



»» AAVMC

Governmental Affairs Agenda

115th United States Congress

Academic Veterinary Medicine:
The Foundation & Future
of a Vital Medical Profession



For more than 50 years, the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) has been working to promote excellence in academic veterinary medicine. It's members include all 30 accredited colleges and schools of veterinary medicine in the United States. Headquartered at 655 K Street, the AAVMC works closely with the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and other healthcare education associations to foster a One Health approach to human, animal, and planetary wellbeing.



Association of American
Veterinary Medical Colleges

Veterinary medicine promotes the bounty and safety of our food supply, protects public health, ensures national security, and fosters the human/animal bond. A strong and effective profession of veterinary medicine is a fundamental part of a strong and healthy nation, and a strong system of academic veterinary medicine is an essential part of a strong profession.





“Veterinarians speak for patients who have no voice. At the same time, we keep America’s food supply the best and safest in the world.”

—Rep. Ted Yoho, DVM

»» THE VETERINARY MEDICINE CAUCUS IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

People from all backgrounds and political persuasions agree: Veterinary medical colleges contribute to the overall wellbeing of our nation and our planet.

The Veterinary Medicine Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives encompasses members from both parties who represent a range of ideological views and geographic regions. The Caucus is led by Representatives Kurt Schrader (D-Oregon), and Ted Yoho (R-Florida), who are both veterinarians, and was initially established in 2013. The Caucus exists to keep Members and staff informed about the achievements, opportunities and challenges facing the profession of veterinary medicine. It also helps build awareness in Congress about the important role veterinary medicine plays in biomedical research, public health, animal health and welfare, food safety and the nation’s economy. The AAVMC periodically presents legislative briefings on Capitol Hill for Members and staff on timely topics like Zika Virus, avian influenza and other topics affecting human and animal health.



“Veterinarians have become the most qualified health professionals to help us deal with zoonotic diseases, bioterrorism, comparative medicine, and food safety issues...”

—Rep. Kurt Schrader, DVM

Veterinarians are working with physicians, agricultural producers and other scientists to address the looming public health threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).



Addressing Antibiotic Resistance

A REPORT FROM THE JOINT APLU | AAVMC TASK FORCE ON ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE IN PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE



“As both a veterinarian and a medical doctor, I know how critical veterinary medicine is to human and animal health. Veterinarians’ willingness to ensure food safety and good animal husbandry is actually a national security issue.”

—Rep. Ralph Abraham, MD, DVM

»» CARING FOR PEOPLE, ANIMALS & THE PLANET: ONE HEALTH

Federal government support for our nation’s schools and colleges of veterinary medicine is essential. AAVMC member institutions are training generations of veterinarians who are exceptionally well prepared to meet 21st century challenges in healthcare, food production and national security.

The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges works closely with the Veterinary Medicine Caucus, governmental agencies, policymakers and leaders in commerce and industry to build understanding and support for academic veterinary medicine, which is the DNA of a strong profession. The comprehensive, multi-species education veterinarians receive fosters a much-needed interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving and disease control. Veterinarians actively collaborate with physicians, biomedical scientists and other healthcare professions to promote human and animal health and wellbeing. Veterinarians:

- Protect the bounty and safety of the nation’s food supply
- Provide human quality healthcare for our beloved family pets
- Contain the menace of global infectious disease threats, many which originate from animal populations
- Conduct life-saving research in cancer, heart disease, diabetes and many other areas
- Serve as vital members of our nation’s emergency healthcare detection and response teams

Though focused on animals, veterinary medicine profoundly impacts human health and wellbeing in our interconnected world.



Senator Al Franken (D-Minnesota) introduced S.2634, The One Health Act of 2016, in the 114th Congress and is a strong advocate for One Health.





Veterinary scientists play a critical role in biomedical research that protects human health and advances the National Institutes of Health's research agenda.



Veterinarians provide human-quality healthcare for more than 150 million beloved family pets. A growing body of scientific data demonstrates the beneficial effects of owning a pet on human health and wellbeing.

»»» OUR LEGISLATIVE GOALS PROMOTE THE HEALTH & WELLBEING OF OUR NATION

The AAVMC advocates for the resources our U.S. colleges of veterinary medicine and departments of veterinary science and comparative medicine need to support America's healthcare and food production systems. Our member institutions are preparing new generations of veterinarians for professional practice, promoting animal health and agricultural productivity, and protecting public health. These resources will help:

- Safeguard our nation's food supply and the international food animal products trade
- Protect animal health and foster human health and wellbeing through the human/animal bond
- Support critically needed interdisciplinary biomedical research which must be conducted at AAVMC member institutions
- Strengthen national preparedness and protect the nation from both naturally occurring and deliberately introduced infectious disease threats (bioterrorism)
- Provide opportunities for qualified students to seek and establish careers in veterinary medicine
- Promote the economic wellbeing, strength and resilience of the profession of veterinary medicine
- Increase diversity and inclusiveness within academic veterinary medicine and throughout the profession

Veterinary medical colleges and schools are engines of innovation and discovery that solve problems and create progress.





