

Veterinary Assessment In Focus

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VETERINARY ASSESSMENT

Innovation

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"Imagination plus innovation equals realization." — Denis Waitley

For the past few years, ICVA has continually challenged itself to look at aspects of our work, consider how it can be improved, and then gathered the tools and resources to take the solution from imagination to reality.

On every page of this newsletter is another aspect of how we are constantly innovating to build on our already stellar foundation. On page one, we unveil our new website that will make it easier for candidates to apply for examinations and get testing information via several technology platforms, including mobile devices. Page two offers updates on meetings and conferences where we work with the best in the veterinary world and in the assessment sphere to fulfill our vision as the world leader in veterinary assessments. Pages three through five highlight the dozens of volunteers who provide their expertise in order to give back to the veterinary community. Finally, pages five and six offer insights into the examinations we produce and administer to thousands of individuals worldwide each year.

Using our imagination to spark innovation, ICVA's fantastic volunteers and staff diligently work to improve the NAVLE®, VEA, and the Species Specific Examinations for 2019 and 2020, but also for decades to come.

Revamped ICVA Website Debuts

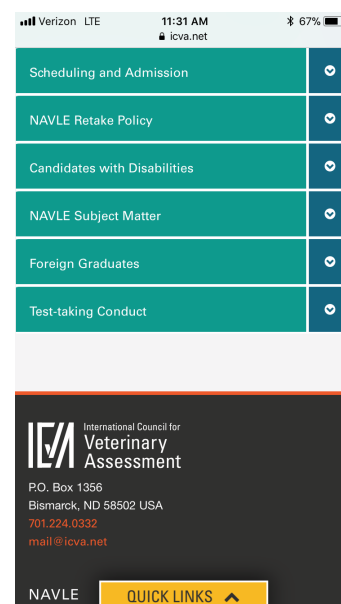
Soon after ICVA finalized their rebranding process in 2017, the board authorized staff to begin redesigning the organization's website.

As the first (and perhaps only) contact many individuals have with ICVA, the website should clearly explain our mission and vision to the general public. As the main conduit for NAVLE® applications, the site should provide examinees with a user-friendly application method, easy access to test preparation tools, answers to frequently-asked questions about the examination, and provide follow-up information on the veterinary licensure process. The website will also provide veterinary schools and veterinary licensing boards with information about ICVA assessments used while students are still in school (i.e., the VEA) or once the veterinarian is licensed but may need further assessment (i.e., the Species Specific Examinations).

These past few months, ICVA and 88 Brand Partners have worked together to create a streamlined, updated, and user-friendly website highlighting the top priorities of individuals visiting the site, while providing information and tools that can be accessed from a variety of electronic devices. As part

of the process, a beta site was created and tested by a group of licensing board administrators, veterinary school officials, individuals who had recently taken the NAVLE, and individuals who will be taking the NAVLE within the next 18 months. After assessing the results of the beta testing and gathering input from ICVA staff, the new website was launched in early February.

You can take a look at the new website at www.icva.net



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 in person at Auburn University on February 14, and is scheduled to give the presentation at the Atlantic Veterinary College on March 27.

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

AVMA VETERINARY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Dr. Heather Case attended the AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference January 4-6, 2018 in Chicago, IL. This was a great opportunity to meet with students, young veterinarians, and colleagues who are passionate about advancing veterinary medicine through leadership.

2017 FARB FORUM

Dr. Heather Case attended the 2018 Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards Forum January 25-28 in Coronado, CA. The meeting was a great networking event to exchange information and learn about challenges and opportunities for regulatory licensing agencies.

RESEARCH ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN JVME

A collaborative research article of NBME and ICVA staff entitled "Examining the Validity of the North

American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) Time Constraints" was recently published on-line at the Journal of Veterinary Medical Education website (subscription required). The article will appear in the print version of JVME later this year.

ATP INNOVATIONS IN TESTING 2018

Dr. Heather Case attended the 2018 Association of Testing Professionals Innovations in Testing conference February 18-21 in San Antonio, TX. This conference provided opportunities to network with a variety of experts in the testing field, and Dr. Case also participated as a panelist during a presentation on test accommodations.

NAVLE® POOL REVIEW MEETING

A group of subject matter experts from the US and Canada met to review several hundred items from the NAVLE® item bank January 17-18 in St. Petersburg, FL. They were assisted by test development staff from the National Board of Medical Examiners.

NAVLE ITEM WRITER WORKSHOP

Subject matter experts met February 28 at the NBME Headquarters in Philadelphia to learn how to write test items for the NAVLE. After the workshop, these trained experts have the opportunity to write test questions for the NAVLE. They also may be invited to attend NAVLE Pool Review meetings (held each January to review questions for possible inclusion in future testing cycles) and NAVLE Form Review meetings (held each April to review completed NAVLE forms for upcoming administrations).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 2-4, AAVMC Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

March 15-17, SAVMA Symposium, Philadelphia, PA

March 22-23, NBME Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

March 27, Life of an Item Presentation at the Atlantic Veterinary College.

April 10-11, NAVLE Form Review, Philadelphia, PA

April 12, Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments Governance Committee Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

May 9, Academic Working Group meeting, Chicago, IL



NAVLE Pool Reviewers, ICVA staff and board members, and NBME staff at the January 17-18 meeting.

COLLABORATION FOR VETERINARY ASSESSMENTS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments Governance Committee (CVAGC) met on December 8, 2017 at the NBME Headquarters in Philadelphia, PA. This group includes both individuals representing ICVA and NBME, working together to oversee the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). The CVAGC discussed updates to the NAVLE based on the recently completed Practice Analysis, including long-term plans to create new modalities for test questions in the communications area. The CVAGC also reviewed budget materials for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, and set their next meeting for April 12 in Philadelphia, PA.



