

Veterinary Assessment In Focus

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VETERINARY ASSESSMENT

FOCUS

By Heather Case, DVM, MPH,
DACVPM, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

"Concentrate all your thoughts upon the work at hand. The sun's rays do not burn until brought to a focus."
- Alexander Graham Bell

In a time that seems defined by information overload, it becomes critical for organizations to chisel away the extraneous material and focus on what is relevant. For ICVA, this means setting all of our actions and priorities against the following questions — Does this help us fulfill our vision of ICVA as the world leader in veterinary assessments? Does this help us in our mission to provide world-class examinations and other assessment tools? Does this help us provide leadership and facilitate collaboration throughout veterinary medicine?

I strongly believe that ICVA's recent activities captured in this month's Newsletter promote ICVA's *focus* on quality examinations and assessments. Fully understanding that the Licensing Boards greatly rely upon the NAVLE® Practice Analysis, we are pleased to report that it has been finalized; and the information produced by this practice analysis can now be shared with the licensing boards, allied organizations, and with the veterinary schools in ways that foster collaboration among different areas of veterinary medicine.

ICVA's Board of Directors and Staff convened to update our strategic plan allowing us to focus - not just on the present, but to map out the near future. We will be sharing the results of this process in future communications. I am pleased to report that ICVA remains committed and focused on what our organization has thrived upon for decades — creating and providing the best possible examinations to assess veterinarians and bring peace of mind to the public.

NAVLE® Practice Analysis Completed

The Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments, consisting of ICVA and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), has completed the final report from a two-year NAVLE® Practice Analysis process. The resulting blueprint will be used to update the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®) for future administrations.

The Practice Analysis process is conducted periodically to ensure that the NAVLE® remains highly job-related, and reflects the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed by entry-level veterinarians. This is critical since the NAVLE® is a key requirement for veterinary licensure in the US and Canada. ICVA worked closely with both the AVMA and the CVMA during the survey process, where a carefully selected sample of over 19,000 veterinarians from across both countries and in a variety of different practices and disciplines received a survey asking for information on their specific areas of expertise.

"We were astounded and thrilled to have a 35% response rate on the survey," explained Dr. Jon Betts, Board Chair of ICVA. "We'd like to thank all of the veterinarians who took the time to answer the questions and give us a snapshot of their work in

veterinary medicine." After the survey results were compiled, several in-person and on-line activities were conducted with subject matter experts spanning the spectrum of veterinary medicine, in order to review and refine the NAVLE® test specifications.

Based on the results of these activities, a blueprint for the future NAVLE® was developed. The next steps are recoding current test items to the new competency areas, and writing items in the new species and competency categories so pre-testing can commence.

Details about the Practice Analysis presentation at the recent AAVSB meeting and the upcoming webinar on the process can be found on page two. Further information about ICVA's NAVLE® Practice Analysis process, including the final report, an executive summary, and the new NAVLE® test specifications, is available here:

[NAVLE® Test Specifications.](#)

ICVA Vision (2015-2018)

The world leader in veterinary assessments.

ICVA Mission (2015-2018)

Provide world-class examinations and other assessment tools to protect the public, and animal health and welfare.

Provide leadership and facilitate collaboration throughout veterinary medicine.

AAVSB Annual Meeting

ICVA Board members and staff attended the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) Annual Meeting & Conference September 14-16, 2017 in San Antonio, TX.

Dr. Heather Case of the ICVA and Janine Hawley from the NBME presented the findings of the NAVLE® Practice Analysis process (see page one) at the Executive Director session, while Dr. Betts provided an update on ICVA's activities during the General Session.

The 2018 AAVSB Annual Meeting & Conference will be held September 13-15 in Washington, DC.



ICVA Board Chair Dr. Jon Betts, CVAGC member Dr. Lila Miller, and ICVA Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Bruce Louderback at the AAVSB Annual Meeting & Conference.