AAVMC MEMBERSHIP

- Veterinary Schools and Colleges
- Departments of Veterinary Science
- Departments of Comparative Medicine
- Other Veterinary Medical Institutions
- Affiliate Veterinary Schools and Colleges

MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Colleges or Schools of Veterinary Medicine

- Atlantic Veterinary College at the University of Prince Edward Island (Canada)
- Auburn University (United States)
- Colorado State University (United States)
- Cornell University (United States)
- Iowa State University (United States)
- Kansas State University (United States)
- Lincoln Memorial University (United States)
- Louisiana State University (United States)
- Massey University (New Zealand)
- Michigan State University (United States)
- Midwestern University (United States)
- Mississippi State University (United States)
- Murdoch University (Australia)
- North Carolina State University (United States)
- The Ohio State University (United States)

- Oklahoma State University (United States)
- Oregon State University (United States)
- Purdue University (United States)
- Ross University (West Indies)
- Royal Veterinary College, University of London (United Kingdom)
- St. George's University (West Indies)
- Texas A & M University (United States)
- Tufts University (United States)
- Tuskegee University (United States)
- Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Mexico)
- Université de Montréal (Canada)
- Universiteit Utrecht (Netherlands)
- University of Calgary (Canada)
- University of California, Davis (United States)
- University College Dublin (Ireland)
- University of Edinburgh (United Kingdom)
- University of Florida (United States)
- University of Georgia (United States)

- University of Glasgow (United Kingdom)
- University of Guelph (Canada)
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (United States)
- University of Melbourne (Australia)
- University of Minnesota (United States)
- University of Missouri (United States)
- University of Pennsylvania (United States)
- University of Queensland (Australia)
- University of Sydney (Australia)
- University of Tennessee (United States)
- University of Wisconsin-Madison (United States)
- VetAgro Sup (France)
- Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (United States)
- Washington State University (United States)
- Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan (Canada)
- Western University of Health Sciences (United States)

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Colleges of Veterinary Medicine

- Central Luzon State University (Philippines)
- Københavns Universitet (Denmark)
- St. Matthew's University (West Indies)
- Seoul National University (Republic of Korea)
- The University of Adelaide (Australia)
- University of Tokyo (Japan)

Departments of Veterinary Science

- OARDC/ Ohio State University (United States)
- Pennsylvania State University (United States)
- South Dakota State University (United States)
- University of Arizona (United States)

- University of Connecticut (United States)
- University of Kentucky (United States)
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln (United States)

Departments of Comparative Medicine

- Johns Hopkins University (United States)
- M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (United States)
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (United States)
- Pennsylvania State University (United States)
- Stanford University (United States)
- University of California, San Diego (United States)
- University of Michigan (United States)

Other

- Angell Animal Medical Center (United States)

Map revised October 2016.



More than 3,000 veterinarians work for 20 federal agencies, including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Army.

(Source: National Association of Federal Veterinarians)

»» PARTNERSHIPS & COALITIONS

The AAVMC partners with various organizations, including the following:

- **Land-Grant Institutions:** AAVMC is a member of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). AAVMC partners with APLU to support extramural research in agriculture science and the development of future researchers. The AAVMC is working closely with the APLU on measures to mitigate the threat of anti-microbial resistance.
- **Other Veterinary Organizations:** AAVMC and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) have a well-established history of working together to best represent the veterinary profession. We also partner with veterinarians representing specialty fields of practice and in federal and state government.
- **Animal Industry:** AAVMC is a member of the Animal Agriculture Coalition (AAC), which represents the major animal and animal-related commodity organizations in America. We also partner with the Animal Health Institute (AHI), which represents companies with an interest in animal health.
- **Health Professions:** AAVMC works with all of the allied health professions to support funding for training programs, especially those targeted at increasing diversity and inclusion. The Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) and the Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions (FASHP) are two such examples.
- **Research:** AAVMC partners with organizations, like Research!America, that are committed to making health-related research a higher national priority. The AAVMC works with the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (C-FAR) to increase national investment in agricultural research, extension and education.
- **Promoting Global Health and Well-being:** The AAVMC has established the Council on International Veterinary Medical Education to elevate the quality of academic veterinary medicine around the world. We also work closely with organizations like the Coalition of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) and the Eco-Health Alliance.
- **The Benefits of the Human-Animal Bond:** Scientific research has demonstrated the human health benefits of pet ownership. The AAVMC works with the Human-Animal Bond Research Initiative (HABRI) to explore and promote this relationship.

For more information,
visit aavmc.org/advocacy



Association of American
Veterinary Medical Colleges



Schools and colleges of veterinary medicine teach medicine that helps feed the world, alleviates suffering, contributes to groundbreaking medical advancements, protects the environment and makes the world a better, healthier place



**Association of American
Veterinary Medical Colleges**

655 K Street NW, Suite 725
Washington, DC 20001

202-371-9195

www.aavmc.org