Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Texas A&M University has defined One Health as one of six Grand Challenges that we, as an academic institution, should be addressing through innovative education, research, and outreach programs. In response to this need, the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences has agreed to take the lead role in developing this strategic initiative by building partnerships and collaborations throughout the university and beyond.

One Health, which refers to the inextricable link between animal, human, and ecosystem health, will bring together practitioners and researchers from human and veterinary medicine, biomedical engineers, environmental scientists, and a host of others to work collaboratively to advance health care for all species and protect our ecosystem. These collaborators will develop treatments and preventive measures to protect society and our environment from biological threats.

Texas is the second most populous state in the nation, ranks number one in many livestock and wildlife populations, is a border state with Mexico and is a coastal state, all which combine to make Texas the ideal home to a robust One Health program with global impact. It is for these reasons that Texas A&M identified One Health as one of the prominent Grand Challenges. Every Texas A&M college is welcomed to contribute to One Health through public policy initiatives, entrepreneurship, commercialization pathways, climatology, remote medicine, biomedical engineering, education, and much more.

To coordinate such a dynamic program requires a dedicated person with an extensive background in public health, one who is able to bridge multiple disciplines. I’m pleased to announce that we have found that person in Dr. Michael Chaddock, our first ever Assistant Dean for One Health & Strategic Initiatives.

As we continue to develop our One Health Program, Dr. Chaddock and his team will continue to keep you informed through regular newsletters and presentations. We are excited to about the opportunity to develop Texas A&M One Health into a comprehensive program of which Texans everywhere can be proud.

Eleanor M. Green, DVM, DACVIM, DABVP
Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine
College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University

Howdy!

It has only been 16 weeks since I’ve arrived in Aggieland, and the One Health team is already making great strides in designing the foundation for an exciting program. Looking back on my first few weeks at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), I can say a lot has happened and new opportunities are unearthed every day! First of all, before I update you on One Health happenings, I have to say the weather is great! Being from Michigan and with a number of years in Washington, DC, this feels like I have moved to the Equator. Everyone says I will not say the same thing in August so we will see. I don’t care if I ever see another snowflake! Two of the other dramatic changes that I have noticed are the omnipresence of the Grackles and large insects! Neither of these did I live with “up North!” Fifty Grackles on a roof of a car in the Kroger parking lot and a four-inch insect with inch and a half antennae hanging and squirming out of our cat’s mouth is a bit much. But since I am working with One Health I better get used to sharing the earth with these two new natural friends.

I was very fortunate to arrive at the CVM and find that One Health is one of TAMU’s Grand Challenges, and Dean Eleanor Green is the lead dean in overseeing this university-wide and off-campus collaborative initiative focused on education, research, and service. There are several unique characteristics of our university and our state that make Texas A&M an ideal institution for launching a One Health program that will develop into a global leader. Including TAMU, there are only four universities in the United States that have colleges of veterinary medicine, medicine, agriculture, business, and schools of public affairs and public health at the same location. TAMU is uniquely situated to be the world-class leader in this initiative. Texas has a large concentration of humans and animals being the second most populous state in the union with rich cultural diversity. It is number one in livestock numbers of cattle, horses, and small ruminants with 36% of the nation’s beef fed in the Panhandle. With Texas being such a large state from the Great Plains to the Gulf Coast, it has a variety of environmental influences and climate differences.

We are defining One Health as the collaborative effort of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, and globally to attain sustainable optimal health for the ecosystem which is a biological community of living organisms (humans, animals, plants, and microbes) and their physical environment interacting as a system. It is a cultural and behavioral concept with socioeconomic elements and impact. One Health is driven by agents of change which include, but are not limited to, population growth; nutritional, agricultural, and trade practices; globalization; shift in land use; accelerated urbanization; deforestation; encroachment on wildlife; and climate change.

Mike Chaddock, DVM, EML
Assistant Dean for One Health and Strategic Initiatives
College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University

Mission and Vision Statements of Texas A&M University One Health:

In a leadership role, establish local, national, and global academic, public, private, and not-for-profit partnerships and collaborations for world class ecosystem educational, research, and service programs. The Texas A&M University One Health vision is improved health and well-being of the ecosystem.
Our team has developed a time-line of activity for the next 18 months in support of the One Health mission and vision. There will be several short-term “low hanging fruit” goals for which to celebrate early successes and longer-term goals that will set the stage for bearing results for years to come. Below are just a few bullet points of things we will be doing over the next year or so:

- Visiting with all CVM departments and centers and soliciting ideas about One Health initiatives
- Visiting with representatives from all colleges across the University
- Documenting One Health initiatives and programs that currently are ongoing across campus
- Documenting One Health education, research, service initiatives, and programs that other universities’ colleges of veterinary medicine, colleges of human medicine, colleges of agriculture, etc. have implemented
- Visiting with other universities that have robust One Health programs and learning from them and identifying collaborative partnerships in research, teaching, and service
- Visiting with appropriate state and federal agencies involved in One Health and identifying potential collaborations and resources
- Facilitating meetings with representatives of academia, private business, non-profits, and government representatives to find common ground and possible collaborations and resources
- Developing a TAMU One Health Program web page

The One Health initiative is by definition a collaborative program. Your suggestions for research proposals and educational & outreach programs will be instrumental to our success. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, recommendations, and/or ideas that support the mission and vision.