Working Group on Academic Veterinary Assessment Established

At the June 2017 Board meeting, ICVA created a working group on academic veterinary assessment as part of the organization's commitment to serving academic veterinary medicine. The Board of Directors has tasked this group with identifying what assessment and measurement resources currently exist across academia, and identifying areas where ICVA can best serve the assessment needs of academic veterinary medicine. A call for nominations went out in early September, and now the newly-appointed Academic Veterinary Assessment Working Group is ready to begin their work with a conference call slated for mid-December, with Dr. Jack Wilson as Chair.

"This new endeavor is part of our mission to provide leadership and facilitate collaboration throughout veterinary medicine," explained Dr. Wilson, ICVA board designee from the Canadian National Examining Board and instructor at the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. "By working together with veterinary educators, we look forward to reviewing assessment challenges and opportunities with the goal of enhancing the ability of schools to train the next generation of veterinarians."

Appointees to the group will serve one-year terms, with the potential for reappointment. For further

information about the Academic Veterinary Assessment Working Group, please contact the ICVA office.

2017 Academic Veterinary Assessment Working Group Members

Dr. Jack Wilson (ICVA Board member) — University of Calgary

Dr. Gary Gackstetter (former ICVA Board member) — Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

Dr. Kent Hecker — University of Calgary

Dr. Jan Ilkiw — University of California - Davis

Dr. Kathryn Michel — University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Malathi Raghavan — Purdue University

Dr. Emma Read — University of Calgary

Dr. Ken Royal — North Carolina State University

Dr. Courtney Vengrin — Iowa State University

PROVOST HONORED FOR SERVICE



Dr. Patty Provost was honored at the October ICVA Strategic Planning meeting for her service to the Board as Secretary/Treasurer from 2015 to 2017. A member of the Board since 2012, Dr. Provost is the designee of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. Dr. Provost currently serves as Chair-Elect for ICVA's Board

of Directors, while Dr. Bruce Louderback now serves as Secretary/Treasurer.

Left: Board Chair Dr. Jon Betts presents Dr. Provost with a plaque commemorating her work as Secretary/Treasurer.

ICVA QUICK UPDATES

LIFE OF AN ITEM PRESENTATIONS

The Life of an Item is a presentation created for veterinary school students to demystify the NAVLE®. It provides an overview of the International Council for Veterinary Assessment, the creation of NAVLE® items, and administration. To date in 2017, the presentation has been given to students in nine veterinary schools. Dr. Case presented The Life of an Item in person at Tufts University, Michigan State University, Midwestern University, Tuskegee University, North Carolina State University, Purdue University, the University of Pennsylvania, and via Skype at the University of Prince Edward Island.

ICVA Board Member Dr. Bob Cherenon gave the presentation at the UC-Davis College of Veterinary Medicine in Davis, CA this past spring.

ICVA provides this presentation at no cost to the veterinary schools. Schools interested in The Life of an Item presentation should contact ICVA's office for more information.

NAVLE® PRACTICE ANALYSIS WEBINAR

On December 5, Janine Hawley from the NBME will give a presentation on the recently completed NAVLE® Practice Analysis process (see page one).

This will allow individuals who did not attend the presentation at the AAVSB meeting to learn more about the process and how the results will impact future NAVLE® test forms. The webinar will be recorded and a link sent to all licensing board contacts by e-mail so that administrators and board members can access the presentation at their convenience. For more information, please contact ICVA's office.

ICVA BOARD MEETING PREVIEW

The ICVA Board of Directors will meet in St. Petersburg, Florida on January 19-20, 2018. The meeting will be chaired by Dr. Jon Betts, one of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) designees.

Board members will hear reports on the Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments Governance Committee, the NAVLE® Self-Assessments, the Veterinary Educational Assessment, and the Species Specific Examinations. The board will also hold further discussions and finalize the updated ICVA Strategic Plan (see page five).

