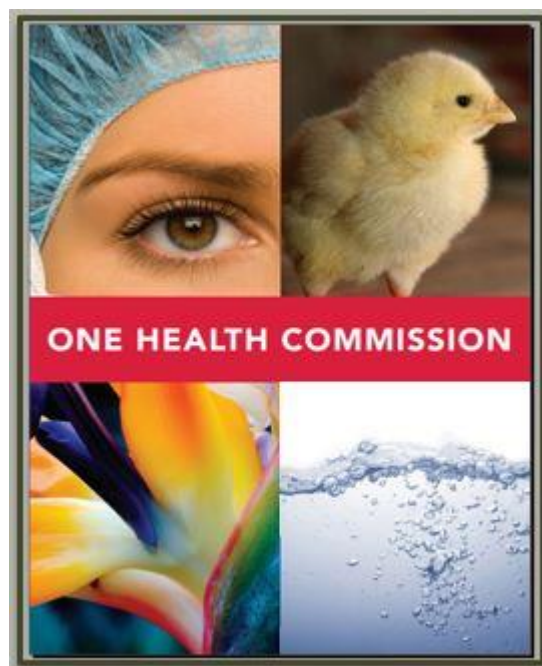
cstroud@onehealthcommission.org

Learn more:

[History /Background of the One Health Commission](#)
[Executive Director's Speaking Engagements](#)

Who We Serve

The One Health Commission (OHC) is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization incorporated in 2009 in Washington, D.C., United States of America dedicated to increasing local, national and international awareness and implementation of One Health for tackling today's shared health challenges. It exists to serve individuals and organizations, at all levels of society, as they recognize and understand the interdependence of animals (including humans), plants, and their shared environment, and to further that understanding by promoting collaborative strategies for optimal health and well-being for All. Ultimately, the Commission exists in service to the harmonious balance of life and the systems that sustain it. Collectively, the entities in this paragraph are the beneficiaries of the One Health Commission, i.e. who it exists to serve.



Our Vision

The OHC envisions a world in which the interdependence of animals, humans, plants and their shared environment is systemically recognized, valued and acted upon in all decision making for the health and well-being of all.

Our Mission

Its mission is to connect those working to advance One Health thinking, to educate about One Health and One Health issues and to create networks that work together across disciplines and communities to improve health and well-being of humans, other animals and plants and to promote environmental resilience and sustainability through a collaborative, local to global One Health approach.

Our Goals

We will achieve our mission by:

- **Connecting** One Health Stakeholders
- **Creating** Strategic Networks / Partnerships
- **Educating** about One Health issues

to support collaborations, information sharing and active health interventions.

Our Slogan:

“Connect, Create, Educate”

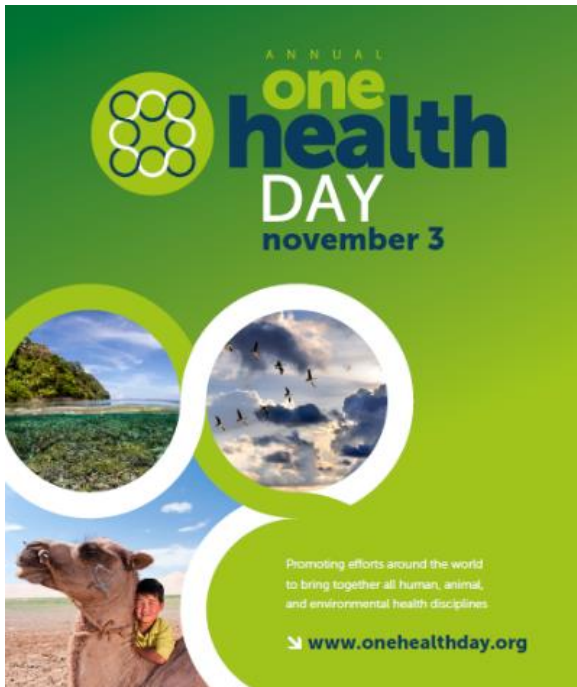
The Commission ‘Connects’ One Health advocates and stakeholders to ‘Create’ networks and teams that work together across disciplines to ‘Educate’ about One Health and One Health issues.



Our Programs

The One Health Commission (OHC) believes that One Health ‘can’ become the default way of doing business at all levels of academia, research, government, policy and industry when individuals and groups from around the world work together in organized team efforts. In keeping with its mission, vision and goals, the OHC identifies gaps where implementation of One Health thinking and acting could have a powerful positive impact, saving lives, both animal and human, and improving ecosystem health for all living creatures. Individuals and groups from around the world are urged to join hands and work together in trans-disciplinary volunteer team efforts. [All teams](#) are supported by OHC staff, listserv and webinar resources with guidance provided by members of the Board of Directors as appropriate. Team leaders are selected from among those who step forward to get involved in long-term team efforts. The OHC provides a platform and opportunity for individuals to actively participate in the global One Health movement when they may not otherwise have avenues in which to act.





Global One Health Day

Connecting and Educating

Initiated in 2016 by the One Health Commission, the One Health Platform (now the Global One Health Community), and the One Health Initiative pro bono Team, global [One Health Day](https://www.onehealthday.org) has been officially celebrated around the world every year on November 3 for ten years.

The goal of One Health Day is to build the cultural will necessary for a sea change in how One Health-related challenges are assessed and addressed and how professionals exchange information across disciplines. One Health Day brings global attention to the need for One Health collaborations and allows the world to ‘see them in action’. It is designed to engage as many individuals as possible from as many arenas as possible

in One Health education and awareness events and to generate an inspiring array of projects and events worldwide.

