Intersections: Where DEI and wellbeing meet

Good mental health is a cornerstone of a veterinary career that is both personally and professionally rewarding. Our wellbeing affects every aspect of our daily lives. Improving wellbeing is a shared responsibility that requires a committed effort by all members of our community. Practice teams, business owners, veterinary colleges, organizations, and individuals all have important roles to play.

One of the most critical ways to enhance individual and community wellbeing is to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). While diversity in representation is important, it is just a small part of DEI. The true power of DEI lies in connecting across communication and cultural barriers and fostering a genuine sense of belonging in the workplace. When team members feel included and valued, collaboration and support improve. This inclusive environment can be felt by our clients, who experience the empathy of a cohesive team. Throughout my career, I have seen how prioritizing deeper connections with my colleagues can create a workplace where everyone thrives. We are stronger when we work together to provide better client experiences and improved patient care.

To help increase understanding of the vital intersection of DEI and wellbeing, and in partnership with the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges and with the support of our platinum partner, Zoetis, and other investing partners who experience the empathy of a cohesive team. Throughout my career, I have seen how prioritizing deeper connections with my colleagues can create a workplace where everyone thrives. We are stronger when we work together to provide better client experiences and improved patient care.

The AVMA's DEI Summit is more than just a conference. It’s the gathering of a community united by the shared goal of fostering environments where creativity, wellbeing, and collaboration flourish. Building on the successes of other DEI and wellbeing initiatives, it will create an immersive experience of shared learning and growth for those eager to dive beyond the surface of these important topics.

All in the veterinary profession are welcome, but capacity is limited. You can find more information and register at avma.org/events/deiw-summit. We hope you can join us for this opportunity to collaborate, create, and continue to transform the veterinary profession!

Sandra Faeh, DVM

I want to hear from you. Please reach out to me with your comments, questions and concerns at presidentscolumn@avma.org.

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JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (ISSN 0003-1488) is monthly from January to December by American Veterinary Medical Association, 1931 N Meacham Rd, Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360. Periodicals postage paid at Schaumburg, IL and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Address Changes, 1931 N Meacham Rd, Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), its Editor, Editorial Board, and publisher specifically disclaim any and all responsibility for the contents, advertisements, opinions, and other material contained in the Journal. Any statements or opinions about commercial products or services are solely the opinion(s) of the author(s) or advertiser(s) and do not represent AVMA endorsement of such statements, opinions, products, or services. The material presented in the Journal is for educational purposes only.

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