The second issue/number of the journal has been published in February 2007. In its editorial section, Dr Nora Elfy Vaca Alfaro, academic Director of the High University of San Simon in Cochabamba (Bolivia), stresses the importance of the role of the veterinarian in Public Health. This role needs developing further in order to increase its relevance and participation in a social and government context. Work can be done through the SAPUVETNET II Project to create an educational platform for VPH in Latin America and to strengthen the foundations for professional development in this discipline.

Published articles:

- The prevention of biological risk, a danger for the health of veterinarians and rural workers. N. Cediel B. and L. C. Villamil J.
- The role of the veterinarian in food quality, safety and sales. D. Dobosch and L. Garibaldi.
- Bacterial resistance to antibiotics: implications for veterinary public health. O. Gimeno and C. Ortega.
- Can a poor country provide welfare for its animals? G. Parrilla

To receive a copy of the journal, pls. contact the editor, Guillermo Parrilla: guillermovet@hotmail.com

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In this edition, abstracts of selected contributions/papers presented at various scientific events by SAPUVETNET II and REDSPVET partners are provided.

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MEETINGS

4th SAPUVETNET II co-ordination meeting, 12th-16th February 2007, Evora (Portugal)

In February 2007 SAPUVETNET II Project partners met at the Conventinho Bom Jesus de Valverde, polo da Mitra, University of Evora, to take part in the fourth and last coordination meeting. Results obtained up to that point were examined and objectives for finalizing the second edition of the ALFA SAPUVETNET Project were planned. As in previous occasions, presentations of new studies of cases, to be published on the Project web-page once revised and completed, took centre stage at the meeting. Ties of friendship and collaboration were strengthened even further with representatives of REDSPVET, the Columbian Veterinary Public Health Network, who attended the meeting and made valuable contributions.

EVENTS

From February 16th to 18th, members of SAPUVETNET II and REDSPVET network attended the symposium “Zoonosis and Human Migrations”, organized by the University of Evora with the contribution/collaboration, amongst others, by SAPUVETNET II Project. Tele-conference sessions involving the University of Evora, the University of Turin and Veterinary Public Health specialists from several countries took place at the symposium and during the 4th co-ordination meeting.

Some SAPUVETNET II partners will take part in the 6th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF VETERINARY SCIENCES from April 10th to 13th in La Havana (Cuba), presenting a poster entitled: “Experiences in teaching Veterinary Public Health in Latin America and Europe” and participating/contributing in a workshop on veterinary education.
BRIEF NOTES

Short news relating to the project SAPUVETNET and REDSPVET at the XX PANVET congress

Dr Luís C. Villamil, member of REDSPVET-Colombia, and collaborator of SAPUVETNET II, attended the 20th Panamerican Congress on Veterinary Science (PANVET) in Santiago, Chile, in November 2006. He presented a contribution on “New approaches to teaching veterinary medicine: cooperation between networks for education in public health” at the Education Forum of the Pan-American Federation of Veterinary Science Faculties and courses. He also presented a paper entitled “Zoonosis after national and international structural changes” at the 2nd Meeting of SISPVET, the Inter-american Society of Veterinary Public Health. In both presentations, the on-going fruitful collaboration between SAPUVETNET II and REDSPVET was pointed out.

Dr Villamil was nominated as a member of the SISPVET board of directors together with Dr Nadia Díaz (Brazil), Juan Garza (Mexico) and Primo Arambulo (Emeritus OPS Advisor).

Costa Rica: course on natural disasters

The School of Veterinary Medicine at the Heredia National University of Costa Rica will collaborate with WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals) to organise and give a course on “Intervention of Veterinarians in disaster scenarios”, from March 5th to 7th 2007. Dr Jorge Quirós, a SAPUVETNET II member, was actively involved in setting up the course, and will be involved as resource/teaching person.

Nicaragua: Seminar on use of new teaching methods /tools.

Dr Christiane Duttmann and Dr William Jirón, SAPUVETNET II members from the National Autonomous University UNAN-León (Nicaragua) conducted a seminar in the first semester of 2007 on the use the teaching methods /tools developed by SAPUVETNET II network to carry out in-service training for professional staff of national veterinary services and at Higher Education Centres in Nicaragua.
In this edition, some selected abstracts of contributions/papers presented by SAPUVETNET II and REDSPVET partners at various scientific events, are presented.

**Resistance to Antibiotics and Migrations. Repercussions in Veterinary Public Health.**

Jimeno, O. Ortega, C.
Department of Animal Pathology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zaragoza, Spain

Resistance to antibiotics is an emerging problem in medicine, where contact between humans and animals can often be accompanied by zoonosis. This has become more serious in recent years as these transmitted micro-organisms have also transmitted genes which are resistant to antibiotics, potentially complicating treatment in humans.

Resistance to antibiotics can be transmitted from animals to humans through the food chain and through contact and exchange of saprophytes and commensal bacteria, which are currently a critical issue in Veterinary Public Health.

Several studies have highlighted greater number of isolated strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* resistant to methicillin, vancomycin and oxacillin (normally used to treat such micro-organisms in humans) and *Escherichia coli* resistant to quinolones.

The risk of transmitting these micro-organisms through contact with humans is increased by human migration, which is usually accompanied by migration of their pets; the very micro-organisms resistant to antibiotics are displaced, favouring and expanding the range of transmission. This must be taken into consideration when dealing with migratory processes.

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**New Approaches to Teaching Veterinary Medicine: Cooperation between Networks for Education in Public Health.**

Villamil, L. C., Cediel, N.*
National University of Bogotà, Colombia. *SPVET network, Colombia.

