

## **Building Veterinary Epidemiology Capacity - Equipping The Teachers And Mentors**

Annette Burgess<sup>1</sup>

Deborah McGregor<sup>1</sup>, Charles Caraguel<sup>1</sup>, Victoria Brookes<sup>1</sup>, Navneet Dhand<sup>1</sup> and Jenny-Ann Toribio<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Sydney

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<sup>a</sup> Sydney School of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney

<sup>b</sup> Sydney School of Veterinary Science, Faculty of Science, The University of Sydney

Sustainable programs to build veterinary epidemiology capacity are needed in the Asia-Pacific. Vital for such programs are people able to convey epidemiological concepts and skills effectively to others. Yet there is a paucity of teacher training available in our region.

To address this, we will co-design a teacher training program with partners across the Asia Pacific Consortium of Veterinary Education (APCOVE). First in this endeavour, was a study to determine the core teaching skills competencies required by teachers/mentors delivering veterinary epidemiology training. With the Academy of Medical Educators Professional Standards<sup>1</sup> as a source list, we developed a formative list of 28 competencies. Using a modified Delphi method to achieve expert consensus, 25 experts from 10 countries were invited to participate in a 2-stage survey. Participants were asked to respond by voting to 'include', 'adjust' or 'exclude' each competency, and provide comments. Consensus was considered achieved when >75% agreement was reached.

In stage-1, 23/25 experts responded with consensus reached on 24 competencies. In stage-2, 16/23 experts responded with final consensus reached on 27 competencies under 5 domains: 1)Design and plan learning, 2)Teach and facilitate learning, 3)Assess learning and development, 4)Educational scholarship and evidence-based practice, 5)Mentorship and educational leadership. Additionally, three 'Core Values' were determined: professional identity, respect, quality and safety.

This set of core teaching skills competencies will direct the teaching topics, modules and learning outcomes for co-design of a modular learning package targeted to equip teachers

and mentors contributing to field epidemiology training and university courses in the Asia-Pacific.

<sup>1</sup> Academy of Medical Educators. Professional Standards for medical, dental and veterinary educators. 4<sup>th</sup> edn. Academy of Medical Educators, Cardiff, 2022.