

## **Humanimal Trust Inaugural One Medicine Day Virtual Symposium 'Stronger Together – How we can take One Medicine forward': Executive Summary Report**

On 6th May 2014, Humanimal Trust was founded by Professor Noel Fitzpatrick to create a platform for One Medicine. The objective of the charity is to drive collaboration between the human and veterinary medical professions, the nursing profession and researchers from the allied health and scientific disciplines. By building such bridges, the aim is that all humans and animals will benefit from equal and sustainable medical progress, but which is not at the expense of an animal's life. This is Humanimal Trust's vision of One Medicine.

Opportunities for shared learning between the human and veterinary medical professions, the nursing profession and the allied health/scientific disciplines are currently not routine, but typically occur more by chance than by design. To address this, and to coincide with the seventh anniversary of Humanimal Trust's founding, we created a platform with our inaugural One Medicine Symposium on 6th May 2021.

The Symposium's theme was 'Stronger Together – How we can take One Medicine forward' and consisted of three speaker sessions, a lunchtime session from organisations taking a One Medicine approach and concluded with a discussion between a panel of vets, doctors and researchers. Each covered different aspects of key challenges and opportunities for One Medicine. Our event attracted an international and diverse audience of over 100 high-calibre, highly engaged participants. We heard fascinating, illuminating and insightful talks from representatives from human and veterinary medicine, nursing and the allied health and scientific disciplines, together with Humanimal Trust Trustees, team members and Humanimal Trust grant recipients.

The Welcome Address was delivered by Humanimal Trust Founder, Professor Noel Fitzpatrick, whose powerful talk focused on the essence of One Medicine, describing it as 'the birth of oneness' and a 'currency for the world'. The Symposium's Keynote Talk was delivered by Helen Ballantyne, Chair of the UK One Health Coordination Group, and a nurse whose experience spans both human and veterinary medicine. The Keynote Talk on 'Nursing – the future of One Medicine' considered how some of the ideas, theories and concepts of One Medicine can be brought into frontline practices and outlined the potential of nurses and nursing as a fantastic vector to start a really solid foundation of collaboration. The subsequent talks in our first session were from several Humanimal Trust Trustees (Professor Roberto La Ragione (Chair of Trustees), Dr Ben Marshall and Mr Mike Uglow, demonstrating the importance of a One Medicine approach to areas such as antimicrobial resistance, respiratory disease and orthopaedics. The session concluded with an overview of the significant research impact Humanimal Trust has delivered in its first seven years.

In the following sessions, several organisations who are taking a One Medicine approach gave presentations, followed by a series of talks from Humanimal Trust grant recipients with each providing an insight into how One Medicine can push forward research progress in areas such as cancer, and ultimately improve the lives of both humans and animals. Our third session considered how we can improve communication between the two medical disciplines by creating and formalising communication pathways, highlighted shared ethical challenges and how a US research institution is aiming to build bridges between human and veterinary medicine. Concluding the Symposium, was a broad and stimulating panel discussion on some of the wider issues currently preventing inter- and multi-disciplinary collaborations from occurring more routinely.

This dynamic and thought-provoking day confirmed to us that in order to continue to push One Medicine forward, we must continue our work to navigate some complicated pathways, and overcome some difficult hurdles. As part of our ongoing work in developing a roadmap for how One Medicine can become a default approach, our Symposium resulted in several key themes being identified:

- A requirement for clear and robust ethics and regulatory research frameworks which can better support and encourage a One Medicine research approach,
- A need to improve cross-disciplinary knowledge sharing by vets, doctors, nurses and researchers, for example through research journals publishing high-quality, peer-reviewed One Medicine research.
- Improved awareness of (and access to) One Medicine in medical, veterinary, nursing and scientific higher education programs of study- where vets, doctors, nursing, clinical professionals and researchers of the future are currently in training.

The Symposium also highlighted the significant energy, momentum and drive that exists, to ensure One Medicine is finally brought into the mainstream. A notable willingness and enthusiasm for a One Medicine approach across the human and animal disciplines already exists. The Symposium provided shared learning and demonstrated the importance of building bridges, developing stronger links, closer relationships and greater collaborative practices.

## **Acknowledgements**

The Symposium organisers wish to thank all speakers and panellists who participated in the Symposium and to all those who attended. Special thanks also to Dr Jade Passey and Dr Piyali Basu from the EU One Health European Joint Programme (University of Surrey) for providing technical assistance and to Humanimal Trust volunteers for providing vital support to the Humanimal Trust team.