

## WVA Position Statement on Implementing Veterinary Continuing Education and Professional Development<sup>i</sup>

**PRESIDENT**

Dr Johnson CHIANG (Taiwan)

**PRESIDENT ELECT**

Dr Patricia TURNER (IACLAM)

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

Dr René CARLSON (USA)

**COUNCILLORS FOR AFRICA**

Dr Gani ENAHORO (Nigeria)  
Dr Clive MARWICK (South Africa)

**COUNCILLORS FOR AMERICA (NORTH)**

Dr Cassandra TANSEY (USA)  
Dr Troye McPHERSON (Canada)

**COUNCILLOR FOR AMERICA (LATIN)**

Dr Maria Nelly CAJIAO (Colombia)  
Dr Jannet VELEZ RIVAS (Perú)

**COUNCILLOR FOR ASIA and OCEANIA**

Dr Said GUL SAFI (Afghanistan)  
Dr Takeo SAKAI (Japan)

**COUNCILLOR FOR EUROPE**

Dr Maaike VAN DEN BERG (The  
Netherlands)  
Dr Olafur ODDGEIRSSON (Iceland)

**COUNCILLOR FOR MIDDLE EAST and  
NORTH AFRICA**

Dr Mohammed BAKKOURY (Morocco)  
Dr Hani GOHAR (Egypt)

**COUNCILLOR FOR INTERNATIONAL  
REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Dr Sira Abdul RAHMAN (CVA)

**COUNCILLOR FOR INTERNATIONAL  
DISCIPLINE-CENTRED ORGANIZATIONS**

Dr Harutyun AVSAROGLU (IACLAM)

**WORLD VETERINARY  
ASSOCIATION (AISBL)**

---

Avenue de Tervueren 12  
1040 Brussels, Belgium

T +32 2 533 70 22  
F +32 2 537 28 28  
E [secretariat@worldvet.org](mailto:secretariat@worldvet.org)

[www.worldvet.org](http://www.worldvet.org)

### BACKGROUND

The World Veterinary Association (WVA) recognizes that Continuing Education and Professional Development (CEPD) that builds onto and supplements Day-One knowledge, skills, experience, attitudes and behaviors attained in a veterinary curriculum, allows veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals to develop and enhance their education and to provide a high quality service to animals and their owners. Further, many countries already incorporate a requirement for CEPD into their statutes and regulations for continued licensing or registration.

To ensure that veterinary education remains contemporary, fulfills client and societal needs, and incorporates new technologies, the WVA strongly supports the provision of CEPD to veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals<sup>ii</sup>. To provide the greatest flexibility, CEPD programs may be offered through in-person, web-based<sup>iii</sup>, or self-study programs<sup>iv</sup>.

### WVA POSITION STATEMENT

The WVA encourages any organization or institution that provides CEPD programs, to:

- Build onto and supplement the Day-One competences obtained in institutions of higher education that award veterinary or veterinary para-professional qualifications; and,
- Provide documentation for individuals to use for ongoing licensure or registration.

When developed, CEPD Programs should optimally:

- Address regional and contemporary needs of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals;
- Identify specific learning outcomes;
- Be provided by instructors trained in teaching methodology and mentoring;
- Include activities that stimulate the development of non-technical professional or soft skills (e.g. critical thinking, veterinary ethics, legal issues related to veterinary practice, communication, business acumen, etc.);

- Encourage research and publication of results of work related to training;
- Include a process to evaluate or assess the knowledge, skills or learning outcomes attained in non-interactive CEPD (e.g. recorded presentations, self-study) programs;
- Provide documentation that recognizes that an individual has satisfactorily completed a CEPD program; and,
- Be re-evaluated and curated periodically to ensure that the content and delivery methods remain relevant.

---

<sup>i</sup> This position supports the 2015-2018 WVA Strategy and Goals.

<sup>ii</sup> Veterinary para-professionals (or para-veterinarians) include veterinary technicians or nurses, and any other professional that assists a veterinarian, or provides veterinary services. For duties and competencies of veterinary para-professionals see WVA “Position on Veterinary Para-professionals” and OIE “Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals”.

<sup>iii</sup> Web-based CEPD programs that allow global participation, such as the WVA Global Education Portal to the World Continuing Education Alliance on-line courses, seminars or webinars, particularly those that provide CEPD to lesser-developed countries, are encouraged.

<sup>iv</sup> The WVA considers appropriate academic or extra-curricular courses, lectures during conferences or symposia, on-the-job training, and self-study as suitable for veterinary and para-veterinary CEPD.