



PRESS RELEASE

6th VICH public conference 2019 in South Africa

The VICH Steering Committee accepted the invitation from Argentina and CAMEVET to hold the 34th VICH Steering Committee and the 8th VICH Outreach Forum (VOF) meetings in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The meetings took place from 27 February to 2 March 2017, and were the first VICH meetings ever to be held in an Outreach Forum member country as part of the VICH outreach initiative.

The Steering Committee decided that the 6th VICH Public Conference will be held on 7 & 8 February 2019 in Cape Town, South Africa, a VICH Observer member country. For the first time held outside of one of the VICH regions and a first on the African continent, this public conference will focus on VICH global outreach activities, as well as the current work achieved by the VICH Expert Working Groups.

The Steering Committee, the OIE and the VOF members participated in the 8th VICH Outreach Forum meeting. A report on a joint product review initiative between Canada, Australia and New Zealand reinforced the tangible benefits of the VICH work, which provided the necessary harmonised foundation for collaborative projects between regulatory agencies.

The participants received feedback from VOF members on the extent of the acceptance of studies conducted according to VICH Guidelines, the implementation of pharmacovigilance systems in Outreach Forum member countries, and the use of VICH guidelines in the development of local strategies for the registration of veterinary antimicrobials.

Further discussions focused on strategies to implement VICH Guidelines for vaccine registration requirements and the development of strategic plans to address antimicrobial resistance.

The participants also discussed the implementation of VICH guideline 54 (Safety: Acute Reference Dose (ARfD)) and reviewed the status of the development of a VICH guideline on stability to address climatic zones III and IV (hot and dry/humid conditions).

The Steering Committee adopted a Concept Paper for a general guideline on pharmaceutical combination products, the first topic proposed by a VOF member, and agreed to establish a new Expert Working Group to accomplish this. VOF members will also be invited to nominate experts to serve on this Expert Working Group.

The Steering Committee took note that the Metabolism and Residue Kinetics Expert Working Group will soon complete a draft guideline on residues in aquatic species.

The Steering Committee also reviewed and acknowledged the progress of the work of the Expert Working Groups on Pharmacovigilance – Electronic Standards Implementation, Safety, Quality, Biologicals Quality Monitoring and Anthelmintics.

All VICH draft and final Guidelines are available on the VICH website (www.vichsec.org).

The 35th VICH Steering Committee meeting and the 9th VOF meeting are scheduled to take place between 13 and 16 November 2017 in Tokyo, Japan.

The 36th VICH Steering Committee meeting and the 10th VOF meeting are scheduled to take place between 25 and 28 June 2018 in Belgium, Europe.

The 37th VICH Steering Committee meeting and the 11th VOF meeting are scheduled to take place, in conjunction with the VICH 6 public conference, between 3 and 8 February 2019 in Cape Town, South Africa.

MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

EU: European Commission - European Medicines Agency

JMAFF: Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

USA: US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) – Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and US Department of Agriculture – Center for Veterinary Biologics (USDA/CVB)

AHI: US Animal Health Institute

IFAH-EUROPE: representing the European Animal Health Industry

JVPA: Japan Veterinary Products Association

OBSERVERS

Australia: Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)

New Zealand: New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries

AMA: Animal Medicines Australia

AGCARM: Agricultural Chemicals & Animal Remedies Manufacturers' Association of New Zealand

Canada: Health Canada (HC) - Veterinary Drugs Directorate (VDD) and Canadian Centre for Veterinary Biologics (CCVB)

CAHI: Canadian Animal Health Institute

South Africa: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and Department of Health

SAAHA: South African Animal Health Association

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

OIE: World Organisation for Animal Health

INTERESTED PARTY

AVBC: Association of Veterinary Biologics Companies, USA

For further information, please contact the VICH Secretariat (Hervé MARION, DVM):
c/o HealthforAnimals
av de Tervueren, 168 - 1150 Brussels (Belgium)
e-mail : sec@vichsec.org