

Session Description

Part 1. Veterinarians have historically focused on health problems of livestock, pets and, occasionally, wildlife and public health. Solving immediate problems, however, has resulted in unintended consequences, including dramatic increases in excrement production, foodborne disease outbreaks, ecological disruption, and emerging pandemics.

Part 2. Entomophagy—eating insects (which are animals)—has recently been promoted as a solution to creating sustainable food systems. This should cause us to ponder what it means to foster the health of these micro-livestock, which many of us were trained to kill. This lecture will focus on our conflicted relationships with insects.

Biography

David Waltner-Toews has a DVM from University of Saskatchewan ('78) and PhD from Guelph ('85). He is University Professor Emeritus at the University of Guelph. He was founding president of Veterinarians without Borders/ Vétérinaires sans Frontières – Canada (<https://www.vetswithoutborders.ca/>) and a founding member of Communities of Practice for Ecosystem Approaches to Health- Canada (www.copeh-canada.org). He has worked on every continent except Antarctica. In 2010, the International Association for Ecology and Health presented him with the inaugural award for contributions to ecosystem approaches to health, and in 2019 he received an award from the World Small Animal Veterinary Association recognizing “veterinarians who have exhibited exceptional acts of valour and commitment in the face of adversity to service the community.”



Besides being an author of more than 100 scholarly articles and textbooks, he has published seven books of poetry, three books of fiction, and various books of popular science including *On Pandemics: Deadly Diseases from Bubonic Plague to Coronavirus* (2020); *The Origin of Feces: what excrement tells us about evolution, ecology and a sustainable society* (2013); *Eat the Beetles: an exploration into our conflicted relationship with insects* (2017); and *Food, Sex and Salmonella: why our food is making us sick* (2008).