

Veterinary Assessment In Focus

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VETERINARY ASSESSMENT

Service

*By Heather Case, DVM, MPH,
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Chief Executive Officer*

*"Leadership is service to others." —
Denise Morrison*

One of the aspects I have most enjoyed during my time with ICVA has been working with the many volunteers who make our programs possible. When you look through these articles and see names or photos of our board members, our item and form reviewers, and committee members, remember that all of these individuals travel and take time out of their busy schedules to use their talents and expertise not for any personal gain, but to provide what they feel is a valuable service to the veterinary community.

ICVA itself is a non-profit, service-driven organization, and we have dedicated ourselves to working with colleagues in the licensure and the academic realms to see how we can best use our expertise in assessments to meet their needs. I am pleased to report that our new Academic Veterinary Assessment Working Group (see page 1) and newly-formatted Species Specific Examination (see page 2) come out of these partnerships, and that both initiatives will be bearing fruit in the near future. In the meantime, we continue to nurture and develop the NAVLE® (see page 3) and the VEA (see page 4) so that they continue to meet the high standards required to assess those who want to call themselves veterinarians. Through these efforts, ICVA leads in order to serve, in keeping with our vision and mission.

Academic Veterinary Assessment Working Group Launched

On May 9, the recently-created Academic Veterinary Assessment Working Group (AVAWG) met in Chicago for their first face-to-face meeting. "This is really where we wanted to discuss our mission and plan what we want to work on during the year ahead," stated Dr. Kent Hecker, co-chair of the group.

The group of nine College of Veterinary Medicine faculty and psychometricians, representing veterinary schools across the US and Canada, were charged by ICVA with investigating how best to support assessment practices in veterinary schools and reporting to ICVA where opportunities to collaborate may exist. Dr. Jack Wilson serves as co-chair and as the ICVA board liaison to the Working Group.

"The thought process behind the creation of this group is that ICVA has assessment expertise in the veterinary arena, and the colleges, due to a variety of factors, are being required to 'do more with less'," explained Dr. Heather Case. "If there are ways we can use our experience and expertise to assist the schools, ICVA wants to

know. Who better to tell us what the needs of the veterinary schools are than the people working with students day in and day out?"

Each of the Working Group members has been appointed to a one-year term, with the potential for re-appointment.

(article continues on page 4)



*Drs. Ken Royal (left) and Jan Ilkiw
(right) at the May 9 meeting in
Chicago.*

ICVA Vision (2018-2021)

The world leader in veterinary assessments.

ICVA Mission (2018-2021)

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.

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 test administration.

Dr. Case presented *The Life of an Item* at Auburn University on February 14, at the Atlantic Veterinary College on March 27, and at the University of Minnesota on April 18.

ICVA provides this presentation at no cost to the veterinary schools. Schools interested in *The Life of an Item* presentation should contact ICVA.

AAVMC 2018 MEETING

Dr. Case and Janine Hawley from the NBME presented a report on the recent NAVLE Practice Analysis process to both the AAVMC Academic Affairs committee and to the General Assembly meeting of deans. ICVA also had a booth at the meeting, where schools could learn more about the different assessments provided by the organization.

SAVMA SYMPOSIUM

The 2018 SAVMA Symposium was hosted by the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in Philadelphia, PA on March 15-17. Dr. Case attended the meeting to present *The Life of an Item* and to staff the ICVA's booth.

CVAGC MEETING

The Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments Governance Committee (CVAGC) met April 12 in Philadelphia, PA. The meeting covered a broad range of NAVLE-related topics, including recoding of current NAVLE items for the new NAVLE blueprint, financial forecasts

for the upcoming fiscal year, the formation of a task force to explore options for expanding the pool of communication items for the NAVLE, and ideas for future psychometric research projects.

The next CVAGC meeting will be held in Philadelphia, PA on December 6, 2018.

VETERINARY WELLBEING SUMMIT

Dr. Case attended the Veterinary Wellbeing Summit April 15-17 in Schaumburg, IL. This event was sponsored by the AVMA and the AAVMC to address concerns within the veterinary community about the wellbeing of veterinary students and practitioners.

ICVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING PREVIEW

The ICVA Board of Directors will meet on June 22 and 23 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Dr. Jon Betts, one of the AAVSB designees and the current chair of the ICVA board, will preside over the meeting.

Board members will hear reports on the Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments Governance Committee, the NAVLE Self-Assessments, the Veterinary Educational Assessment, the Species Specific Examinations, and the continuation of NAVLE updates in alignment with the recently completed NAVLE Practice Analysis. They will also receive an update of the first Working Group of Academic Veterinary Assessment meeting (see page 1) from Dr. Kent Hecker, and appoint officers for the 2018-2019 term.

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

SPECIES SPECIFIC EXAMINATION

The Species Specific Examination, used by licensing boards to evaluate the knowledge of veterinarians who are already licensed, is moving from paper-and-pencil to an on-line format. This move will be made in 2019 in conjunction with the periodic re-evaluation and update of test items. The forms were last updated in 2013. More information about the current examination can be found on page 5.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 22-23, ICVA Board of Directors meeting - Vancouver, BC

July 13-17, AVMA convention - Denver, CO

NEW POSITION ANNOUNCED

ICVA is expanding its staff with the addition of a Chief Assessment Officer. This individual would be working closely with volunteers, staff, and our collaborators on a variety of projects. More information on the position and the application process can be found here on ICVA's website: <https://www.icva.net/news-and-updates/icva-is-expanding/>

NAVLE Form Review Meeting Recap

On April 10-11, thirty subject matter experts met in Philadelphia, PA to review and approve NAVLE forms to be administered during the November-December 2018 and April 2019 testing windows. This meeting provides subject matter experts with the opportunity to review complete forms for quality, content overlap, and to ensure content equivalence. Reviewers also evaluate all associated images online for quality and clarity. Reviewers included ICVA's Board Members, current and former members of the ADC, two designees from AAVSB, two licensing board members, and four recent veterinary school graduates. This year's recent graduates were Drs. Jayme Cicchelli (Michigan State), Emily Tincher (Auburn), Whitney Wolfgang (Purdue), and Kristin Wuellner (Auburn).

