

Comparative Clinical Science Foundation

Chairman: The Rt Hon The Marquess of Salisbury, DL

Chief Executive: Mrs Jane Betts



One World–One Medicine
Charity Number 1110294

14 July 2009

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12.01AM ON 15 JULY 2009

The Comparative Clinical Science Foundation (CCSF) announces groundbreaking Collaborative Workshop

The Comparative Clinical Science Foundation (CCSF) today announces that it will be holding a groundbreaking and vital Collaborative Workshop at the Wellcome Trust, in London, on Wednesday 15th July 2009. Senior UK medical and veterinary specialists will be meeting together to discuss and confirm a growing realisation that research based around human patients in hospital research centres around sick animals in veterinary care can inform each other to the benefit of both.

Supported by both the Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Council, the meeting will explore in this distinguished forum the benefits of joint research that may well prove not just necessary, but key, in providing answers and treatments for the 21st century.

The meeting will also serve to highlight to major funding bodies a significant breakthrough in the area of animal research, as a possible part-alternative to traditional laboratory research.

When vets are treating their sick animal patients, their whole focus is upon making those animals well. They are working to save companion animals and much-loved pets, presenting with conditions in many cases identical to those of human patients. This veterinary research into animal diseases is not theoretical laboratory work, but the direct result of vets working with, treating, observing and curing wherever possible, sick animals in their care. This research arena is producing a range of valuable results of interest to doctors as well as vets. The Medical Research Council (MRC) recognised its value in 2007 when it granted £500K to the Department of Veterinary Medicine at Cambridge to pursue further research being undertaken there into spinal repair in dogs which also is informing work on human patients.

What has largely been missed by medical researchers through lack of awareness up until very recently, and continues to be missed by most funding bodies, is how the result of research brought about by vets' dedication to treating animals could be of value in saving human lives.

Cambridge and Edinburgh are amongst several centres of excellence in the UK where joint collaboration between medical and veterinary scientists is already well underway. This is most notable in the fields of Cancer, Neuroscience and infectious disease, where genetic discoveries are facilitating research into these and other fields. The day's programme will reflect this joint work being carried out in the UK, and highlight other projects where funding could make an enormous difference to outcome.

CCSF, a registered charity, which entitles its work 'onemedicine' believes strongly that comparative clinical science has an increasingly important part to play, not just in the UK, but globally, especially in the area of zoonotic diseases. There is an increasing number of these, the most recent one being swine flu. CCSF looks to promote in the UK new world-class joint clinical research, aimed at achieving a fundamental understanding of the major killer diseases in both humans and animals.

The July meeting will be the first major national step, with international input, in raising awareness of the value of comparative clinical research. The opening session is to be given by Dr Elaine Ostrander from the USA, where research funds are now being made available to further comparative clinical research. Her current programme of research is linked to work being carried out in the UK.

The day will be chaired by Professor Alastair Buchan, Head of Medical Sciences at Oxford, in charge of the new research laboratories there. The keynote address will be given by Lord Selborne, whose report on the need to strengthen the role of veterinary medicine in the UK was published in 1999.

The meeting is by invitation only.

- ends -

Notes to Editors

CCSF aims to bring together medical and veterinary researchers, in joint projects funded by the Foundation to enhance the study of similarities and differences of specific conditions in sick patients across the species. The ultimate goal is to identify better treatments and cures for diseases such as cancer and genetic disorders which can then be applied for the benefit of both people and animals.

Contact details

For further press information, please contact Margaret Phillips on 01223 846 955;

email : hmp@phillipsprofile.co.uk

For further information concerning CCSF, please contact Jane Betts Mordue, Chief Executive Officer of CCSF on ccsf.betts@btconnect.com