

Veterinary Assessment In Focus

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VETERINARY ASSESSMENT

PRIORITIES

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"Because with priorities, you can truly begin" — Elon Musk

As ICVA continues to fully immerse itself in planning for the next few years, it is paramount that we understand our priorities.

In a world where there is more competition for our attention than ever before, we understand that we cannot be superstars if we try to focus on everything. By keeping our eyes on the prize, by staying true to our priorities, ICVA can do what's most important to our core mission: **Providing world-class examinations and other assessment tools to protect the public, and animal health and welfare.**

With our upcoming strategic planning sessions already underway, ICVA is identifying what is needed to achieve the next steps in order to move onward and upward, building on the progress from our recent governance changes and our rebranding process. We understand that creating clear priorities only gets more important with time, to avoid becoming complacent and irrelevant.

This is why we have been so pleased with the responses we've received to our recent surveys (such as the NAVLE Practice Analysis and the ICVA Strategic Planning process) and our calls for nominations of item writers, pool reviewers, and committee members. All of us — practitioners, academicians, licensing board personnel, members of allied organizations — care deeply about veterinary medicine. This leads us to the second half of ICVA's mission — to **provide leadership and facilitate collaboration throughout veterinary medicine.** We strongly believe that when we all work together, doing what each of us does best, these collaborations improve veterinary medicine and the world as a whole, and THIS is the highest priority of all.

ICVA June Board Meeting Report

The ICVA Board of Directors held its summer meeting in Flagstaff, Arizona on June 23-24, 2017. The ICVA received updates on the NAVLE, the current NAVLE Practice Analysis, and the VEA (Veterinary Educational Assessment). The board also heard reports from the National Board of Medical Examiners, the Finance Committee, and the Chief Executive Officer.

During its meeting, the board began to implement some of the changes approved after the recent governance review, including approving members for the new Talent Management Committee and for the Assessment Development Committee (a reorganization of the Examination Development Advisory Board).

The board also discussed several new and on-going initiatives, including the creation of a working group on academic veterinary

assessment, a redesign of the ICVA website, and the next steps in the strategic planning process.

ICVA appointed the following officers for 2017-2018: Drs. Jon Betts (AAVSB) as Chair (see article on page 3), Patty Provost (AAEP) as Chair-Elect, Bruce Louderback (AAVSB) as Secretary-Treasurer, and Karen Lehe (AASV) as Past Chair.



Dr. Jon Betts, incoming Chair, presents Dr. Karen Lehe with a plaque commemorating her year of service as 2016-2017 Chair of the ICVA Board.

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.

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 seven veterinary schools. Dr. Case presented The Life of an Item in person at Tufts University, Michigan State University, Midwestern University, Tuskegee University, and via Skype at the University of Prince Edward Island. Dr. Bob Chersonson 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 the ICVA office for more information.

GACKSTETTER AND HEDRICK HONORED FOR SERVICE

Two members recently completed the maximum three three-year terms on the Board of Directors, and were recognized for their service at the June meeting in Flagstaff, AZ.

Dr. Jay Hedrick has been one of the four AAVSB designees on the board since 2008, and was Board Chair in 2014-2015. He also spearheaded the search process for a new executive director in 2014. Dr. Hedrick resides in El Dorado, Kansas and is now the executive director of the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners.



Dr. Lehe presents Dr. Hedrick with a plaque in appreciation of his work on the board.

Dr. Gary Gackstetter has been the designee of the National Association of Federal Veterinarians since 2008, and was Board Chair in 2013-2014. Prior to his time on the board, he was the Veterinary Public Health Specialist for nine years on the NBVME's Examination Development Advisory Board. For the last two years, he has been deeply involved in the ICVA-NBME Veterinary Profession Practice Analysis process to validate the question mix of the NAVLE®.



Dr. Lehe presents Dr. Gackstetter with a plaque in appreciation of his work with the ICVA.

Dr. Gackstetter currently teaches Epidemiology in the School of Medicine, Uniformed Services University, in Bethesda, MD. He will continue to be involved in the ICVA through his appointment to the Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments Governance Committee and as a member of ICVA's newly formed Working Group on Academic Veterinary Assessment.

AVMA CONVENTION

Dr. Jon Betts, ICVA Chair, and Dr. Heather Case attended the AVMA Convention July 20-25 in Indianapolis, IN. Drs. Betts and Case had the opportunity to attend the summer meeting of the House of Delegates as well as several presentations and sessions. They were able to represent the ICVA in their interactions with a number of veterinarians and other professional

organizations. Dr. Case also participated on the Fix The Debt panel presentation as a volunteer member of the AVMA's Career Awareness Working Group.

CVMA CONVENTION

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association held their annual convention June 13-16 in Charlottetown, PEI. As the Canadian National Examining Board designee to the ICVA, Dr. Jack Wilson attended the event and represented the organization. Dr. Wilson spoke to the deans of the Canadian veterinary schools and provided them with information about the ICVA's work, including the NAVLE® and the VEA.

