

Humanimal Trust
One Medicine Day Virtual Seminar
6th May 2022

Summary Report:
'One Medicine in Action
Awareness, Collaboration and Change'



**Humanimal
Trust**

ONE Medicine for humans and animals
Registered charity no.s 1156927 & SC048960

Humanimal Trust One Medicine Day Virtual Seminar 'One Medicine in Action - Awareness, Collaboration and Change': Summary Report

On 6th May 2022, Humanimal Trust celebrated its 8th anniversary, having been founded in 2014 by Professor Noel Fitzpatrick. May last year saw the Trust hold its inaugural Symposium on the theme of 'Stronger Together' which brought together medical professionals and researchers for a day of shared learning. One of the outputs from this symposium was the creation of a roadmap for Humanimal Trust's vision of One Medicine which identified key signposts as awareness, collaboration and change. To take One Medicine forward into the mainstream, what would joined-up approaches look like in action? How do we raise greater awareness of the benefits of such approaches? What do so such collaborations look like and how can we provide more opportunities for them? How do we communicate the benefits of change to different audiences?

These signposts formed the theme of our 2022 One Medicine Day virtual seminar in which we heard from four guest speakers, who shared their insights and experiences of collaborations between the two medical disciplines in action, and the challenges that are faced through a variety of lenses e.g. science communication, human medicine, the agri-food sector and a learned society. We were delighted that the seminar attracted close to 200 registrations and we were joined on the day by a fantastic audience spanning a diverse range of professional backgrounds, sectors and career stages.

The seminar commenced with an overview of One Medicine and the work of Humanimal Trust given in the Welcome Address by Humanimal Trust's Chair of Trustees, Professor Roberto La Ragione. His talk encompassed the origins of One Medicine, the Trust and the many shared interests that unite human and veterinary medicine. He concluded with an introduction to the five main workstreams of the Trust which are delivered under the acronym or mantra: "ICARE" – Influence, Collaboration, Awareness, Research, Education. To view the talk please click [here](#)

Guest speakers were as follows:

Founder and CEO of One Health Lessons, Dr Deborah Thomson, shared her experience of how to communicate within and outside medical communities to be an effective advocate for both One Medicine and One Health. Her presentation emphasized the values of teamwork, empathy, thinking outside the box and multi-disciplinary collaboration – all of which One Medicine espouses. Her take-home message was to start these collaborative conversations if they do not exist and to continually practice the art of science communication to a range of audiences, both lay and professional. To view the talk please click [here](#).

Paediatric surgeon, Miss Anna Radford, described herself as a convert to One Medicine. She articulated the challenges she had faced in her journey to become a consultant surgeon and what prevents human medical professionals being more open towards One Medicine and One Health approaches. Such professionals become increasingly more specialised and siloed as they become more senior and lose the ability to have contact with others outside their area of specialism. It can be difficult to see the wide picture therefore, owing to being caught on a 'hamster wheel' of training together with time pressures. However, she also highlighted the similarities that paediatricians have with veterinarians when seeing patients with urological problems such as obtaining an accurate medical history and in facing the joint challenge of antibiotic resistance. She highlighted the need for both medical professions to take a holistic approach, to see beyond the patient, to their wider family and to the environment. To view the talk please click [here](#).

Dr Simon Doherty of the Institute of Global Food Security, Queen's University Belfast, brought together One Medicine, One Health and One Welfare under a unified approach he called One Agriculture and spoke of the multidisciplinary interactions and collaborations occurring in the agri-food sector. How food production and farm animals must be considered part of sustainable One Medicine and One Health approaches to ensure both circularity and sustainability. We all have to work together to reduce, refine, and replace the use of antibiotics in both humans and animals and recognise how the health and welfare of people and animals are inextricably linked. Simon talked about medicines which have been re-purposed from humans to animals and vice versa, along with how common terms from veterinary medicine in relation to farm animals have crossed over into the everyday language used during the COVID-19 pandemic e.g. herd immunity, R number etc.

To view the talk please click [here](#).

