WVA NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE WVA PRESIDENT: DR. PATRICIA TURNER



Quality Assurance in Veterinary Education

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past several years we have seen how valuable it can be to mobilize the collective global veterinary workforce to deal with national disasters, epizootics, and other significant regional, national, and international events that may impact humans and animals. But how can a country or region be assured that veterinary professionals stepping forward have the necessary

skills, training, education and background to provide proper care for animals or to safeguard public health? This can be addressed in part by ensuring that veterinary colleges are capable of delivering a common basic curriculum (i.e., the <u>OIE Veterinary Core Curriculum</u>) and that there is a quality assurance program in place to help ensure that each educational establishment is meeting its goals as well as producing competent graduates capable of meeting the regional workforce needs. Ensuring that veterinarians are participating in regular continuing education post-graduation is another way that veterinarians can ensure that their knowledge remains current.

While there are several excellent international accreditation standards and quality assurance programs for veterinary colleges, the vast majority of global veterinary educational establishments do not have the resources to meet these standards and they do not participate in these formal accreditation programs. Some countries have worked to develop regional accreditation systems for veterinary colleges, but it may not be mandatory for all veterinary colleges to participate in them. Other countries and regions are in an earlier process of curriculum formalization and standard-setting for veterinary colleges.

As part of the **WVA-CIVME project on global quality standards in veterinary education**, in April, the WVA will be sending out a global survey to veterinary colleges, regional accrediting bodies, and veterinary statutory bodies to determine current country-/region-specific practices for developing and updating veterinary medical curricula, as well as to determine whether colleges are participating in any quality assurance or accreditation programs. We are asking for your assistance and support in ensuring that the surveys reach veterinary colleges in your country or region. To maximize participation, we will be providing multiple language options for completion. The results of this survey will be shared with the veterinary community and will help to inform the development of a global self-assessment tool for veterinary colleges to use in regions/countries without formal accreditation systems.

Thank you, in advance for your assistance with this important project!

Yours respectfully, Dr Patricia Turner World Veterinary Association, President



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