CVAGC December 8 Meeting Participants:

Front row (L to R) — Drs. Peter Katsufakis, CVAGC Chair Meg Glattly, Stacy Langford, Heather Case, and Rick Tubbs.

Back row (L to R) — Drs. Mike Chaddock, Lila Miller, Gary Gackstetter, Patty Provost, Mr. John Hinke, and Dr. Michael Barone.

VEA POOL REVIEW MEETING

Subject matter experts from a number of AVMA-accredited veterinary schools met to review items from the Veterinary Educational Assessment (VEA) item bank December 7-8 in Philadelphia, PA. Assisted by test development staff from the National Board of Medical Examiners, these volunteers worked to determine which items were suitable for use on examination forms for future testing cycles. See page five for more about upcoming enhancements to the VEA.

2017 VEA POOL REVIEWERS

Anatomy: Drs. Tina Clarkson, M. Cathleen Kuehl-Kovarik, Arun Kumar, and T. Thippeswamy,

Physiology: Drs. Deidre Campion, James Herman, Randolph Stewart, and Shannon Washburn

Pharmacology: Drs. Virginia Fajt, James Herman, Carly Patterson, and Wayne Schwark

Microbiology: Drs. Daniel Brown, Stephen Cole, Sagar Goyal, Megan Jacob, Sanjay Kapil, Jennifer Ketzis, Brendan Lee, and Bryan Markey

Pathology: Drs. Joseph Cassidy, Tim Evans, Peg Miller, and Karen Russell



Above: Meeting participants attending the December 7-8 VEA Pool Review Meeting in Philadelphia, PA

ICVA Board of Directors Meeting Update

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

Foremost on the agenda was the NAVLE. The ICVA received a special presentation from Janine Hawley of the NBME on the recently-completed Practice Analysis process, and what steps will be taken during the next year to begin implementing the findings of the analysis. The board discussed the most recent testing cycle, projections for upcoming years, and those members who attended the NAVLE Pool Review meeting gave feedback on that event.

Board members also heard reports on the Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments Governance Committee, the NAVLE® Self-Assessments, the Veterinary Educational Assessment, and the Species Specific Examinations. The board reviewed, discussed, and finalized the updated ICVA Strategic Plan (as outlined in the December 2017 newsletter). Staff presented information about the new ICVA website (see page 1), and both staff and board members received a presentation by 88 Brand Partners on recent research of Millennials in comparison to Generation X and Baby Boomer groups.

Jim Penrod and Dr. Vito DelVento from the AAVSB spoke to the board to give an update on recent work following the AAVSB meeting, including an ad-hoc working group on their recent resolution and a model policy on the subject of veterinary telehealth.

The next ICVA Board of Directors meeting will be in June 2018 in Vancouver, BC.

VEA ENHANCEMENTS ON DECK

Due to growing interest in the Veterinary Educational Assessment (VEA), ICVA has been putting into place several enhancements to meet the needs of schools using the assessment to gauge student performance in five basic science content areas - Anatomy, Physiology, Pharmacology, Microbiology, and Pathology. First, a VEA Pool Review Meeting was convened (see article on page four) to review items in the current pool and see which ones would be usable for upcoming testing cycles. Second, the VEA will now include pre-test 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. Information about this new format will be sent out to veterinary schools this summer, and be implemented beginning with the August/September 2018 administration. Finally, plans are underway to hold a VEA Performance Guidelines Setting Meeting this summer. At this meeting, content experts will work with NBME staff to create guidelines that can assist schools in evaluating student performance on the VEA. ICVA will be in touch with veterinary schools in March regarding the meeting as details are finalized.

For more information about the VEA, please look on the website (www.icva.net) or contact the ICVA office.

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ASSESSMENT UPDATES

NAVLE®

A total of 4,750 candidates took the NAVLE® during the November 13 - December 9, 2017 testing window, an increase of 229 from November-December 2016. Scores were reported on January 16. There were 4,061 criterion candidates, 421 non-criterion candidates, and 268 candidates from non-accredited schools. Criterion candidates are senior students at AVMA-accredited schools taking the examination for the first time. The passing rate for criterion candidates was 90%, the same as the previous November-December administration. The ICVA office has submitted 1101 candidate eligibility files to the NBME for the April 9-21, 2018 NAVLE® administration.

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.

NAVLE® AGREEMENTS

In February, boards received agreements covering NAVLE® administration from 2018-2021, including updated information on the fees and dates for the upcoming 2018-2019 NAVLE® testing cycle. The dates for the upcoming testing cycle will be November 12 - December 8, 2018 and April 8-20, 2019. The application receipt dead- lines will remain August 1 for the November-December testing window and February 1 for the April testing window. In addition, a form was provided to licensing boards to confirm and, if needed, update their contact information for the NAVLE® Bulletin of Information for Candidates and ICVA website.

Boards were also provided with the opportunity to have a member of their licensing board review the NAVLE® during the November-December testing window. The ICVA office has been approving NAVLE® candidates on behalf of licensing boards since 2004, at the request of the individual boards. For the 2017-2018 testing cycle, the ICVA approved 3,862 candidates applying through 32 boards. Beginning with the November-December 2018 administration, ICVA will be handling all accommodation and non-standard testing condition requests for candidates seeking approval through US licensing boards.

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®.

A total of 751 students from Iowa State University, Ross University, St. George's University, St. Matthew's University, Purdue University, Lincoln Memorial University, Oklahoma State University, University College Dublin, and the University of Tennessee took the Veterinary Educational Assessment during the January 8-19, 2018 testing window, with scores reported to the schools in early February. Administrations are currently planned at Ross University and St. Matthew's University for the May 2 - 15, 2018 testing window.

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

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.