In its very first year One Health Day saw over 165 events registered in 37 countries reaching over 17,000 people. You can view maps and descriptions of One Health Day Events all over the world in [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#) (even during the pandemic), [2021](#), [2022](#), [2023](#), [2024](#), and [2025](#). Events do not have to fall right on November 3 but can occur anytime during the calendar year. Since its inception there have been over 1000 events registered in celebration of global One Health Day.





We know, because we see them on #OneHealthDay social media postings, that *many more* events are held each year that do not get mapped by being [registered](#) on the One Health Day webpages.

Since the One Health Platform closed its doors early in 2021, and the One Health Initiative pro bono team is unincorporated with no budget or financial resources, the OHC now carries sole financial responsibility for leading global One Health Day and its Student Awards program.

▪ **One Health Day Student Events Competition**

The One Health Day [Student Events Competition](#) has, since 2016, given cash awards to fifteen student teams from around the world. Initially, when the One Health Platform was financially co-sponsoring, teams won \$5,000 each in 2016 and 2017. As finances tightened, winning teams were awarded \$2,000 each in 2018 -2020 and, after the One Health Platform closed its doors and the OHC continued supporting student event awards alone, awards dropped to \$1,000 for one team a year in 2021-2025. Until further funding can be identified, the One Health Commission is the sole financial supporting organization for One Health Day Student Event awards. Winning student teams have hailed from George Washington University (USA), University of California-Davis (USA, twice), a Washington /Auburn/University of Missouri collaboration (USA), Makerere University, University of Pretoria, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Ross University (USA), University of Rwanda, Pookode Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (2020, 2021, 2023), West Career & Technical Academy High School (USA), and Shere-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (India). See the Winning Team Event Packets on the [One Health Day Student Event Competition](#) webpages.





One Health Happenings Newsletter *Connecting*

Since June of 2015, when the OHC began the world's first Global One Health Community Listserv (now over 22,000 strong), the Commission has been compiling, creating and distributing a free international [One Health Happenings \(OHH\)](#) newsletter. OHH is the only 'big

picture', global One Health news compilation in existence. Over 100 issues have been distributed highlighting One Health news from around the world and information about global One Health issues. By January 2021, OHH had become so popular and so many people were seeking to include their One Health events and 'Happenings' in it that an [online submission process](#) had to be developed that is now being widely utilized. The OHC receives requests weekly from individuals who wish to be part of its community and to receive OHH. Pageviews of the OHH Archive webpage have increased steadily as have pageviews of the OHC International One Health community listserv sign up webpage.



One Health Awareness Month *Connecting, Creating, Educating*

Just before the COVID-19 pandemic changed everything, the [One Health Awareness Month Campaign](#) was launched December 31, 2019 on Facebook by the One Health Commission and Louisiana One Health in Action. (See [how it was conceived](#)). Excitingly, the campaign was picked up and promoted by One Health advocates around the world and is now celebrated annually in January with social media postings and even some One Health

educational events. A One Health Awareness Month calendar was created highlighting the many arenas (wicked challenges) begging to be addressed using a One Health approach. The calendar includes a [list of One Health Resources](#) for supporters to quickly grab and share when highlighting the many faces of One Health in their social media and local campaigns.

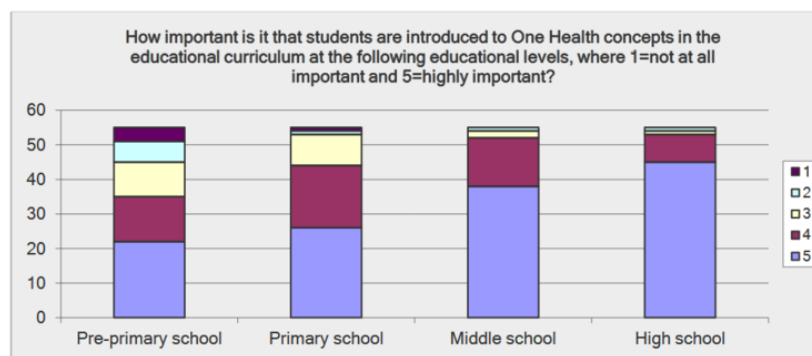


One Health Education Initiatives *Educating*

The OHC Board of Directors decided early on that education, from cradle to grave, about One Health and One Health issues would be a major focus and a One Health Education Task Force (OHETF) was launched in 2015. You can review its initiatives on the [One Health Education Initiatives Overview](#) webpage. One early effort was publication of a One Health Education Concept Paper. *

Lueddeke GR, Kaufman GE, Kahn LH, Krecek RC, Willingham AL, Stroud CM, Lindenmayer JM, Kaplan B, Conti LA, Monath TP, Woodall J, 2016, [Preparing society to create the world we need through 'One Health' education \(Part 1\)](#), *South Eastern European Journal of Public Health (SEEJPH)*. doi: 10.4119/seejph-1841.

The paper was followed by a [Press Release](#) (June 2016) exploring interest in participation in a pre-project proposal conference to seek consensus on a plan to fund an envisioned global learning program. Response to the press release from individuals and organizations from around the world was heartening. With input from internationally-recognized reviewers, the OHETF next developed an online [OH Education survey](#) for individuals already familiar with One Health. Press release respondents were invited to complete the survey. Results were summarized and published on the One Health Commission's [OHETF webpage](#) and were used to organize an online [OH Education Conference](#) held on November 18, 2016.



How important is it that students are introduced to One Health concepts in the educational curriculum at the following education levels, where 1 = not at all important and 5 = highly important?

[One Health Education Pre-Conference Survey Summary](#)

The November 2016 Conference Slides and Recording were posted on the OHETF webpage and an Executive Summary of the Conference was published including an overview of Conference Conclusions.

