Planning for the Future of Academic Veterinary Medicine in North America

North American Veterinary Educational Consortium
Kansas City, April 29, 2010
AAVMC in 2006 Looks to the Future --

- Pew Report 1987– Future Directions for Veterinary Medicine
- An Agenda for Action– Public Health/ Food Safety/Biodefense 2001
- Current trends of career choices and preferences for graduating veterinarians
- Need for a vision, future direction, changes to prepare veterinarians for opportunities / possibilities next 20 years
# Foresight Study Process

- **A TOOL to look ahead over a 20-25 year time frame horizon – is there a need for change?**

- Not intended to be a plan, but to develop an understanding of what changes might be necessary

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### 95 Participants

- Deans, Associate Deans, Faculty
  - Veterinary Colleges
  - Schools of Public Health
  - US, Canada
- Corporations, Industry, Foundations, Commercial Research Laboratories
- Practitioners
- AAVMC Ex Dir and Staff
Foresight Study Process

**Eight Scenarios**
- Doomsday – pandemic influenza
- Eradication of zoonotic disease threats
- Global Warming – Eco-crisis
- Globalized “Google Vets”
- Brave new world of modified species
- Fragmented profession
- One Medicine – One Health
- Norman Rockwell veterinarian

**21 Challenge Questions**
- Overall picture -- Global opportunities, societal needs
- Education and training -- How to educate, how to attract best students, required core competencies
- External Factors -- Evolving technologies
- Linkages and Roles -- Clients, corporate entities, universities, broader policies
- Public Perception -- Influential factors
- Economics -- Sources of funding for education, employers of veterinary medicine
- Relationship/interface between animals and society make veterinarians unique
- Environment of veterinary medicine is one of change
- Societal changes caused by demographic, political, environmental, disease, technological, economic drivers
- Veterinarian shortages in key areas to meet societal need
  - Food-supply
  - Biomedical research
  - Public health, specialties
Veterinary medicine must remain relevant to changing societal needs and to do so means expanding areas of education.

To expand, colleges must identify areas of professional focus, each leading to DVM degree (perhaps “centers of emphasis”).

Number of graduating veterinarians must increase to meet new demands and roles; greater diversity is needed.

Opportunity to capitalize on new technology to deliver education and veterinary services (e.g., analytical work, research, dx sciences, therapy).

“One Medicine” concept exciting; veterinary medicine and human health must converge first.
Foresight Report--
Most important principles

- Strategic partnerships and alliances essential for academic veterinary medicine success in providing expanded, cooperative educational process and new areas of focus
- Licensure and accreditation standards fundamental for acceptance and implementation of required academic changes
- Build on image of “gentle doctor”
- Enhance status of veterinarians; public relations marketing campaign needed!
- The veterinary profession must speak with one voice
## 45 Recommendations

| Education | Image of Veterinarians |
| Recruitmen and numbers | Marketing and Public Relations |
| Admission | Lobbying |
| Student Debt and Remuneration | Funding |
| New Technology | Licensing and Accreditation |
| Strategic Alliances and Partnerships | Unity of Voice for the Profession |
| Animal Health-Human Health Convergence | Ongoing Change |
Recommendation-- Education

- AAVMC must achieve consensus on two key points within academic veterinary medicine and the profession as a whole—Acceptance....
  - Expanded veterinary medical education program delivered by areas of professional focus in North America
  - Veterinary licensure will recognize competence in selected areas of professional focus
- The AAVMC should develop a national strategic plan for implementation of the concept; colleges should develop specific strategic plans at their locations
AAVMC and colleges should create a design for the concept of focused veterinary medical education

Pre-Vet
Two-year prerequisite training with standardized, defined specifications

Standardized two-year core program provided in all CVMs

Either/or

Two-year program emphasizing comparative medicine and leading to DVM degree

Two-year program in an area of professional focus leading to a DVM with specified professional focus degree

One year program in an area of professional focus leading to a DVM with specified professional focus degree
Future Direction of Veterinary Medical Education

- Responsive and flexible veterinary medical educational system
  - Each college cannot meet all anticipated needs without significantly increasing length of educational program
  - Definition of areas of professional focus and pathways leading to DVM degree
  - Colleges would establish curricula for specific /selected areas of professional focus appropriate for capabilities
  - National plan would ensure all defined areas of focus would be available on the continent, including minimum number of seats in each area; students attend multiple colleges
  - Accreditation and licensure to support changes
Possible Pathways of Focus in Veterinary Medicine

Areas of Application

Areas of Professional Focus

Common Core Veterinary Medical Studies

Core Pre-requisite Courses*

*AAVMC
Next Steps for Implementation

- Develop consensus on need for expanded version of academic veterinary medicine within colleges and veterinary profession
- Develop national plan for academic veterinary medicine
  - Define areas of professional focus (AAVMC)
  - Colleges specify centers of emphasis (colleges)
  - Minimum number of seats for each focus area (AAVMC)
  - Steps and length of program to achieve DVM made clear (AAVMC and colleges)
  - Agreement that DVM obtained by attendance at multiple colleges, common core program (AAVMC and colleges)
Next Steps for Implementation

- Each college develops specific strategic plan, reflecting changes in curriculum for selected areas of professional focus (Colleges)
- Develop consensus on need to change process of licensure to recognize professional focus on a national basis (AAVMC)
- Modify standards for accreditation of colleges to reflect status as offering certain selected areas of professional focus (AAVMC)
Just a Report on a Shelf?? – Absolutely Not!
A Call for Change, But Not a National Plan!

- CVMs have developed strategic plans based on FR recommendations—several identifying centers of emphasis
- CVMs with centers of emphasis are providing training to students from multiple colleges
- CVMs have increased enrollments/graduates
- AAVMC and AVMA have advocated for federal funding of facilities and programs to increase veterinary enrollments/graduates, repay loans for shortage areas
- AAVMC and AVMA have testified to congress on contributions of veterinary medicine to society and need for funding
- AAVMC developed and adopted plans to increase diversity in veterinary medicine, AVMA in process of doing so--
- AVMA and AAVMC contributing to One Health
- NAVMEC launched— involves licensure and accreditation
- Veterinary Educational Collaborative— VetICE (sharing, technology!)
- AVMA and AAVMC speaking with one voice