

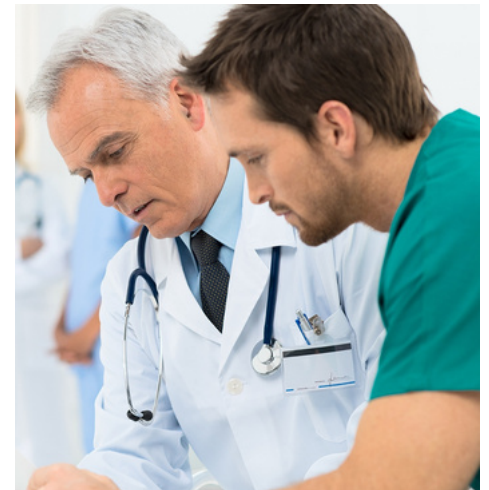
## In this issue:

This issue we are very pleased to bring you our brand new One Medicine Symposium Report, which captures some of the key findings from that wonderful day back in May when we all came together for the first time with such energy, enthusiasm, and drive.



## Our First Ever One Medicine Day Symposium

The 6th May 2021 saw over 100 delegates virtually for our very first One Medicine Day Symposium. We have tried to capture key themes and major points raised at the symposium in our One Medicine Symposium Report (Executive Summary) below. For a more in-depth report of the day, including all speakers and topics, please see the [full report](#).



## Have your say

This is an exciting time for One Medicine and it will take a collaborative effort to move it forward. That's why hearing your voice is so important to us. Please do take a look and tell us have we got key themes right? Have we missed anything important? Do you have anything else to add- maybe as feedback on the symposium itself, on the report, or where One Medicine should go next.

You can tell us your valuable thoughts at [hub@humanimaltrust.org.uk](mailto:hub@humanimaltrust.org.uk).

# One Medicine Symposium Report - Executive Summary

## About Humanimal Trust

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 not at the expense of an animal's life. This is Humanimal Trust's vision of One Medicine.

## Why we need a One Medicine Symposium.

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.

## Who attended the symposium?

Our event attracted an international and diverse audience of over 100 highly engaged participants. We heard fascinating 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.

## Topics covered at the symposium

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. Each provided 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.

## Key themes identified

This dynamic and thought-provoking day has 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, the 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.

## A real enthusiasm for One Medicine

Overall, the symposium really helped to highlight the significant energy, momentum and drive that exists to ensure One Medicine is finally brought into the mainstream. It confirmed to us that there is already a notable willingness and enthusiasm for a One Medicine approach across the human and animal disciplines.

The day also brought a chance to put the One Medicine ethos into practice by providing opportunities for shared learning. It demonstrated the importance of building bridges, developing stronger links and closer relationships, and improving our collaborative practices.

Our symposium feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and demonstrated huge appetite for change. We are very thankful for the insightful comments and suggestions from delegates that we can now use to improve our next symposium.

We are so immensely grateful to all of you who attended, contributed, and helped One Medicine make real progress.