Lueddeke, G. R., Kaufman, G. E., Lindenmayer, J. M. and Stroud, C. M. (2017), [Preparing society to create the world we need through 'One Health' education \(Part 2\)](#), *South Eastern European Journal of Public Health (SEEJPH)*. doi: 10.4119/seejph-1858

Conference Conclusions

One Health is a pathway not only to the UN SDGs and planetary health, but also to Global Security. Health and well-being are profoundly embedded in and dependent on the stability of global governments.

As the last 10-15 years have shown, it can be very difficult to introduce One Health concepts to already established systems. But K-12 children will be our future global leaders. How do we help them understand the severity of what is going on right now in the world? What is restraining us from doing new things like taking One Health education and concepts to young children?

We need to change today's mindset/paradigm of using up our global resources without regard for the health and well-being of our planet because future generations will depend on Mother Earth. How do we get individuals, governments and corporate bodies to think more holistically and sustainably about the health and well-being of people, animals and the planet?

There is much work to do to make One Health the default way of doing business around the world. Children and One Health are our 'Ray of Hope' for the future.

Over the ensuing years, several One Health Education 'outcomes' have emerged:

1. Creation of a Bat Rabies Education Initiative focused on the Americas
2. Creation of a One Health Education-US Team
3. Creation of a compilation of online primary/secondary One Health Education Resources
4. Creation of an online One Health Opportunities Bulletin Board listing higher One Health education programs around the world
5. Launch in 2019 of the international One Health for One Planet Education (1HOPE) Initiative
6. Creation in 2021 of the Commission's first One Health scholarship, the Dr. Gregory D. Bossart Memorial Award





Educating: Facts Not Fear

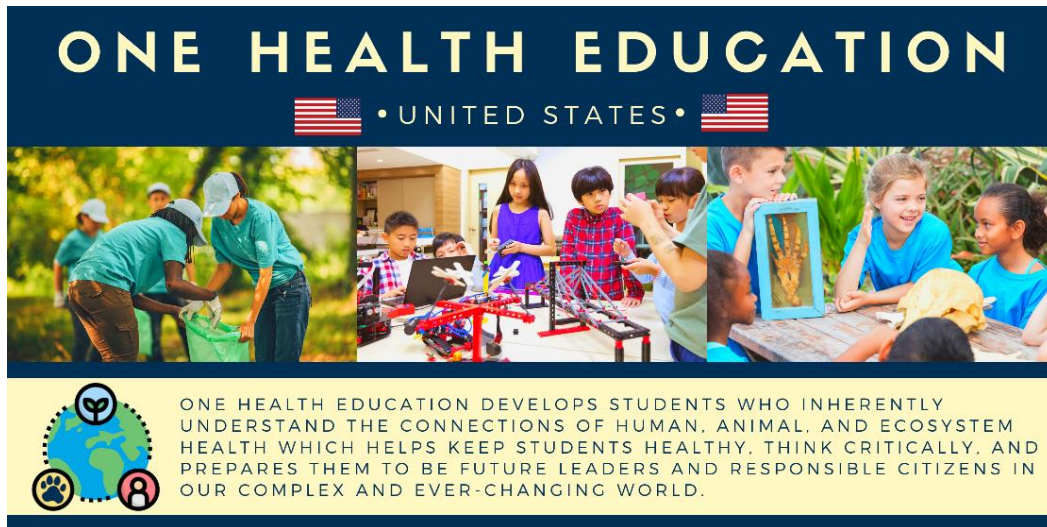
Bat Rabies Education Team

Facts:

- Rabies is a preventable deadly viral disease that can be transmitted to people by infected mammals, including bats.
- Bats need to be protected as an integral part of our global ecosystem; they serve important ecosystem services like pollination, seed dispersal, and eating disease-causing mosquitoes and crop-destroying insects.
- With knowledge and understanding we can live safely with bats while protecting them.

The OHC tries to identify gaps and take actions to address them. Unfortunately, the public is generally unaware of the health risk that bats can pose to people and pets through the potential transmission of the deadly rabies virus. This is true all over the world. Not all bats have rabies, but bats are responsible for most human cases of rabies in the Americas. (In other global regions dogs are most frequently responsible for human cases of rabies). The One Health Commission's [Bat Rabies Education Team \(BRET\)](#) provides educational resources, free downloadable posters (created with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control) and infographics (created in partnership with USDA Wildlife Research Center) in multiple languages using 'Facts not Fear' to help get the word out about protecting bats while recognizing the potential for them to transmit rabies to humans and pets, i.e. learning 'habits that keep us safe', like keeping pets vaccinated for rabies and how people and pets can stay safe around bats.





One Health Education-US (OHE-US) *Educating*

Incorporating One Health concepts into primary/secondary (K-12) Science, STEM, and Health education will strengthen curricula and help students develop an inherent understanding of the interconnections among animal, environmental and human health. The [One Health Education-US](#)

(OHE-US) team compiles a list of K-12 One Health Educational Resources (see below) available for teachers to use in their classrooms.

In 2020 OHE-US launched a [One Health survey for primary/secondary teachers](#) that remains in the field as a teaching tool targeting primary and secondary teachers.

See the survey [preview](#) for non-teachers.

Please consider sharing the actual [Survey](#) with K-12 teachers (only) that you know.



■ Primary, Secondary, K-12 OH Education Resources

Incorporating One Health into primary/secondary (K12) education prepares our students 1) to be critical thinkers who inherently understand the connections of human, animal, and ecosystem health and 2) to be our future leaders and responsible citizens in our diverse, complex, and ever-changing world.

