From the Dean

Each year, after receiving their degrees, our graduating veterinary medicine students recite the veterinary medical oath. Key phrases in the oath offer a window into the priorities of the veterinary profession and the complexity of the relationships among animals, people, society and the environment.

Scientific knowledge and skills, advancement of medical knowledge, and professional knowledge and competence underpin the importance of evidence-based practices in veterinary medicine. The breadth of scientific investigation in the field is tremendous. In this issue, you’ll read about how the School of Veterinary Medicine is raising up to these challenges by becoming a Center of Excellence. This is under the World Bank, and the center is called: “African Centre of Excellence for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (ACEEZD)."

Further, this is the first Newsletter for the School and similarly, in this issue, we are reporting on another first, which is the hosting of its first ever, Scientific Symposium, which will become an annual event.

African Center of Excellence at UNZA

The World Bank Application titled: “African Centre of Excellence for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (ACEEZD)” Lead institution: The School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zambia (UNZA), Where it was proposing to become the “Centre of Excellence for Control of Zoonotic disease” has now been successfully and formally awarded to the School of Veterinary Medicine with a total budget of Six Million United States Dollars (US $ 6m). The Centre Leader is Prof. A.S. Mweene with Prof. B. M. Hang’ombe being the Deputy Centre Leader.

Other Key personal consist of: Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator: Dr. Humphrey Simukoko, Centre Scientific Coordinator: Dr. Andrew Phiri, One Health Coordinator: Dr. Musso Munyeme, Neglected Tropical Diseases Coordinator: Dr. Chummy S. Sikasunge, Training and Research Coordinator: Dr. Martin C. Simuunza.

One of the critical driving factors for (ACEEZD) as a Centre of excellence is to create uniqueness with regards to innovative thinking and offer a higher level of quality education within the region and beyond at Masters degree and PhD. Research will be linked to creativity and exploitation of new ideas as a way of adapting to changing environments.
The School of Veterinary Medicine holds its first ever Scientific Symposium

On 15th June 2016, the School of Veterinary Medicine, successfully hosted its first ever, and inaugural scientific symposium, under the theme: “Sustainable animal and human health through research”, a “One health concept”. The symposium was divided into two main sessions. The morning session was a scientific interaction whilst the afternoon session was purely an interactive session where the private sector brought out their observations on the product we are producing as a school, painting out pertinent areas of concern, requiring urgent improvement as well as the level of service delivery and what the community expects.

A total of 14 Oral presentations and 13 Posters were disseminated during the inaugural symposium which was officially opened by the acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Dr. M. Mwala.

Sponsors included Musika, Zambeef, AgriVet Africa, Parmalat, Livestock Services, Zambia National Services, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority and other individuals and companies who in their own way assisted in monetary and moral support.

The total attendance for the symposium was 192. Of these only 75 had pre-registered. Apart from members of staff from the school, the attendees included those from other schools of the university (Schools of Medicine, Agriculture and Mines), the private sector (5 agro-vet companies, 1 NGO, 2 producers), other universities (Lusaka Apex Medical University, Appalachian State University, USA and St. George’s University, Grenada), Zambia National Service, Lusaka City Council, Veterinary Council of Zambia, Hokkudai Centre for Zoonosis Control in Zambia, Department of National Parks and Wild life and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. There were 8 media organizations in attendance to cover the event. Certificates of attendance will be sent to all attendees. The organizing committee would also like to thank the sponsors without whom this event would have been impossible. There were a total of 12 sponsors. Some of this sponsorship came after the event, and the monies have been earmarked as seed money to start organizing next year’s event.

Autumn at the School of Veterinary Medicine, when the trees turn a rich golden yellow and start mature exfoliation of the leaves.
MUSIKA & ZAMBEEF “prods New Vet graduates

The inaugural symposium was a blessing in disguise to the School, as the Industry, through the representatives of both MUSIKA and Zambeef, gave the School very insightful information about serious shortcomings concerning the product which we produce: Veterinarians.

Both from the private sector observed that there is a phobia by our graduates staying and establishing themselves in the private sector. All what the new graduates are looking for is, according to the presenters “join Government”.

Because of this mentality, the lack of consistency has jeopardized the private Veterinary profession.

New graduates have been prodded to join and stay in the private sector.

