

FIRST ONE HEALTH SYMPOSIUM BEING HELD TODAY

In celebration of World Veterinary Day 2016, under the theme “Continuing Education with a One Health Focus”, the Jamaica Veterinary Medical Association (JVMA) and the **One Health, One Caribbean, One Love (OHOCOL) project** are holding a One Health symposium today May 1st. The event, which is the first of its kind in Jamaica, is taking place at the Law Faculty Lecture Theatre 2 on the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies.

It is open to all professionals from the veterinary, human health and environment sectors in an effort to introduce, promote and build the practice of One Health in Jamaica, while at the same time providing continuing professional education – fitting with the World Veterinary Day theme.

One Health One Caribbean One Love Project

OHOCOL is being implemented in the region by the University of the West Indies in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) and the Ministries of Agriculture of Grenada, Guyana and St. Kitts & Nevis with funding from the European Union (EU), through the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP).

It involves a **Leadership Series**, co-funded by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in which a number of professionals from various disciplines are undergoing training to build One Health in their respective countries and create a regional network. Each country team is responsible to carry out a small scale project at home. Jamaica’s project is one that deals with river health in a small rural community.

Other OHOCOL activities include the training of first responders in disease recognition and response, and the strengthening of veterinary laboratory diagnostic services in the region.

Presenters

The Symposium features international and local speakers covering a variety of topics which fall under the One Health umbrella. The international facilitators are Professor Craig Stephen, a Canadian veterinarian with vast experience in the One Health arena, and Professor Chris Oura, veterinary virologist from the UWI School of Veterinary Medicine and OHOCOL project leader. Local presenters include Professor Elizabeth Thomas-Hope C.D. and Dr. Chandra Degia from the environmental sector, parasitologist Professor John Lindo and his graduate student Mellesia Lee, veterinarian Dr. Paul Cadogan, public health inspector Ms. Dahlia Plunkett and physiotherapist Dr. Terri-Ann Samuels. A representative of the Ministry of Health will speak on the Zika virus. Minister of Health Dr. Christopher Tufton is being represented by Acting Chief Medical Officer Dr. Winston De La Haye.

It is hoped that this will be the first of many such collaborative ventures, especially now that the international One Health Commission has declared November 3, 2016 as One Health Day, which will henceforth be an annual event.



PRESENT



THE INAUGURAL ONE HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

“Health rests in all our hands”

MAY 1, 2016

VENUE: FACULTY OF LAW - UWI, MONA

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