[Free Primary / Secondary \(K-12\) One Health Educational Resources](#)

Resources have been (are being) compiled to help early education teachers develop and deliver One Health- themed curricula across primary / secondary (K-12) grades. Ideas for use and a framework for creating One Health-themed lessons are also shared in this suggested [Basic Guide to Developing One Health Lessons for K-12.](#)

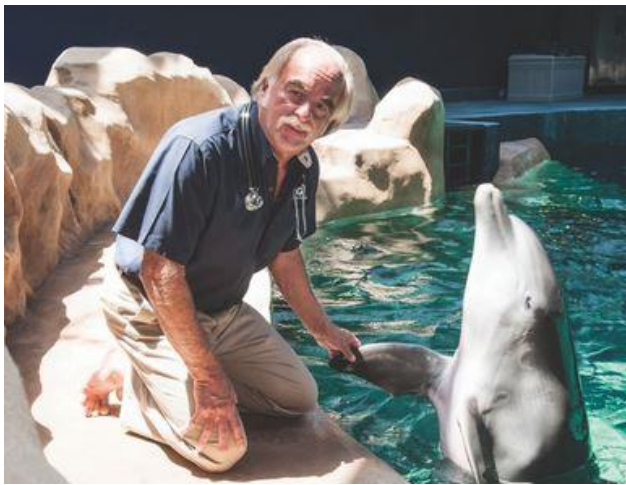




One Health Opportunities Online Bulletin Board and Higher Level One Health Educational Resources

The OHC online [One Health Opportunities Bulletin Board](#) was created in 2018 as a service for the global One Health Community. It is only as complete and helpful as the information that is brought forward. Categories of opportunities include Masters and PhD programs, One Health Certificate Programs, One Health courses and Summer Programs (online or in-person), Internships/ Externships/Scholarships, Volunteer and Employment Opportunities, Postdocs and Fellowships. The global One Health Community is encouraged to both submit and review announcements on this page.

At the bottom of the Opportunities webpage a compilation of links to additional Higher Level One Health Educational Resources is growing. Please help us make it more complete by sending any items that should be included in that section to ohc@onehealthcommission.org.



Since 2021

The Commission's first One Health Scholarship – the Dr. Gregory D. Bossart Memorial One Health Scholarship

Funded by Georgia Aquarium and administered by the One Health Commission, the [Bossart Memorial One Health Scholarship](#) was launched September,

2021 in memory of OHC Board member, Dr. Gregory D Bossart who lost his battle with cancer in 2019. Dr. Bossart was a highly respected veterinarian, pathologist, and conservationist committed to advancing the understanding of marine mammals as sentinels of ocean and human health. One Health was a long-time prominent theme in his research. Each year this scholarship in his memory supports one graduate student doing One Health framed research in wildlife biology, epidemiology, veterinary, medical, public health, basic or social sciences or other post-graduate program focusing on the interconnections between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. Each year over 100 applications are received and evaluated based on the One Health framing of the student project. Five Bossart Scholarships have been awarded to students from the US, India and Australia. View the [2025 Bossart](#) Scholars and [project summaries from previous winners](#).



2025



2024



2023



2022



2021

In addition to supporting the One Health Day Student Event Awards and the Bossart Scholarship, one of the Commission's most exciting and fulfilling endeavors since 2015 has been supporting creation of an independent [International Student One Health Alliance](#) (ISOHA), working with them to [Connect Student One Health Groups around the world](#), providing a [Student News webpage](#) on the OHC website, a [Student One Health Listserv](#) and



Resources and Services for the international One Health Community

One Health Happenings

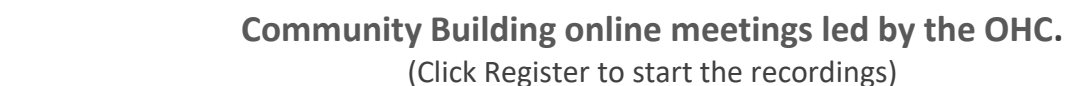
The collage features several images related to One Health:

- A person wearing a surgical mask and cap.
- A small yellow chick.
- Silhouettes of people with arms raised in a field.
- A black and white cow.
- A globe showing the Americas.
- A person wearing a hat and a red bandana, with arms raised.
- The United States Capitol building.
- A woman with short grey hair smiling.

At the bottom, there is a red banner with white text that reads: "EMERGING DISEASE, WILDLIFE TRADE AND CONSUMPTION: THE NEED FOR ROBUST GLOBAL GOVERNANCE". Below this, in smaller text, it says "Edited by Dr. David A. Martin, University of Maryland".

Established in 2015 with a handful of contacts, the OHC [International One Health Community Listserv](#) has grown to over 22,000, having increased by over 12,000 since the beginning of the pandemic. It is used to distribute the [One Health Happenings newsletters](#) and any other relevant calls and announcements to the Global One Health Community. In addition to supporting each of its working groups, the OHC also offers listserv services for the International Student One Health Alliance (ISOHA).

In addition to activities led by its working groups, since 2015 the OHC has led or provided online meeting support for over 30 Community Building online meetings, including those led by ISOHA, by the Commission's One Health Social Sciences Team (OHSS) Health Latin America community that evolved into the **(OHLAIC) Network**.



- Community building online meetings led by ISOHA**
(Webinar platform provided by the One Health Commission.
Click Register to start each recordings)

- As a result of these activities the international One Health Community is more ‘connected’, knows what groups are doing what and where to find ‘synergy’ of actions. This is critical for joining hands to raise collective voices calling for implementation of One Health locally, nationally, regionally, internationally.

■ Educational Webinars

Since 2015 the OHC has led or provided webinar support for [over 100 educational webinars](#), including 10 led by ISOHA, 47 led by OHC partner the [Washington DC One Health Academy](#), 3 hosted by the Rabies in the Americas (RITA) Conference, 21 led by the Commission's One Health Social Sciences Team (OHSS) and several hosted by Idaho One Health. Attendance records indicate that thousands of individuals have participated in these educational events in the past 8 years.



Example: One Health in the US webinar Series: One Health 101 – What's all the fuss?

