

“ONE WORLD, ONE HEALTH, ONE MEDICINE”

While there are many species, there is only ONE MEDICINE....

The concept of "One Medicine" embodies the view that human and veterinary medicine are dependent on an overlapping collection of biological characteristics, technologies and research discoveries. The phrase "One Medicine" is credited to Dr. Calvin Schwabe (1927–2006) , a veterinary epidemiologist and parasitologist in his textbook "Veterinary Medicine and Human Health".¹ Scientific advances have demonstrated striking commonalities among the genomes of humans, chimpanzees, dogs, cattle, chickens, and rodents and the importance of emerging zoonoses, public health and food safety, biodefense, wildlife disease, and conservation. As a result, a recent report from the National Research Council of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences lauded the concept of "One Medicine".²

The faculty in the Department of Comparative Medicine at Stanford are working to advance health care in the 21st century through interdisciplinary, translational and collaborative research. The interrelationships between human and animal health is at the core of the discipline of Comparative Medicine and is the basis of the “One Medicine” concept. The physiological, pathophysiological, and genomic similarities among species anchor the comparative approach, and within the context of biomedical research, they support the One Medicine pathway to discovery.

1. Schwabe, C. Veterinary medicine and human health, 3rd ed. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins: 1984. (especially see Chapter 1).
2. "[Critical Needs for Research in Veterinary Science](#)," National Research Council of the National Academies, 2005, The National Academic Press, Washington, DC.