

AAVMC FORESIGHT PROJECT

“Envisioning the Future of Academic Veterinary Medicine”

PROGRESS REPORT: Workshops Completed

In February, 2006, the Executive Board of the Association of American Veterinary Medicine Colleges launched the AAVMC FORESIGHT PROJECT.

The project will guide the future direction of academic veterinary medicine over a 20-25 year time horizon.

The Norm Willis Group, Inc. has been retained to support this initiative.

The project has four parts: Definition, Scoping, Workshops and Synthesis.

The AAVMC Foresight Project is now well underway. The February Definition Meeting outlined the parameters of the project and developed a set of critical questions as a baseline for scenario development. This was followed by a Scoping Meeting held in Atlanta in March, where a small group of industry experts, academics, AAVMC representatives and the consultants laid the groundwork for the main Workshop events. The Scoping Team framed the scenario process to be carried forward into the two Workshops: defining a series of ‘lenses’ and ‘drivers’, or tools to help Workshop participants avoid tunnel vision and focus on the key catalysts for change.

Two 30-person Workshops form the core of the AAVMC foresight process. The Workshops, held in Fort Collins, Colorado (May 31-June 1) and Knoxville, Tennessee (June 21-22) brought together distinguished veterinary practitioners, academics and students, as well as representatives from industry and government. At each Workshop, participants worked collectively and in small groups to deploy their wide-ranging experience and viewpoints in the task of imagining a set of four possible, plausible future worlds for academic veterinary medicine:

Fort Collins Scenarios

- *Segmented Profession*
- *Doomsday: 2025*
- *Great Animal Peace*
- *Brave New Species*

Knoxville Scenarios

- *One Medicine, One Health*
- *Global Warming, Eco-Crisis*
- *“Norman Rockwell” Veterinarian*
- *Globalized “Google” Vets*

Employing foresight methods, they used these scenarios to explore potential issues, barriers, solutions and opportunities that might be present in the experience of the profession 2006 – 2025. A draft report summarizing deliberations from the Workshops will form a key part of the data set informing the Foresight study.

A final Synthesis Meeting in July will re-convene the initial Scoping Team to analyze the study findings and verify that initial expectations have been met. AAVMC expects to publish its final report on the study in the fall of 2006.

This is a fundamental study that will influence the future of veterinary medical education.

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