There remains a need for the lay person on Main Street, Anywhere to better understanding what One Health is all about. To meet this need, on June 30, 2021 the One Health Commission and staff of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, in partnership with the Wilson Center and Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, hosted the first in a series of '[One Health in the US](#)' webinars. The OHC provided the webinar platform and moderators. The event was widely promoted in public networks and popular media representatives were invited. See the [press release](#).



CONNECTING HUMAN, ANIMAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:
WHEN WE PROTECT ONE, WE HELP PROTECT ALL.

Over 1000 people registered, so many that we had to temporarily expand webinar seating capacity in the GoToWebinar account. Over 420 attendees remained engaged in the webinar for the whole 90 minutes. As of April 26, 2022 the recording had been viewed 224 times. You can view that [recording](#) and see [handouts shared during the webinar](#).



● Raising Awareness about One Health

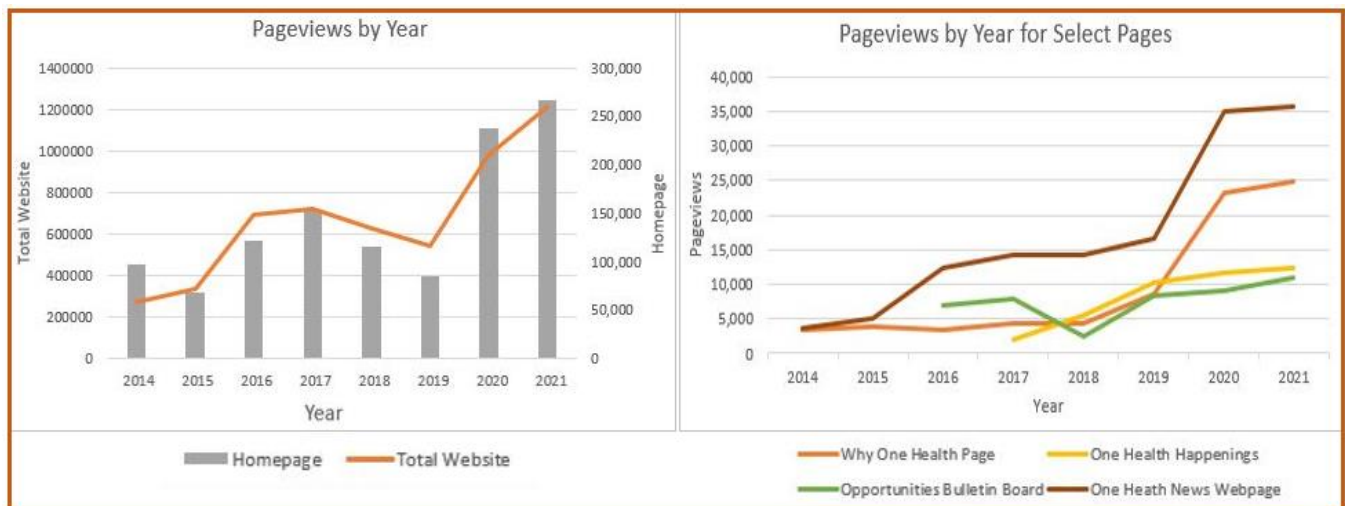
Since taking the reins in 2014, the OHC Executive Director, Dr. Cheryl Stroud, have given [over 150 invited One Health presentations](#), 1 documentary and 4 podcast interviews and moderated 1 webinar for the German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ) and

facilitated connections and introductions for One Health speakers for countless other events for which she did not, herself, speak. The OHC is now recognized as a leader in the international One Health Community, expanding its message about implementing One Health.*****



The OHC Website

[The One Health Commission](#) website has become a community driven, globally recognized repository of One Health Resources as revealed by the increase in pageviews of the entire website, the homepage and other highly visited pages. It is quite evident in these graphs (next page) that the pandemic sent many people to us to find out more about One Health.



Data beyond 2021 under preparation

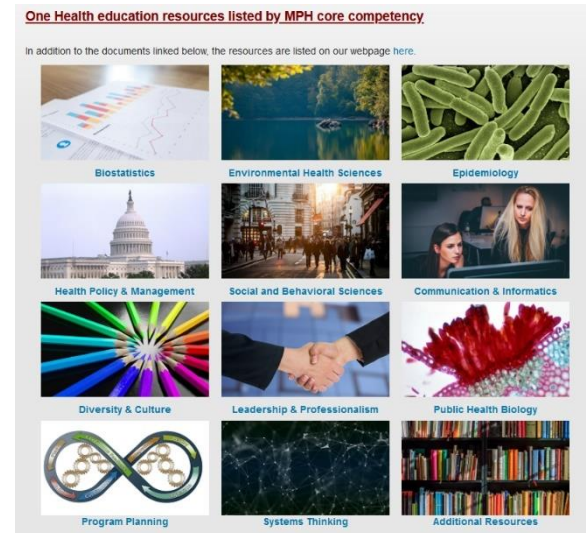
COVID-19 and One Health Webpages

In January 2020 the OHC began compiling select [popular media OpEds and Commentaries](#) about the COVID-19 pandemic that mentioned and/or called for One Health. From 2020 - 2022 over 350 articles have been included and more continue to be published and brought forward. This initiative has proven to be of strong interest to OHC website visitors. The COVID-19 and One Health webpage had 15,577 unique pageviews in 2020 and 21,851 pageviews in 2021. By April 23, 2022 it had been visited almost 6,000 times in the first 3 months of the year.



