



Teaching Academy  
Consortium of West Region CVM

**Title:** A Conversation in Comparative Medicine: Veterinary Medical Education for Human Medical Students

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**Abstract:**

As veterinarians, we are taught to think across species boundaries to see the similarities and differences in anatomy, physiology, pathology, etc. Human medical education focuses on the human species, and applies a less comparative lens to clinical problems. However, in our increasingly globalized society, it is worth considering that this view may be too narrow moving forward. To begin addressing this problem, the Washington State University Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine offers an elective summer course for second year medical students entitled One Health Scholarship: A Conversation in Comparative Medicine. The course is multifaceted in its approach to teaching comparative medicine utilizing both synchronous and asynchronous methods, while being taught 100% virtually. In the asynchronous portion, students are expected to read peer-reviewed scholarly articles from the human and veterinary medical fields and come to class prepared to discuss. Students also keep a comparative medical journal, where they ask comparative medical questions based on the readings, their clinical experiences, or even observations they make while going about their daily life. Rounding out the asynchronous curriculum is a one-hour pre-recorded lecture regarding the topic of the week (ranging from anatomy/physiology, to anatomic/clinical pathology, radiology, oncology, toxicology, pharmacology, internal medicine and various surgical specialties). In the 2-hour synchronous portion of the class, students discuss the readings and asynchronous lecture during the first hour. And in the second hour of the class, students engage with a 2-person panel, a practicing physician and veterinarian of the same specialty, who compare and contrast their fields. This class was first offered in the summer of 2020, and continues to be an available summer elective for medical students.