NAVLE PRACTICE ANALYSIS UPDATE

The NAVLE® Practice Analysis is nearing completion. The survey and all follow-up activities are complete and the results and recommendations for the new NAVLE® test specifications have been reviewed and validated by a cross-section of subject matter experts and the ICVA Board of Directors. Currently, the Practice Analysis report is being finalized and a presentation is being developed and will be delivered at the AAVSB meeting on September 14. The report will be made available to the public through the ICVA website later this year.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 14-16, AAVSB Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX

September 20, Life of an Item Presentation at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

October 18, Life of an Item Presentation at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

October 23-24, AVMA Economics Summit in Chicago, IL

November 9, Life of an Item Presentation at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

November 9-10, NAVLE Item Review Meeting in Philadelphia, PA

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

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

ICVA QUICK UPDATES



NEW BOARD CHAIR — DR. JON BETTS

Dr. Jon Betts is the 2017-2018 ICVA Chair. One of four ICVA members appointed by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB), he was appointed to the board in 2012 and re-appointed for a second three-year term in 2015.

Dr. Betts graduated from veterinary school at the University of California Davis in 1978, and began working at a mixed animal practice in Woodburn, Oregon that year. He became a partner at the Woodburn Veterinary Clinic in 1980 until he sold his interest in 2009.

Dr. Betts was appointed to the Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board in 1998 and served two four-year terms, plus one additional year. Through his service on the Oregon Board, he became involved with the AAVSB, where he served on the Board of Directors, as Secretary-Treasurer, and as President in 2008. Dr. Betts served as a member of the Board of Directors of the North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium (NAVMEC), and was chosen by the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association as veterinarian of the Year in 2007.

Dr. Betts stays active in his community through Kiwanis and by serving on the Board of Directors of the local food bank. He and his wife Debbie have three adult children and two granddaughters.

NEW BOARD MEMBER — DR. MISTY EDMONDSON

Dr. Misty Edmondson has been named by the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges as one of their designees on the ICVA board, with a three-year term from 2017 - 2020. Dr. Edmondson is a native of Elmore County, Alabama where she grew up on a commercial cattle farm. She received a BS in microbiology from Auburn University in 1997 and DVM from Auburn University in 2001. She worked in a mixed animal practice in rural Alabama for 2 years before returning to Auburn University to complete a residency in food animal theriogenology under the supervision of Drs. Bob Carson, Dwight Wolfe and Gatz Riddell. Dr. Edmondson completed her residency and MS in biomedical sciences from Auburn University in 2006 and became a Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists in 2005. She joined the faculty at Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 2006 and is currently an associate professor in the food animal section.

Dr. Edmondson teaches numerous courses (including theriogenology, reproductive anatomy, urogenital surgery, production medicine, and others) to veterinary students as well as clinical rotations in food animal medicine and surgery and advanced rotations in advanced beef production and advanced small ruminant medicine and surgery. She is also involved in theriogenology resident training through clinical instruction and graduate lectures and laboratories. Dr. Edmondson's clinical interests include

infectious causes of infertility in ruminants (trichomoniasis and BVDV), urogenital surgery, advanced reproductive technologies, and pain management.

Dr. Edmondson is also a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Bovine Practitioners, American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners, Alabama Veterinary Medical Association, and the Alabama Cattlemen's Association. She has been actively involved in research in the area of bovine and small ruminant reproductive health and pain management. In addition, Dr. Edmondson has a deep passion for the beef industry and enjoys spending time giving lectures to lay audiences at industry-related meetings and conferences.



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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 Cherenson, DVM; Kathy Bowler, *Public Member*; Misty A. Edmondson, DVM, MS, DACT; Jay Hedrick, DVM; 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; Jack Wilson, DVM; Heather Case, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, CAE, *Chief Executive Officer*

ASSESSMENT UPDATES

NAVLE®

The ICVA office received and processed a total of 4796 approved candidate eligibility files for the November 13 - December 9, 2017 NAVLE® testing window. Candidates will be able to access their scheduling and Admission e-permits online by September 25, allowing them to make their testing appointments with Prometric.

A total of 5587 candidates took the NAVLE® during the 2016-2017 testing cycle, an increase of 66 from the previous year. The total included 4072 criterion candidates (senior students at AVMA-accredited schools taking the examination for the first time), 931 non-criterion candidates (graduate veterinarians, repeating candidates from AVMA-accredited schools, and candidates testing with accommodations), and 584 students and graduates from non-accredited schools. The 95% overall passing rate for the criterion group, including those who passed after repeating the examination in April, was the same as last year. The mean score for the November-December criterion candidates was lower in 2016 (507) than it was in the previous year (512).

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 and become familiar with the exam format. To learn more, please contact the ICVA office.

SPECIES SPECIFIC EXAMINATIONS

The 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 is being administered during the current August 28 - September 8, 2017 testing window, with St. Matthew's University administering the test to 6 of their students, the University of Missouri administering the test to 111 of their students, Midwestern University administering the test to 99 of their students, Tuskegee University administering the test to 54 of their students, St. George's University administering the test to 100 of their students, Texas A&M University administering the test to 131 of their students and the University of Sydney administering the test to 25 of their students. This is the first administration for both Texas A&M and for the University of Sydney. Scores will be reported in late September. Additional information regarding the upcoming 2017-2018 VEA administration cycle was sent to veterinary schools in early June. Schools interested in using the VEA should contact the ICVA office.

WISCONSIN LAWS AND RULES EXAMINATION

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