• One Health Teaching Resources for Public Health Educators

In 2016 One Health was added by the U.S. Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) to the Accreditation Criteria for Schools of Public Health and Public Health Programs requiring that all public health students would be able to “Explain an ecological perspective on the connections among human health, animal health and ecosystem health (eg, One Health)”. In 2021, the OHC and student intern Neil Vezeau, DVM/MPH student and former ISOHA leader, prepared and implemented a survey to 180 public health administrators and faculty exploring interest, gaps, perceived need and indications of the types of resources preferred by educators in MPH programs. Over 40 survey responses were received informing curation of appropriate resources into an OHC webpage of [One Health Resources for Public Health Educators](#). This initiative became Neil’s MPH Capstone project with Executive Director Stroud serving as his mentor. Now ‘Dr.’ Vezeau is serving as the Commission’s Technical Consultant and Project Manager.



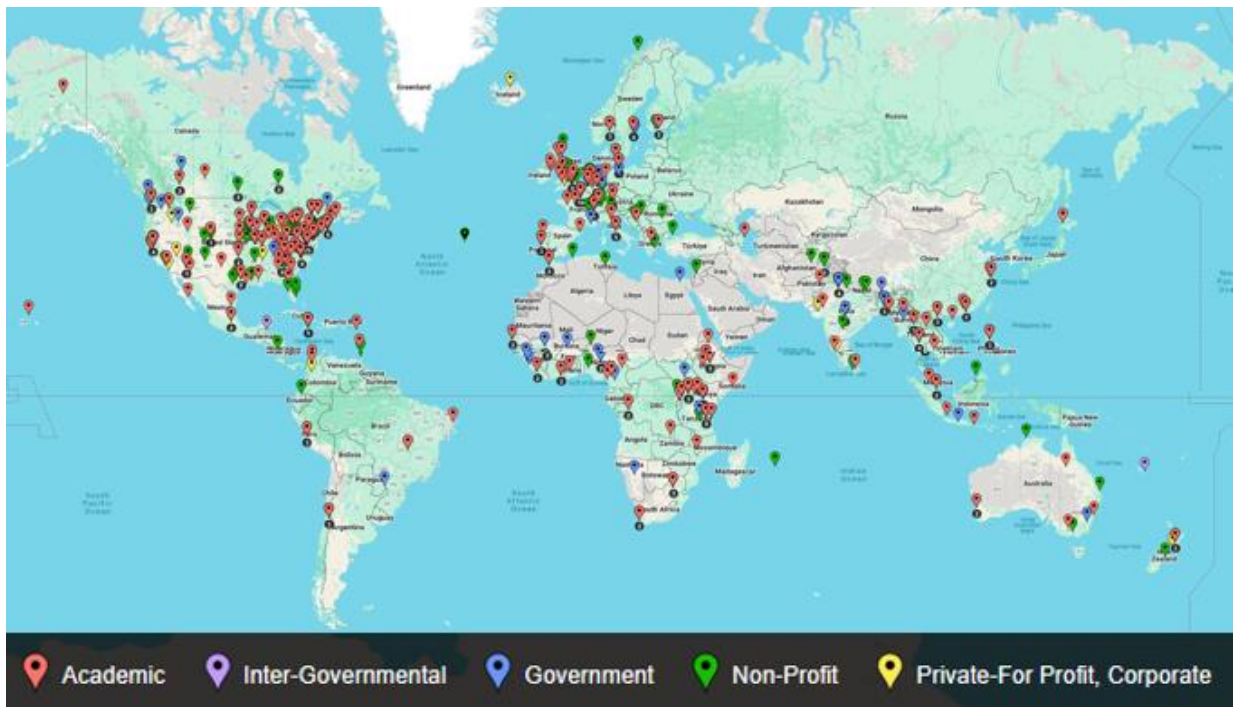
• International One Health Strategic Action Plans Webpages Launched 2021

Many national and subnational governments, government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and intergovernmental organizations have recognized the need for a One Health approach. To elucidate this evolving policy landscape, the One Health Commission has been compiling their [One Health Strategic Action Plans](#).

This compilation is a global One Health community effort and input from the community is welcomed as we make [this webpage](#) a tool for showing colleagues and policymakers how much One Health thinking is being implemented globally.

■ Who’s Who in One Health Webpages

It is exciting to watch the One Health movement spread around the globe. To help the world ‘see’ what is going on, the OHC has compiled [Who's Who in One Health organizations](#) maps revealing 'all' groups and organizations so far identified that are *actively working* to further One Health by leading One Health education, research and outreach activities and programs. The list became 'so' long we have broken out separate maps for Academic, Government, Non-Profit and For-Profit organizations that are embracing and working to further One Health.



[Academic Organizations working for One Health](#)

[Government and Intergovernmental Organizations implementing One Health](#)

[Non-Profit &/or Coalition Organizations working for One Health](#)

[Private, For-Profit, Corporations embracing One Health](#)

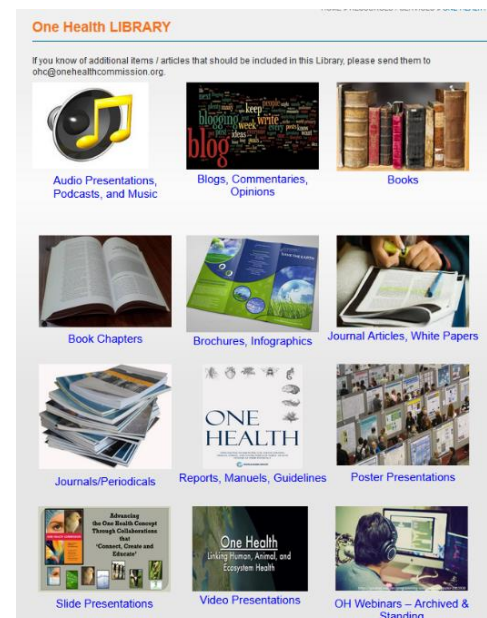
Note: ISOHA's Who's Who in [Students for One Health \(SOH\)](#) maps also continue to expand and are linked to on the OHC Who's Who webpages.

