Dear Veterinary Faculty:

I take great pleasure in inviting interested veterinary students and their veterinary school faculty mentors to attend a seminar called, “A Day at CDC for Veterinary Medical Students”, organized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and co-sponsored by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Public Health Veterinarians and the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians. The seminar for students and faculty will take place in Atlanta, Georgia at CDC Headquarters on Monday January 23, 2012 with a special reception the evening before.

The traditional view of public health has been the belief that human health is only a matter of human health professionals, animal health a matter of veterinarians, and environmental health a matter of environmentalists. However, rapid population growth, unprecedented global travel, climate change, tremendous mass gatherings and increased demand for protein have created an environment for the perfect microbial storm.

The majority of emerging pathogens, as well as most of those identified as potential bioterrorism agents, are either vectorborne or zoonotic microbes that have been transmitted from animals to humans. High-profile events such as the 2003 outbreaks of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and monkeypox, the 2006 E. coli outbreak in spinach, and the recent transmission and spread of H1N1 influenza to humans all over the world highlight the capacity of animal-borne diseases to occur unexpectedly and in new locations. This convergence of animal and human disease threats, together with the likelihood of continued propagation of new zoonotic diseases, suggest an urgent need for veterinarians who are able to work with professionals across disciplines to address these challenges.

This seminar is designed to introduce students to the idea of disease prevention and preparedness, and to exciting careers of public health and epidemiology, so that they might consider public health as a career choice.

I hope you and your students will be interested in attending the seminar and look forward to your participation. This seminar is free of charge, and refreshments and lunch will be provided by AAVMC, NASPHV, AAPHV and AVMA. We regret however, that we are not able to offer lodging and travel support for attendance.

If you are interested in attending this seminar please contact Dr. Heather Bair-Brake hhb9@cdc.gov by November 23rd, 2009 with the name of the students and faculty who are interested in attending. I will send out a reminder notice in December and ask for confirmation of your attendance. Upon our receipt of your confirmation, Dr. Bair-Brake
will send you the meeting agenda, travel directions to the meeting and a list of nearby hotels for lodging during your visit to Atlanta.

We look forward to your reply!

Best regards, on behalf of the Veterinary Medical Student Day Organizing Committee,

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