Persons interested in attending the meeting should contact ICVA for additional information.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 7-8, VEA Pool Review Meeting in Philadelphia, PA

December 8, Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments Governance Committee Meeting in Philadelphia, PA

January 4-7, AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference in Chicago, IL

January 17-18, NAVLE® Pool Review Meeting in St. Petersburg, FL

January 19-20, ICVA Board Meeting in St. Petersburg, FL

January 25-28, Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Forum in Coronado, CA

February 18-21, Association of Test Publishers (ATP) Innovations in Testing Conference in San Antonio, TX

February 28, NAVLE® Item Writing Workshop Meeting in Philadelphia, PA

NAVLE® ITEM REVIEW MEETING

Item writers met at the NBME Headquarters in Philadelphia, PA on November 9-10 to review NAVLE® items written earlier this year. New items were approved for addition to the NAVLE® item bank. Each form for the test contains 300 scored items and 60 pretest items. All new items are pretested to determine if they are suitable to be used as scored items in later administrations. Pretesting ensures that all scored items have acceptable performance statistics. New items approved at the November 2017 meeting will appear for the first time as pretest items on examination forms developed during the 2018-2019 testing cycle. NAVLE® items writers were appointed by the Assessment Development Committee according to the main content areas of the examination.

2017 NAVLE® ITEM WRITERS

Canine: Drs. Cheryl Dhein, Julie Fixman, Christine Savidge, Gretchen Schoeffler, and Karen Tefft.

Feline: Drs. Erica Barron, Serge Chalhoub, Ryane Englar, Matthew Kornya, and Helen Tuzio.

Pet Bird: Dr. Amanda Marino

Other Small Animal: Dr. Karen Rosenthal

Bovine: Drs. Arn Anderson, Stephen Foulke, Keith Poulsen, and Travis White

Porcine: Dr. Rick Tubbs

Ovine/Caprine: Dr. Phillippa Gibbons

Equine: Drs. Lauren Kleine, Kathleen MacMillan, Jean-Yin Tan, and David Wilson

Public Health: Dr. Katie Steneroden

Professional Behavior: Communications, and Practice Management: Drs. Jason Coe, Laura Garrett, and Donna Harris



Above: NAVLE® Item Writers, ICVA staff, and NBME Staff at the November 9-10 NAVLE® Item Review Meeting

ICVA Strategic Planning Meeting

ICVA Board of Directors and staff recently gathered in Chicago for two series of meetings to review, discuss, and revise the organization's strategic plan. Facilitated by Dr. Ken Andrews, the October 5 and 6 meeting had volunteers and staff reviewing the results of a recent survey of ICVA's main stakeholders, getting an overview of the veterinary landscape from Dr. Case, and brainstorming organizational priorities for the next three years. After time to think over the discussions and to research questions that arose from the October meeting, volunteers and staff met again on November 14 and 15 to finalize the top priorities for ICVA during 2018 through 2021. This revised strategic plan will be on the agenda for the January 2018 ICVA Board meeting and posted on the website (www.icva.net) once approved.



Above: ICVA Board members and staff at the November Strategic Planning Meeting.

New Board Member - Dr. Helen Tuzio



At the September 2017 American Association of Veterinary State Boards meeting, Dr. Helen Tuzio was elected as one of the four AAVSB designees to ICVA's Board of Directors. No stranger to the work of ICVA, Dr. Tuzio has been an item writer since the NAVLE's inception, and served on the Examination Development Advisory Board (now known as the Assessment Development Committee) from 2007 to 2016.

A graduate of Ross University, Dr. Tuzio has been an Associate at the Forest Hills Cat Hospital since 1991. She was Associate Dean and Clinical Program

Director of the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine from 1991 until 2003.

Dr. Tuzio is a board-certified specialist in Feline Practice, a member of the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP), and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), and a contributing author of several feline medicine textbooks.

Dr. Tuzio served on the AAVSB Board of Directors from 2005-2013, including stints as Secretary/Treasurer and as President, and remains an Extended Member of the New York State Board of Veterinary Medicine.