Dr Doug Brown, Chief Executive of the British Society for Immunology, introduced the vision and mission of the BSI and discussed the joined-up approaches taking place there. He provided examples and a case study of the Veterinary Vaccines Report, showing the potential for two-way learning between human and animal medicine and research in immunology. To view the talk please click [here](#).

Concluding the seminar, a panel Q&A session discussed how to reconcile the use of animals in vaccine research and how advances in areas such as Artificial Intelligence were contributing to the reduction, refinement and replacement of animal use in vaccine development and other areas such as cancer research. Finally, the panel considered whether a standardized definition is needed for One Medicine, given the recent developments in definitions for One Health, and Humanimal Trust's potential role in spearheading discussions on the importance and value of defining what One Medicine is, what it can achieve, and then communicating this to various audiences.

Conclusion

Our seminar highlighted that One Medicine is currently seen through a kaleidoscope of lenses as regards its perceived aims and objectives and its relationship to other related concepts such as One Health and One Welfare. Although these terms are not synonymous with each other, each represents an ecosystem which is interdependent with the others. Each can learn and contribute to the development of the others due to some commonality of interests. If One Medicine is considered the progenitor by which human and veterinary medical professionals initiate, foster and develop collaborative conversations and reciprocal benefits, then is it the golden thread which binds these other concepts?

By encapsulating Schwabe's vision of a society where humane values will prevail, we need to more clearly define the lens through which One Medicine is viewed - moving away from public health agendas to agendas focused around common health for both humans and animals, which are capable of delivering circular, mutual, benefits and the principle of reciprocity. In addition, to not just focus on human relevant research but humane relevant research?

During the seminar, we heard many examples of what joined-up approaches look like in action:

- Human and veterinary urologists share the same challenges when treating their respective patients and again and can learn from one another's experiences;
- One Medicine, One Health and One Welfare have been brought together into one holistic sphere in the agri-food sector as One Agriculture, echoing a theme from our Founder at our symposium last year on the essence of 'Oneness';
- Unified initiatives developed by the BVA and RCVS such as the UK One Health Coordination Group brought together a diverse range of professionals from many different disciplines to promote diversity of thought;
- Much can be learnt from the example of the BSI, who have unified their members across many different sectors, disciplines and career stages, enabling them to have a united voice and an opportunity to influence. Their ability to bring together different areas of immunological expertise and to mobilise their members quickly in response to a major global healthcare challenge is an exemplar of what can be achieved by the power of collaboration to influence positive change;

If we are to raise greater awareness of the benefits of collaborative relationships, as promoted by One Medicine, then we need to consistently present a clear definition which incorporates the historical commonalities the two medical disciplines share and the benefits of collaboration, ensuring that humane values prevail by embracing real application of the principle of reciprocity so that not only do medical practitioners and allied researchers benefit, but also patients, regardless of the patient species.

This is a message promoted by Humanimal Trust and a message that we and others in the One Medicine community need to communicate strongly and consistently. If these conversations do not exist, we must create them but to do so, we need the skills to effectively articulate and communicate the science behind One Medicine to a diverse audience, together with communicating what the elements of One Medicine, One Health and One Welfare can contribute to the development of the others.

Opportunities need to be more regularly available for medical professionals and researchers to come together, both informal and formal. It is critical to ensure that human medical students are provided with ample opportunities to meet their veterinary counterparts, whilst they are still able to see the bigger picture before they enter increasingly smaller silos and are enveloped in their own bubbles. Ways must also be found to burst such bubbles – can we break a One Medicine approach down into small, achievable steps by bringing One Medicine approaches to daily practice? Can we provide resources and checklists to human and veterinary professionals and allied researchers – it could be as simple as just inviting their counterpart for a chat over a drink to share challenges and ideas.

We need to communicate and collaborate with each other more. In this respect, can we engage with learned societies such as the BSI and forge strong relationships with them for mutual benefit and to provide a unified voice. To meet the healthcare challenges faced by both humans and animals, we will need all the tools in the toolbox together with agile approaches and regulations. In this regard if we can harness the collaborative power of One Medicine, to create, foster and forge such collaborations, then together we can build a humane society which will deliver reciprocity to both humans and animals.

Acknowledgements

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Find out more and stay in touch

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