

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the VICH Steering Committee**

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The Steering Committee\* of the VICH (International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products) held its fifth meeting in Rockville, Maryland (USA) on May 18 – 20, 1999. The meeting was chaired by Dr. J. Boisseau, Head of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Drugs.

The Steering Committee adopted three final VICH guidelines:

- GL3: Stability testing of new veterinary drug substances and medicinal products
- GL4: Stability testing for new veterinary dosage forms
- GL5: Stability testing: photostability testing of new veterinary drug substances and medicinal products

These guidelines will enter into force in May 2000.

It also reviewed 2 new draft VICH guidelines and agreed in principle their release for consultation contingent on final approval before the end of June 1999. These are:

- GL17: Stability testing of biotechnological/biological veterinary medicinal products
- GL18: Impurities: residual solvents

The Steering Committee reviewed the progress of the WGs on Quality, Safety, Good Clinical Practices, Anthelmintics Efficacy Requirements, Environmental Impact Assessment, Biologicals Quality Monitoring and Pharmacovigilance.

The Steering Committee considered new work in the area of antimicrobial resistance and endorsed the future formation of an expert Working Group on this topic.

The Steering Committee agreed a strategic plan for VICH and to establish a working plan for future years.

In order to enhance public communication on VICH, the Steering Committee agreed the framework of the programme of the public conference November 16-18, 1999 in Brussels. This first public conference will be the landmark of the first phase of VICH and an opportunity to engage interested parties in the communication and consultation on the harmonisation process.

The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee was scheduled for November 15-16, 1999 in Brussels, Belgium.

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#### **\* Members of the Steering Committee**

EU: European Commission - European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products

JMAFF: Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

USA: US Food & Drug Administration – Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and US Department of Agriculture – Center for Veterinary Biologics (USDA/CVB)

AHI: US Animal Health Institute

FEDESA: European Federation of Animal Health

JVPA-JAVB: Japanese Veterinary Pharmaceutical Association – Japanese Association of Veterinary Biologics

#### **\*Observers**

Australia/New Zealand: National Registration Authority (Australia)/Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (New Zealand)

AVCARE/AGCARM: National Association for Crop Protection & Animal Health (Australia)/Agricultural Chemicals & Animal Remedies Manufacturers' Association of New Zealand