■ Additional Website Resources

- [One Health Community News and One Health Topics 'in' the News](#)
- [Narratives of One Health in Action](#)
- [Online One Health Library,](#)

Free to the world, continually expanding, includes:

- Audio Presentations, Podcasts, Music
- Blogs, Commentaries, Opinions
- Books
- Book Chapters
- Brochures, Infographics
- Journal Articles, White Papers (peer reviewed)
- Periodicals
- Reports, Manuals, Guides
- Presentations (Posters, Slides, Videos)
- Links to OHC and partner's Webinars



Advocating for One Health - Think Globally, Act Locally

Though the Commission works globally and, as a 501c3 non-profit licensed and based in the U.S., can only do limited 'lobbying', it is working to educate U.S. law/policy makers and staffers about the urgency of embracing and implementing One Health. Since July 2019 the OHC has provided overview webpages about the [Advancing Emergency Preparedness Through One Health Act of 2019](#) that was [reintroduced in the 117th U.S. Congress in 2021](#). At the bottom of those webpages one can review advocacy efforts (such as educational [Congressional 'Briefings'](#) for both House and Senate) and access information on how U.S based organizations [can become part](#) of an [informal coalition of US One Health partners](#) being led by the One Health Commission.



No other organization intentionally recruits professionals across so many sectors to join hands in so many collaborative global community One Health actions and endeavors.

Impact Story #1

Showing the value of One Health networks

In 2020 the WHO Global Outreach and Response Network (GOARN) invited the OHC to become a member and sought its assistance in a [COVID-19 Call to Action](#) seeking experts willing and able to assist GOARN during the pandemic. The One Health European Joint Program (OHEJP) was invited to join in and both OHC and OHEJP pushed out calls in their global (OHC) and European (OHEJP) networks. The Call-to-Action message went to over 12,000 (at the time) participants in the OHC international One Health Community listserv. Within 2 weeks of the messages going out to the listserv, GOARN had received over 600 applications to participate in the COVID-19 response.

That 'outcome' prompted the partners to initiate a [Global Survey about One Health Networks \(OHNs\) and Participation in the Response to COVID-19](#) led by the OHC, the OHEJP, and WHO GOARN. The sample included 1,050 respondents from 94 countries across a range of organizations and work sectors. Sixty-four percent of survey respondents indicated involvement in pandemic response activities. Being part of a One Health Network (OHN) was positively associated with being involved in the COVID-19 response (odds ratio: 1.8, 95% confidence interval: 1.3–2.4). Lack of opportunities was a commonly reported barrier to involvement globally, with lack of funding the largest barrier in the WHO African region.

This insight into diverse workforce involvement in the pandemic response internationally helps fill a gap in the global health workforce and public health education literature. An expanded understanding of the perceived roles and value of One Health Networks can inform targeted interventions to improve public health education and workforce capacity to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies such as epidemics and pandemics. The summary of this investigation was published in 2022.

Streichert LC, Sepe Ludovico P, Jokelainen P, Stroud CM, Berezowski J, Del Rio Vilas VJ, [Participation in One Health Networks and Involvement in the COVID-19 Pandemic Response: A Global Study](#), Frontiers in Public Health, Vol. 10, 2022, DOI=10.3389/fpubh.2022.830893



Impact Story #2

Raising our Collective One Health Voice from the 8th World One Health Congress (WOHC), UN General Assembly – Summit of the Future Fails to include One Health

September 2024. Simultaneous to the World One Health Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, world leaders were meeting in New York at the UN General Assembly [Summit of the Future](#) and adopting a Pact for the Future. The One Health Commission's Executive Director, who was attending the WOHC, had been made aware, by an OHC Advisor, before departing for Cape Town that the Summit of the Future program and the Pact under development failed to include One Health in spite of the UN Quadripartite actively embracing and leading for One Health. Before travelling and again when she arrived in Cape Town, the OHC Director brought this error to the attention of WOHC organizers requesting to partner with them to alert Congress attendees and take



action. After some delay, [a message was jointly prepared](#) and sent on September 21, 2024 to the UN General Secretary Summit of the Future Action Days and other UN contacts urging that One Health be fully embraced with specific suggestions for where it might be included in the draft Pact.

At the same time, [an email](#) to all WOHC attendees was jointly prepared and sent by the Congress organizers providing the opportunity for attendees to sign on to the letter that was sent to the Summit of the Future, as individuals or organizations, in support of the Collective Call. The One Health Commission provided the sign-on mechanism. Twenty-nine organizations and 102 individuals signed in support of the appeal.

This moment marks a ‘first’ for the international One Health movement to collaboratively raise its collective voice.

Unfortunately, the message arrived too late to be incorporated and the final Summit [Pact for the Future](#) failed to include an appeal for One Health thinking, acting and decision making in all plans for the future. However, this collective message exercise, spearheaded by the OHC, demonstrated a significant appetite for collaborative, coordinated communications efforts from international One Health networks.

Impact Story #3

Bat Rabies Education Team (BRET) elucidating ‘Gaps’

Sometimes just asking a question can raise awareness and inspire action!

The OHC seeks to identify gaps and to take actions to address them. BRET was formed in 2015 to promote bat rabies education and awareness in the Americas, especially in K-12 children and parents. Its first focus region was the U.S. and one of its early initiatives was a [survey](#) in 2017 to public health officials across the U.S. to discover any existing bat rabies education programs led by public health departments. Responses came from 10 states. Over half (55.3%) of the responding organizations reported that they did ‘not’ conduct any activities specifically for bat rabies education.

