



American Veterinary One Health Society

[Formerly *American Veterinary Epidemiology Society (AVES)*]



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Dr. Karen M. Becker, a veterinarian, currently serves at the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) as the Area Veterinarian in Charge for Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia with focus on preparedness and response to foreign diseases and animal health to support the U.S. export and import industry. She practiced small animal and some large animal veterinary medicine from 1987-1998.

Dr. Becker was a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer (1998-2000) based in North Carolina with a focus on infectious disease investigation and response and surveillance during natural disasters such as the major hurricanes (i.e., Dennis, Irene and Floyd) at North Carolina's Department of Health. In 2000, she joined the U.S. Health and Human Service's (HHS) Office of Global Health based in Washington DC with a focus on global health policy. During her tenure she helped create a Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program in China and served on a U.S. Committee to assess and interpret the World Health Organization's (WHO) Health Systems Performance Report. In

addition, she was assigned to evaluate needs and assess progress of the [Healthy People 2000](#) goals and objectives.

From 2001 through 2006, Dr. Becker served as a senior public health advisor to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness, with a focus on strengthening National and Global health security against naturally occurring and intentional public health threats. She was on detail (2006-2010) from USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service to USAID's Africa Bureau to assist with the prevention and control of avian influenza as well as other zoonotic and livestock disease threats impacting public health and agricultural development. From 2013-2018, she served as the Director of the Applied Epidemiology Staff within USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service's (FSIS) Office of Public Health and Science. From 2018-2020, Dr. Becker's position as the Director of the Office of Health Services for the Peace Corp was unprecedented in demonstrating how veterinarians can make an impact and lead in both animal and human health, including during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Becker earned a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree from Brown University, a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from the University of Illinois's College of Veterinary Medicine, a Master's in Public Health (MPH) from Johns Hopkins University and is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (DACVPM). In 2021, the [American Veterinary One Health Society \(AVOHS\)](#)—then called *American Veterinary Epidemiology Society (AVES)*—awarded her their coveted [K.F. Meyer-James H. Steele Gold Head Cane Award](#). She was elected President of AVOHS in June 2023.