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Learning One Health: A Student-Led Exploration of Interdisciplinary Collaboration through the Lens of Bat Health

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The One Health approach emphasizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health—necessitating collaboration across diverse disciplines. Young professionals must not only develop expertise in a specific field but also learn early on how to work effectively in interdisciplinary teams while developing a common understanding of concepts, definitions, approaches and boundaries of their respective disciplines.

This student-led project on bats—an ecologically vital and taxonomically diverse order of mammals facing conservation challenges while being recognized as reservoirs for multiple zoonotic pathogens—brings together participants from veterinary medicine, human medicine, biology, and educational science. Beginning with foundational insights into One Health, students explore their disciplinary perspectives and the unique contributions each field offers. Through guided collaboration, the group maps the One Health domains related to bat health to (i) identify key aspects of interdisciplinarity (e.g. discourses, actors, networks, forms of knowledge) and (ii) co-develop a survey tool for qualitative research with representatives from various disciplines, with the objective to collect key factors that contribute to successful interdisciplinary collaboration—including boundary work, translation between disciplines, tools for decision-making, and team dynamics.

This project aims to explore the understanding of interdisciplinary collaboration while contributing to early interdisciplinary experiences, and will support future professionals in learning how to address One Health challenges.

Keywords

One Health, interdisciplinarity, collaborative learning, student-led, wildlife health, bats, zoonoses

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Professional Status of the Speaker

PhD Student

Junior Scientist Status

Yes, I am a Junior Scientist.

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