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Emerging infectious diseases: Understanding the interconnectedness of human and animal diseases

Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) are those new, reemerging or drug-resistant infections whose incidents in people have increased in recent years or threaten to increase in the near future. Zoonotic diseases are those diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans or from humans to humans. As much as 75% of all emerging human infectious diseases are zoonotic. Nonetheless, human and veterinary health professionals fail to acknowledge and understand the interconnectedness of human and animal health. In my presentation, I intend to explain this interconnectedness and encourage actions to improve international, interdisciplinary discussion to improve the treatment and containment of the diseases posing worldwide health threats. Additionally, I will explain the global conditions that foster the emergence of new infectious agents.

Biography

Gary Flory is the Agricultural and Water Compliance Program Manager for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Gary gained extensive disease response experience during the 2002 avian influenza outbreak in Virginia and managed disposal and was operations chief during avian influenza outbreaks in West Virginia and Virginia in 2007. He has conducted research and given presentations to national and international audiences on emerging infectious diseases, carcass disposal, humane depopulation, agroterrorism, and foreign animal diseases. Gary participates in the USDA Carcass Disposal Working Group, Virginia Poultry Disease Taskforce, Virginia Pandemic Flu Taskforce, Virginia Large Animal Disease Taskforce and Shenandoah River Fish Kill Taskforce.