

AAVMC FORESIGHT PROJECT

“Envisioning the Future of Academic Veterinary Medicine”

PROGRESS REPORT: Fort Collins Workshop

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 first Workshop, held in Fort Collins, Colorado May 31-June 1, brought together a distinguished group of veterinary practitioners, academics and students, as well as representatives from industry and government. The 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:

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

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 the Workshop deliberations will – along with the proceeds from a second Workshop to be held in Knoxville later this month – form part of the data set that will inform the 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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