A strategic alliance between the SAPUVET and SPVET networks was formed once the role of education in public health was identified as a priority for veterinary training. SAPUVET is an international workgroup funded by the EU with a focus on "Teaching in veterinary public health" by
determining the basis for intervention of a veterinarian, by harmonising curricula in different countries and by defining and creating new teaching methods and exchange of information using new technology.

The SPVet network was formed to address the worrying situation resulting from weakened action on food protection and zoonosis prevention, from poor public perception of the role of the veterinarian in community welfare and from low professional importance of VPH.

The work of SAPUVETNET has focused on developing “work strategies and teaching material” in veterinary public health and on defining “veterinary activities in Public Health” whereas SPVet has divulged information on VPH through its online newsletter and by taking part in a study to create a baseline for action in Columbia and in Latin America.

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ZOOIONIS TRANSMISSIBLE BY FOOD AND HUMAN MIGRATIONS.

Dr Dora Dobosch,
University of Salvador, Argentina

Microbial and parasitic diseases transmitted through food are health problems with repercussions for food sales and competitive markets. Moreover, risk factors for contracting infectious diseases through food arise from a mixture of poverty, segregation of population groups searching for better living and working conditions, availability of drinking water, sanitary conditions, latrines, health services and the state of nutrition of this displaced population.

Precarious settlements lacking in basic sanitary conditions are found in suburbs of the 7 major cities in Argentina, where half its population of 36 million inhabitants live. Environmental changes such as dams and toxic products which modify the fauna and flora of a region increase the likelihood of diseases being transmitted from animals to humans. Wastewater and industrial waste are cast into Riachuelo, a river flowing into Rio de la Plata: 35% of this comes from food production, 30% from the chemical industry and the rest from paper mills, foundries and tanneries.

Coupled with the lack of health services, these can lead to emergence and re-emergence of the following diseases, which can be spread by asymptomatic carriers: Salmonella, L.monocytogenes, Cryptosporidium
parvum, Cyclospora cayetanensis, Giardia lamblia, Entamoeba histolitica, Fasciola hepática, Anisakiasis, Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis, etc.

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**Zoonosis and forced displacement in Colombia. Relationships between human and animal health in the midst of a social conflict.**

*Cediel, N., De La Hoz, F., Villamil, L. C.*
*SPvet network, Columbia. National University of Columbia.*

This study explores the risk of zoonotic diseases among the people of Colombia displaced by violence, focusing on health conditions of individuals forced to move because of conflict in Colombia. Potential zoonoses which may be suffered as a result of poor conditions to which they are exposed are listed and discussed.

These conditions are: overcrowding, malnutrition, poor basic sanitation, poor food conditions and carriers of disease. Further quantitative and qualitative studies are required to confirm these hypotheses and explore these issues in greater detail.

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**Zoonosis after national and international structural changes.**

*Villamil, L. C., Londoño, R., Cediel, N.*
*National University of Columbia. *SPvet network, Columbia.*

The SPVet Network was established in 2003 at a national University meeting on the current situation with Veterinary Public Health (VPH) with the aim of recommending strategic actions to stimulate and develop VPH in Colombia. A VPH Observatory was founded to provide a continuous and useful flow of information between professionals, universities and the state and a forum for debating and consulting on relevant national and international topics.

In terms of regulation and control, the impact of national restructuring highlighted the following worrying shortcomings of diagnosis and control of zoonosis: decreasing spending for public health, weaknesses in animal health programmes, lack of policies to facilitate generational replacement, and structural faults in programmes designed to improve competitiveness and efficiency. Some available indicators on urban and wild
rabies zoonoses and equine encephalitis were reviewed, showing lack of availability of procedures for diagnostics and control caused by poor cooperation with other sectors, the lack of restructuring for management and training and of sustainable technical programmes, weak diagnostic systems and difficulties complying with international animal health measures.

The lack of financing and continuity of programmes, poor sector coordination and participation have increased the pressure on meeting health requirements. Better management of local and national programmes through academic and scientific alliances, "empowerment" and involvement of the region and financial backing from BID are needed in order to make prevention and control of zoonosis a priority in Columbia and beyond.

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**E-CONFERENCE!!!**

From 28th February to 2nd March 2007 the SAPUVETNET II and SPVET networks, in collaboration with other related Institutions in Latin-America and in Europe, hosted an electronic conference on “LOCAL PRACTICES FOR PRODUCTION AND ANIMAL HEALTH WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE USE OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND RESISTANCE TO ANTIBIOTICS: IMPLICATIONS FOR VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH”.

The conference was widely attended and many contributors made constructive contributions. Conclusions of the conference along with the final discussion were summarised by the moderator group and are available on the following URL http://www.sapuvetnet.org/esp_conf.htm or www.moodle0506.uevora.pt/course/edit.php/
INVITATION TO THE 2\textsuperscript{nd} PANAMERICAN ZOONOSIS CONGRESS 2008

The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Pan-american Zoonosis Congress will be held in Bogota, Colombia in September 2008. It is hoped that scientific and academic communities in Latin America will actively take part in this forum for discussing and intervening on the most important veterinary public health issues emerging across the region.

Amongst key issues for discussion are: emerging and re-emerging diseases, international commerce and diseases transmissible by food products, objectives for the millennium and control of zoonoses, climate change and zoonosis, tourism and zoonosis and other very interesting topics.

If you have any suggestions on the topics to be covered during the congress, please contact us at [http://redspvet.blogspot.com/](http://redspvet.blogspot.com/) or [redspvet@yahoo.com.ar](mailto:redspvet@yahoo.com.ar)