

# History of the One Health Commission

Updated September 2015

Around the World, the One Health Initiative is a call to action for the establishment of closer professional interactions, collaborations, and educational and research opportunities across the health science professions and related disciplines to improve health of people, animals, plants, and the environment. Our changing environment now often increases human and animal contact creating significant challenges for all three domains. These challenges require integrated solutions and call for collaborative leadership. The One Health Commission was formed to facilitate these trans-disciplinary interactions.

## FORMATION OF THE ONE HEALTH COMMISSION

- **April, 2007** Led by Dr. Roger Mahr, then AVMA President, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) took official action to establish a One Health Initiative by forming a [One Health Initiative Task Force](#) (OHITF).
- **June, 2007** Led by Dr. Ron Davis, the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates approved [Resolution 530 \(A07\)](#) calling for the AMA to “engage in a dialogue with the American Veterinary Medical Association to discuss strategies for enhancing collaboration between human and veterinary medical professions in medical education, clinical care, public health, and biomedical research” and the AMA appointed a representative member and a liaison to the OHITF.
- **June, 2007** Starting with three liaisons, one each from the AMA, the American Public Health Association (APHA) and the AVMA, the OHITF was subsequently comprised of thirteen visionary individuals from various health science professions, academia, (including two student representatives), government, and industry. This task force worked together via teleconferences for the next 12 months discussing the need for the One Health paradigm shift. One activity was to interview stakeholder groups and individuals who were interested in the One Health Initiative to obtain their ideas on key areas and concepts that the Task Force could consider in preparing its report. Select comments from these ['Wise Person' discussion's](#) were published online. See a [narrative \(Case #7, page 206\)](#) by Dr. Mahr about events in 2006-2008.
- **June, 2008** The OHITF completed its charge by presenting a final report and twelve recommendations to the AVMA Executive Board. The recommendations formed the basic outline for an ongoing One Health Initiative. The final report was published (JAVMA, July 15, 2018) as an [Executive Summary](#) of the OHITF findings. (The full report can be found at [AVMA website](#)). Tragically, Dr. Ron Davis succumbed to pancreatic cancer in November, 2008.
- **December, 2008** An independent multidisciplinary One Health Joint Steering Committee (OHJSC) was formed (one of the twelve recommendations) and held its first organizational meeting. Eighteen member organizations comprised [the 2008-2009](#)

[OHJSC](#). The OHJSC facilitated a transitioning process for fulfillment of another of the twelve recommendations, creation of the One Health Commission (OHC). The Rockefeller Foundation provided a significant support grant for operations of the OHJSC for the purpose of establishing the One Health Commission. The Rockefeller Foundation considered the formation of the OHC as the first step in establishing a global One Health Initiative to support multidisciplinary collaboration for improved human, animal and environmental health.

- **June 29, 2009** The OHC was officially chartered in Washington, D.C. as a 501(c)3, non-profit organization with eight founding institutional members.
- **August 14, 2009** The first organizational meeting of the One Health Commission Board of Directors was held via teleconference. The OHC was determined by the IRS to be tax exempt pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code, and was designated as a public charity.
- **November, 2009** A One Health Summit was held (another of the twelve recommendations) in partnership with the National Academies of Science in Washington, D.C. Nine speakers included senior officials from the USDA, CDC, FDA, NIEHS, USAID, academia, state government, and Kansas Bioscience Organization. An [Executive Summary](#) of the One Health Summit was published online. At the Summit, the National Academies announced its intent to conduct an Institute of Medicine/National Research Council consensus study on One Health.
- **March, 2010** AMA representative to the OHC Board, Al Osbahr, M.D., becomes Chair of the Board. OHC Council of Advisors under development.
- **October, 2010** The One Health Commission issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to secure an institutional leading partner(s) to provide support to fully operationalize. The RFP was sent to all accredited Colleges and Schools of Medicine, Public Health and Public Health Programs, and Veterinary Medicine in the U.S.
- **December, 2010** Iowa State University (ISU) was selected to become a leading partner with the OHC. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the OHC and ISU was finalized on January 31, 2011 by which the OHC office headquarters were established within the Nutrition and Wellness Research Center at the ISU Research Park as 'in-kind' support.
- **February, 2012** The [One Health Commission website](#), designed in 2009, was 'activated'.
- **Summer, 2012** The Commission implemented a survey of One Health Stakeholders to prioritize One Health efforts (Contact Dr. Stroud, Executive Director if you would like to review the survey results)
- **Fall, 2012** First OHC financial sponsorship drive began. (See [Sponsors](#)) As a result, by February 2013, Institutional financial 'Leaders' increased and the Commission's [Board of](#)

[Directors](#) expanded (from 6) to fourteen dynamic leaders ready to carry the Commission forward.

- **April, 2013** Founding CEO, Roger Mahr, DVM, announced intention to retire from the Commission
- **Summer, 2013** The Commission partnered with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) and Bat Conservation International (BCI) to develop two [bat rabies educational posters](#), (one child, one adult, in English, Spanish and Portuguese, free to download), that began circulating around the world.
- **October, 2013** The OHC Board selected [Dr. Cheryl Stroud](#) as (part-time) Executive Director.
- **November, 2013** The Commission began its administrative move from Iowa State University to the Research Triangle Park area of North Carolina.
- **January, 2014** The OHC Board selected Deeanna Burleson, RN, MSN as (part-time) Associate Executive Director to oversee the website and membership.
- **February, 2014** [The First Annual OHC 'In-Person' Board meeting](#) was held in Atlanta, Georgia, hosted and funded by OHC 'Leader' sponsor, the Georgia Aquarium. The Mission statement was updated and strategic plans were created.
- **March, 2014** AVMA representative to the Commission, Joann Lindenmayer, DVM, MPH, becomes Chair of the Board.
- **April, 2014** The Commission reaches out to 'connect' and support Students working for One Health. The [Students for One Health](#) (SOH) webpage is created on the OHC website. Students create [SOH Facebook Page](#) and ['Future Leaders in One Health' LinkedIn page](#).
- **July, 2014** The [inaugural One Health Commission Newsletter](#) was published online and shared widely among the One Health stakeholder community.
- **November 10, 2014** The Commission plans and hosts the [First International Who's Who in One Health online webinar](#) with fifteen major One Health leaders speaking from around the world.
- **January, 2015** OHC Communications Team creates [One Health Public Service radio announcement](#).
- **January, 2015** Volunteer Website support team is created.
- **January, 2015** One Health Commission (OHC) and One Health Initiative (OHI) Pro-Bono website team write [joint letter to AVMA](#) about their increasing functional partnership.

- **March 30, 2015** OHC provides online platform for [First Students for One Health \(SOH\) online meeting](#). [Students from 24 schools](#) from 6 countries reported on their One Health groups and activities. Call for nominations for SOH representative on the OHC Board was announced.
- **April, 2015** [Second OHC Newsletter](#) published online
- **May, 2015** Peter Costa, MPH, MCHES becomes Associate Executive Director when Ms. Burleson steps down to complete her PhD.
- **June, 2015** One Health Commission Invited to Participate in the International One Health Platform Foundation
- **June 30 2015** [OHC Letter to The White House](#)
- **August, 2015** Six [Student representatives](#) were selected to serve on the OHC Board and will lead One Health Action Project Teams
- **October 26-27, 2015** Second Annual OHC Board 'In-Person' Meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia, hosted and funded (a second time) by OHC 'Leader' sponsor, the Georgia Aquarium.