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The purpose of **Veterinary Assessment In Focus** is to educate, inform, and communicate information about the objectives and programs of the ICVA. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official opinions, views or policies of the ICVA or any of its board members, unless expressly so stated.

Jon Betts, DVM, *Chair*; Michael Chaddock, DVM, EML; Robert Cherson, DVM; Kathy Bowler, *Public Member*; Misty A. Edmondson, DVM, MS, DACT; Karen Lehe, DVM, DACVPM, *Past Chair*; Susan Little, DVM, DABVP; Bruce Louderback, DVM, *Secretary-Treasurer*; Billy Martindale, DVM; Patricia J. Provost, MS, VMD, DACVS, *Chair-Elect*; Mark Russak, DVM; Helen Tuzio, DVM, DABVP, CVA; Jack Wilson, DVM; Heather Case, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, CAE, *Chief Executive Officer*

ASSESSMENT UPDATES

NAVLE®

The November-December 2017 testing window for the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination runs from Monday, November 13 - Saturday, December 9. ICVA processed and submitted 4796 candidate eligibility files for this testing window, an increase of 233 from November-December 2016. Scores for the November-December testing window will be reported electronically to all candidates and Licensing Boards by mid-January. Applications for the April 9-21, 2018 testing window will be available beginning in early December. ICVA's application receipt deadline for all candidates is February 1, 2018.

NAVLE® SELF-ASSESSMENTS

NAVLE® Self-Assessments are a web-based tool to help veterinary students prepare for the NAVLE®. There are four English forms and three French forms available in two timing modes. The standard-paced mode of 220 minutes is the same timing used on the NAVLE®. The self-paced timing mode is 440 minutes. Each form consists of 200 retired NAVLE® items.

Score reports are available to the student immediately after completion and include a projected NAVLE® score range. Research has verified that the projected score range for examinees who take the Self-Assessment under the standard-paced timing mode is predictive of later performance on the NAVLE®. These score reports can help examinees understand their strengths and weaknesses, while the self-assessment itself helps the examinee become familiar with the exam format. To learn more, please contact the ICVA office.

SPECIES SPECIFIC EXAMINATIONS

ICVA offers species-specific examinations to evaluate a veterinarian's knowledge in companion animal or equine medicine. These examinations are offered to veterinary Licensing Boards for use in disciplinary cases, competency verification for veterinarians licensed in another jurisdiction, and other purposes deemed necessary by the Board. There are two 100-item forms for each examination in paper-and-pencil format. Licensing Boards interested in reviewing or administering the species specific examinations should contact the ICVA office.

VETERINARY EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT (VEA)

The VEA is a 200-item, web-based basic science examination made available to veterinary schools as a comprehensive assessment of basic science knowledge, and to provide students with experience taking a standardized multiple-choice examination similar to the NAVLE®.

The VEA will be administered during the upcoming January 8-19, 2018 testing window, with almost 750 students scheduled to take the assessment. VEA administrations are scheduled for Lincoln Memorial University, the University of Tennessee, St. George's University, Oklahoma State University, Purdue University, University College Dublin, Iowa State University and Ross University. This is the first administration for both Oklahoma State and for University College Dublin. Scores will be reported in early February. Additional information regarding the upcoming 2017-2018 VEA administration cycle was sent to veterinary schools in early June. Schools interested in using the VEA or arranging for a faculty review of the assessment should contact the ICVA office.

WISCONSIN LAWS AND RULES EXAMINATION

The Wisconsin Veterinary Examination Board (VEB) requested ICVA to handle the administration of their web-based Wisconsin Rules and Laws Examination for veterinary licensure. The Wisconsin VEB provides ICVA with a list of eligible candidates, and ICVA then coordinates payment, test administration, and score reporting to both the Licensing Board and to the examinee. Test administrations began in October 2016. For more information on test administration services, please contact the ICVA office.