Another gap that BRET identified was the lack of a ‘real-time’ communications system to alert veterinary practitioners in the U.S. when cases of rabies are diagnosed in any animals in their local areas. Veterinary clinicians are a first line of defense against rabies spillover from wildlife to companion animals, protecting both pets and people. Yet, canine rabies has been so well controlled in the U.S. (through vaccination programs) that many veterinarians forget to include this deadly zoonotic disease on their disease rule-out lists when managing their daily cases.

As a follow on to the first survey BRET sent a [reach-out letter](#) to US State Veterinarians and State Public Health Veterinarians asking if their states had a ‘real-time’ rabies veterinary alert system in place. There would be no specific client, pet or exact location data shared, just an alert: “Attention! A



case of rabies has been confirmed in a bat/cat/raccoon/skunk, etc. in your region. Be on the look-out for potential spillover cases to unvaccinated domestic/companion animals in your area!!” This would remind veterinarians to keep rabies front of mind in their daily practice when presented with unvaccinated, ill animals.

BRET received replies from 9 states. We learned:

- Los Angeles County, CA does indeed have such a system in place. In fact, when they have a rabies positive bat they not only do ‘in person’ notification of veterinary clinics, they go door-to-door in the neighborhood where the rabid bat was found warning local residents to be on the look-out. “We started doing the in-person notification of vet clinics in 2017 after a survey of clinics clarified that few veterinarians were aware that rabid bats had been found near their clinics in the preceding year.”
- In another state all positive rabies tests are posted on the Department of Health and Human Services website in real-time. Any person in the public can subscribe to the page to be notified of updates (e.g. new posting of a positive test) immediately by text or email message. So any veterinary practitioner that wants to learn of such results in real-time has the option.
- Another state issues a “rabies alert” in the event of a single case of rabies in a domestic animal or when the level of rabies in wild animals (primarily bats and skunks) rises above “normal.” A rabies alert letter is sent to veterinarians, county commissioners, state representative/ senator, and the local health department for the affected county to raise awareness, promote specimen submission, and for parties to educate the public about rabies. That state does not notify veterinarians or other parties when a single case of rabies is detected in a wild animal. *“We’ll explore doing this, perhaps through our state veterinary professional association. **Thank you for taking on this project!**”*
- One state reported: We do not have an alert system for rabid bats, but we recently developed a queriable map to keep track of rabid bat detections Our Department of Agriculture has a blast fax system to send urgent information to veterinary clinics state-wide. A positive bat would not rise to the level of alert on this system, however, any other positive animal would. *We will move our bat map externally so that vets and the public can easily access it, and we can send announcements regarding positive bat detections out through the [local Vet Med Association] weekly.*

But the most ‘impactful’ responses BRET received were these:

- “With the cooperation of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Office of Public Health (Louisiana Department of Health) has been able to create an alert system for the state’s accredited veterinarians. **We established this email-based system within the past two weeks. The system has already been utilized to notify veterinarians in Louisiana of two cases of skunk rabies in one region of the state. We thank you for reminding us to pursue the goal of creating this alert network.**”
- One public health official said, “I would LOVE to set up a [real-time veterinary alert] system, but I don't think we would have buy-in from others within my department unless there was a specific call for this system to be implemented. **So I will say again that I would LOVE to receive this request formally so I can forward it on to the higher ups in my organization.**”

The One Health Commission raises issues and brings them forward when/where no one else does. If the OHC were not asking these questions, who would be?

Award and Recognition of the OHC

One Health Commission receives Climate and Health Action Award 2023 at the 17th World Congress on Public Health

In May, 2023 the OHC was honored to receive the [World Federation of Public Health Associations Climate and Health Action Award 2023](#) at the 17th World Congress of Public Health in Italy. Finances prohibited travel by the Executive Director to Italy to accept the award so she reached into the OHC's vast network of supporters and asked Dr. Annapaola Rizzoli from the Research and Innovation Center of the Edmund Mach Foundation in Italy to attend and accept the award on behalf of the One Health Commission.



Resources & Financial Management

It costs nothing for an organization or an individual to participate in the Commission's activities or be part of its international One Health Community. However, it is only the support of our financial sponsors that allows us to continue and additionally to expand our efforts.

Most of the OHC's support comes from academic and other non-profit organizations, from associations and individuals. IRS 990 filing forms are available upon request.

You may be amazed at how 'much' the OHC and its Volunteers have been able to make happen on such a very thin budget for so many years. And, like many non-profits, the pandemic set the OHC back significantly on fundraising. But with your help we can not only continue the work we have going, but also expand with these planned initiatives:

- Expand One Health Day Student Awards
- Better Support Action Teams/Working Groups
 - Cover publication costs for any articles they prepare
 - Cover costs of travel for presenting at conferences about their One Health Team's work
 - Provide more staff support for meetings and use of online meeting platforms
- Lead more Educational Webinars 'with' the opportunity for CE, CNE, CME. To date we have not been able to afford to offer these much-needed attractions
- Annual In-Person Board meetings - it means 'so much' to meet in person when possible

- Implement Student Travel Scholarships
- International Students for One Health (ISOHA): Offer financial support in addition to the listserv, webinar platform and networking support that the OHC already provides
- Lead international One Health Community Workshops
- Hire development and fundraising staff
- Hire Program Officer to help oversee Action Teams

***Thank you to these Organizations
for their generous support of the Commission's work through the
years!***



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to the Commission's work through the years.***

(Some as sustainers with monthly donations!)

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Donations of ‘any’ size are welcome. Find out how to help.

See: [How to financially support the One Health Commission](#)
as an organization, individual, or corporation.



The One Health Commission is a US based a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, E.I.N. 27-0799294,
working globally to ‘connect, create, and educate’ for One Health.

Financial contributions are tax deductible.

OHC Activities Overview

Briefly updated July 2026 – more updates to come



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