"It's important to have a group from across all aspects of veterinary medicine involved in the NAVLE form review," said Dr. Case. "When people see the process for the first time, it helps them understand the amount of work and care we take with our assessments. Especially critical in the process are the recent graduates, as they assist us in ensuring the exam is fair from the perspective of someone just entering veterinary practice."

2018 NAVLE Form Reviewers

Drs. Heather Case, Jayme Cicchelli, Jason Coe, Benjamin Darien, Vito DelVento, Misty Edmondson, Hilari French, Gary Gackstetter, Meg Glattly, W. Mark Hilton, Matthew Kornya, Kathleen MacMillan, and Fernando Marques, Ms. Imelda McDonald, Drs. Teresa Morishita, Sue Moriyasu, Keith Poulsen, Karen Rosenthal, Tod Schadler, Cathryn Sparks, Katie Steneroden, Tamara Swor, Emily Tincher, Rick Tubbs, Helen Tuzio, Travis White, Jack Wilson, Whitney Wolfgang, and Kristin Wuellner.



Above: NAVLE Form Reviewers, ICVA staff, and NBME Staff at the April 10-11 NAVLE Form Review Meeting

ICVA Opportunities for Volunteers Abound

As readers of *Veterinary Assessment In Focus* know, ICVA is constantly in the process of developing and reviewing new test items and examination forms for each of our assessments. Volunteers from all parts of veterinary medicine are an integral part of ICVA's efforts to provide world-class examinations and other assessment tools to protect the public, and animal health and welfare. Subject matter experts in basic sciences, clinical sciences, academicians, veterinarians in clinical practice, and veterinarians working in areas outside of traditional clinical practice (such as public health, food safety, herd management, wildlife conservation, etc.) are all welcome to apply. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with the NAVLE, VEA, or Species Specific Examinations, please contact our office at mail@icva.net for more information.

Academic Veterinary Assessment Working Group Launched (con't)

Members of the group set an ambitious agenda for the next few months, including recommendations to the ICVA Board of Directors for consideration of a needs assessment survey of the veterinary schools, potential development of a grant program to further develop assessment capability in educators, potential creation of fellowship and mentoring opportunities, and a suggestion to develop a variety of written and in-person communications designed to provide tips and essential information about assessment best practices for faculty. The AVAWG will be following up on these goals with both conference calls and other meetings later this year.



Attendees at the May 9 Academic Veterinary Assessment Working Group (AVAWG) meeting in Chicago.

From left: Drs. Malathi Raghavan, Ken Royal, Jan Ilkiw, Kathryn Michel, Gary Gackstetter, Courtney Vengrin, Kent Hecker, and Emma Read

VEA ENHANCEMENTS PROGRESSING

As noted in the previous newsletter, ICVA has been putting into place several enhancements to meet the needs of schools using the Veterinary Educational Assessment (VEA) to gauge student performance in five basic science content areas - Anatomy, Physiology, Pharmacology, Microbiology, and Pathology. Most notably, schools will now be provided with a set of guidelines that they can use to assist them in evaluating student performance. Content experts will participate in an online activity this summer that will inform the new guidelines. Information about upcoming enhancements was sent out to veterinary schools in late May, and implementation will begin with the August/September 2018 administration.

Additionally, the VEA will now include pretest items intermixed with the scored items (similar to the NAVLE), in order to have a continuing supply of questions becoming verified for use in future administrations. These updated, longer forms were evaluated at a form review meeting held in March. Unlike previous form review meetings, where subject matter experts traveled to participate in person, this forms review was done electronically. This allowed 14 participants from across the country (and overseas) to review and approve the new VEA forms.

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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 Cherenon, 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

With all scores now reported, a total of 1082 candidates took the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) during the April 9-21, 2018 testing window, an increase of 16 candidates from April 2017. All scores for the April testing window were released by May 14. Applications for the November-December 2018 NAVLE testing window are currently being accepted, after opening in early June. ICVA's application receipt deadline is August 1. The 2018-2019 edition of the NAVLE Bulletin of Information for Candidates is available on ICVA's web site (www.icva.net). The NAVLE fee for 2018-19 will be \$650.

All NAVLE candidates must be approved by a licensing board to take the examination. For the 2018-19 testing cycle, ICVA will approve candidates applying through 33 states: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin. These candidates can complete their state's NAVLE application and pay the corresponding state application fee on-line, through ICVA's website. Information for candidates applying through other licensing boards is available in the Candidate Bulletin and on ICVA's website.

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 ICVA.

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. As noted on page 2, the Species Specific Examinations will be going through an update process and moving to an on-line format in 2019.

Licensing Boards interested in reviewing or administering the species specific examinations should contact ICVA.

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.

During the recent May 2-15, 2018 testing window, the VEA was administered to 137 students from St. Matthew's University, the University of Tennessee, and Ross University. Scores were reported in late May. Additional information regarding the upcoming 2018-2019 VEA administration cycle was sent to veterinary schools in early June.

Schools interested in using the VEA should contact ICVA for further information

WISCONSIN LAWS AND RULES EXAMINATION

The Wisconsin Veterinary Examination Board (VEB) requested ICVA 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 ICVA.