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EXPERTS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE JOIN EFFORT TO RAISE AWARENESS OF CONNECTION BETWEEN ANIMAL HEALTH AND HUMAN HEALTH

Leaders in Veterinary and Public Health, Food Safety, and Nutrition Form Scientific Advisory Council for Healthy People. Healthy Animals. Healthy Planet. Initiative

(Washington, DC) April 8, 2010 – Today, the Animal Health Institute (AHI) announced the formation of a Scientific Advisory Council that has been established to provide leadership and counsel as part of the *Healthy People. Healthy Animals. Healthy Planet.* program. AHI launched this multi-year educational initiative to increase public awareness about the important connection between human health and animal health.

“Many people are unaware of the health issues they can share with pets and all animals, though it is imperative for the public to recognize this connection and its impact on health and wellness, and preventing disease transmission from pets and food animals,” said Alexander Mathews, AHI’s President and Chief Executive Officer. “The Animal Health Institute is honored to be working with such respected members of the animal health, public health, nutrition and food safety communities.”

The Scientific Advisory Council represents a cross-section of some of the world’s leading experts in the areas of veterinary science, food safety, public health, nutrition, education and research. By fostering greater awareness and understanding that animal health is essential to human health, the Scientific Advisory Council seeks to build successful partnerships with both the public health and animal health communities, and promote science-based research that demonstrates the need to contribute to a safer food supply that will benefit both humans and animals. As part of this initiative, the Advisory Council will help AHI identify and shape education and communication programs. The advisors will also provide counsel to AHI in the area of research currently available, as well as needed research to further characterize the connection between animal health and human health and highlight the role of the animal health community in preventing disease transmission from pets and food animals.

The current members of the Scientific Advisory Council include:

- **Gale Buchanan, PhD**, Dean and Director Emeritus, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia; Former Chief Scientist and Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, United States Department of Agriculture;
- **Peter J. Costa, MPH, CHES**, Global Communications Coordinator for the Alliance for Rabies Control;
- **Michael P. Doyle, PhD**, Regents Professor of Food Microbiology, Director, Center for Food Safety at the University of Georgia;

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- **Susan Finn, PhD, RD, LD, FADA**, President and CEO of the American Council for Fitness and Nutrition;
- **Anthony Flood**, Director of Food Safety Communications, International Food Information Council (IFIC);
- **H. Scott Hurd DVM, PhD**, Associate Professor and Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Risk Assessment and Hazard Identification in Foods of Animal Origin, Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine;
- **Guy H. Loneragan, BVSc, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Sciences, West Texas A&M University;
- **John Maas, DVM, MS** Veterinarian/Specialist in Cooperative Extension, University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine;
- **Roger Mahr, DVM**, Chief Executive Officer, One Health Commission; former president, American Veterinary Medical Association;
- **Michael Payne, DVM, PhD**, Program Director of the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP) and Outreach Program Coordinator of the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security (WIFSS), University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine;
- **Rodney L. Preston, PhD**, Federation of Animal Science Societies, and Professor Emeritus, Texas Tech University Department of Animal and Food Sciences;
- **H. Morgan Scott, DVM, PhD**, Professor of Epidemiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University;
- **Peter Silley PhD**, MB Consult Limited; Professor of Applied Microbiology, University of Bradford, UK; and
- **Randall Singer, DVM, MPVM, PhD**, Associate Professor of Epidemiology, Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine; Division of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota.

For more information about the *Healthy People. Healthy Animals. Healthy Planet.* program, please visit <http://healthyanimals.org/about.html>.

About the Animal Health Institute

The Animal Health Institute (AHI) represents companies with an interest in animal health. Our members invest hundreds of millions of dollars on the innovations, research and science necessary for advances in pharmaceuticals, biologics, and pesticides for animals. For more information, please visit www.ahi.org or www.healthyanimals.org.

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