One Health: Integrating the Veterinarian Scientist into the Biomedical Research Enterprise

Bethesda, Maryland
April 7-8, 2015

Workshop Summary

On April 7–8, 2015, the Office of Research Infrastructure Programs (ORIP) in the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives, sponsored a workshop on the NIH campus entitled, One Health: Integrating the Veterinarian Scientist into the Biomedical Research Enterprise. One Health is defined as the integrative effort of multiple disciplines working together to attain optimal health for people, animals and the environment. The purpose of the workshop was to identify how the concept of One Health can advance the NIH mission in regard to both basic and applied research, including training of the biomedical work force, concentrating on the veterinarian scientist. The morning sessions on day 1 involved case studies describing how multidisciplinary teams that included veterinarian scientists use both animal and human subjects to study various disease conditions, including HIV/AIDS and other viral infections, emerging infections, cancer, neurodegenerative diseases, and muscular dystrophies. Afternoon sessions included panel discussions and presentations addressing: (1) the role of veterinarian scientists in medical centers that receive Clinical and Translational Science Awards and in Cancer Centers; (2) updates on the role of the One Health concept across other federal agencies; and (3) One Health perspectives from Biopharma. On day 2, panel discussions addressed the challenges and best practices associated with training the next generation of veterinarian scientists, including integration into interdisciplinary biomedical research teams. Questions and comments were solicited from all workshop participants and audience members following case studies and panel discussions. Overall, there were 34 speakers and over 170 registered attendees, including NIH-supported extramural and intramural researchers, NIH program and review staff from 20 NIH Institutes/Centers/Offices, as well as representatives from the private sector and federal agencies including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U. S. Food and Drug Administration and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. ORIP is preparing a more detailed report on the workshop, which will inform its strategic planning.