



# A Nurse Among Veterinarians? The One Health Residency Program

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**Emerging Pandemic Threats Program**

PREDICT RESPOND PREVENT IDENTIFY



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# Presentation Outline

- Introduction of the One Health Residency Program
- Public health experience
- Fostering collaboration; areas of growth
- Transformation opportunities
- Lessons learnt
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements

# One Health Residency program

- A **competency** based **experiential learning** for post graduates with a health related background
- Acquire skills in working in **multi-disciplinary** teams/settings



3 residents (2 vets and 1 nurse)

# Public health experience

- Provincial general hospital
  - administered rabies PEP
- Turkana and Maasai pastoral communities of Kenya
  - tackling malnutrition and HIV among Livestock-keepers
- Rarely interacted with professionals from other disciplines (working in isolation).



# Fostering collaboration; areas of growth

- Appreciating the connections between the disciplines
  - Feeling that human health professionals are self-sufficient
  - Do other professions have anything to offer in human health?
- Recognizing and accommodating discipline specific traits
  - Vets quite aggressive
- Realizing that the One Health Approach is feasible
  - Loss of identity

# Transformation - Opportunities

- Through activities which emphasize the One Health Approach and its competencies
- Farm to table
  - Systems thinking competency
  - First visit to an abattoir
  - Link between drug residues in animal products and development of drug resistance in humans
  - Occupational health hazards at farm and processing level



# Transformation

- Joint Vet-Nursing-Environmental health students' field attachment
  - Field activities and group discussions leading to appreciation of the One Health approach (solved identity issues)



- Students' multi-disciplinary teams tackling public health problems at community level (complementarity)

# Lessons learnt

- The One Health approach is a prudent way of tackling complex public health issues at the interface of humans, animals and the environment
  - Working in a multi-disciplinary team does not mean losing one's expertise, rather an opportunity to create synergy by tapping into the strengths of the team members.

# Lessons learnt

- Nurses and veterinarians among others play key roles in public health yet many health professionals know very little about what each other does
  - Basic professional training on existing linkages among the various health disciplines
  - In services training for already practicing professionals

# Conclusion

- Capturing the synergy of multi-disciplinary collaboration can only be achieved when every professional (and stakeholder) knows the role others play in public health
  - deliberate effort and interest in learning other disciplines' mandate in health promotion



# Acknowledgements