Professor Aaron Mweene represents Africa at OIE and outlines “DAY ONE SKILLS & COMPETENCIES”

A1 - GENERAL PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES

The new veterinary graduate should be able to:

A1.1 Communicate effectively with clients, the lay public, professional colleagues and responsible authorities; listen effectively and respond sympathetically to clients and others, using language in a form appropriate to the audience and the context

A1.2 Prepare clear case reports and maintains patient records in a form satisfactory to colleagues and understandable by the public

A1.3 Work effectively as a member of a multi-disciplinary team in the delivery of services to clients

A1.4 Be aware of the ethical responsibilities of the veterinary surgeon in relation to individual patient care and client relations, and also more generally in the community in relation to their possible impact on the environment and society as a whole

A1.5 Be aware of the economic and emotional climate in which the veterinary surgeon operates, and respond appropriately to the influence of such pressures

A1.6 Be willing to use one’s professional capabilities to contribute as far as possible to the advancement of veterinary knowledge in order to benefit veterinary practice and further improve the quality of animal care and public health

A1.7 Have an elementary knowledge of the organization and management of a veterinary practice, including:

- awareness of own and employer’s responsibilities in relation to employment and health and safety legislation, and the position relating to lay staff and public liability

- awareness of how fees are calculated and invoices drawn up, and the importance of following the practice’s systems for record keeping and bookkeeping, including computer records and case reports

- ability to use information technology effectively to communicate, share, collect, manipulate and analyse information

- importance of complying with professional standards and policies of the practice

A1.8 Understand the need and professional obligation for a commitment to continuing education and training, and professional development, throughout one’s professional life.
B1 UNDERPINNING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING FOR NEW GRADUATES

The new veterinary graduate will need to have acquired a thorough knowledge and understanding of the following:

B1.1 The sciences on which the activities of veterinary surgeons are based

B1.2 Research methods and the contribution of basic and applied research to all aspects of veterinary science

B1.3 How to evaluate evidence

B1.4 The structure and functions of healthy animals, and all aspects of their husbandry

B1.5 The aetiology, pathogenesis, clinical signs, diagnosis and treatment of the common diseases and disorders that occur in the common domestic species.

B1.6 Legislation relating to the welfare (including transport) of animals and notifiable diseases

B1.7 Medicines legislation and guidelines on responsible use of medicines

B1.8 The principles of disease prevention and the promotion of health and welfare

B1.9 Veterinary public health issues including zoonoses.

C1 - PRACTICAL COMPETENCES

The new veterinary graduate should be able to undertake the following:

C1.1 Obtain an accurate and relevant history of the individual animal or animal group, and its/their environment

C1.2 Handle and restrain an animal safely and humanely, and instruct others in performing these techniques

C1.3 Perform a complete clinical examination

C1.4 Attend all species in an emergency and perform basic first aid

(Commentary: problems to be handled for any species include first aid management of haemorrhage, wounds, breathing difficulties, eye & ear injuries, unconsciousness, clinical deterioration, burns, tissue damage, internal organ damage and cardiac arrest. First aid to be applied includes bandaging, cleaning, immobilizing limbs, resuscitation procedures, haemorrhage control.)

C1.5 Assess correctly the nutritional status of an animal and be able to advise the client on principles of husbandry and feeding

(Commentary: this applies to commonly presented cases and would not, for example, be expected to include advanced nutritional advice for complex cases, e.g. high performance horses, high yielding dairy cows, certain exotic or zoological species.)

C1.6 Collect, preserve and transport samples, perform standard laboratory tests, and interpret the results of those generated in-house, as well as those generated by other laboratories.
THE INAUGURAL ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM IN PICTURES

Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Dr. M. Mwala fourth from right, Dean and host Dr. Choongo, far left, Dean Mines Dr. O. Sikazwe with the Symposium organizing committee

Master of Ceremonies, Dr. C. Hankanga

Symposium resource persons: Dr. M. Munyeme & Dr. A.M. Phiri

The Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. K. Choongo
Part of the audience at the Symposium

VAZ President, Dr. K. Nalubamba at the MSD Exhibition stand

Prof. H. Kida from Japan, making a presentation

Parmalat stand being erected and Drs. Phiri, Chidumayo in the foreground

Prof. Mweene standing. Sitted in the foreground is Mr. Dean Luhonde from MUSIKA

Part of the Parmalat range of processed dairy products on display
Dr. Flavian from Eden Institute making a presentation

Dr. E. M’kandawire from UNZA making a presentation

Drs. Changula and Chidumayo, Key Symposium resource persons

Mr. Chembensofu, explaining his poster to Prof. J. B. Muma

Dr. B. Kunda from ZNS chatting with the Dean, Dr. K. Choongo

Dr. E. Simulundu, making a presentation on ASF diagnosis
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The next issue shall be ready from the first week of January 2017.

Dr. Mathew Kabeta, delivering a Lecture on Public Health issues to field staff during an in-service training course at the University of Zambia, School of Veterinary Medicine.