

Veterinary Assessment In Focus

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VETERINARY ASSESSMENT

Development

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"There is no development physically or intellectually without effort, and effort means work." — Calvin Coolidge

Development is required for any organization that wants to remain relevant in a rapidly-changing world, but what do we actually *mean* by the term? For ICVA, "development" comes in multiple forms.

One area where we are working on development is in reviewing our current assessments (such as the NAVLE, VEA, and Species-Specific Examinations) to see where we can improve the content, format, and logistical procedures for these tests. You can read more about this in our articles about the NAVLE recoding process, the VEA format and score reporting changes, and the Species-Specific Examination updates on track for 2019.

Another area of development is in promoting efforts for ICVA to serve other entities within veterinary medicine with their assessment needs. The creation of our Working Group on Academic Veterinary Assessment is one example, but we are also responding to requests from specialty Boards and other veterinary organizations for assistance with their assessment needs.

Through these efforts, ICVA is striving to fulfill their vision and mission. It is a lot of work, but I think it will produce great dividends now and for years to come.

ICVA June Board Meeting Highlights Future Plans

The ICVA Board of Directors held its summer meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia on June 22-23, 2018. The ICVA received updates on the NAVLE, the VEA (Veterinary Educational Assessment), and the Species-Specific Examinations. The Board also heard reports from the National Board of Medical Examiners, the Finance Committee, the Working Group on Academic Veterinary Assessment, and the Chief Executive Officer.

Many of these reports covered how ICVA's assessments would be evolving over the next few years, including implementation of updates to the NAVLE based on the recent Practice Analysis report, enhancements to the VEA (see page 4), and reformatted Specific Specific Examinations forms (see page 2)

The ICVA Board of Directors welcomed Dr. Mark Olson and Mr. Jim Penrod from the AAVSB for a report on ideas

regarding how both organizations could collaborate in the near future.

The following officers were appointed for 2018-2019: Drs. Patricia Provost (AAEP) as Chair (see on page 4), Mike Chaddock (AAVMC) as Chair-Elect, Bruce Louderback (AAVSB) as Secretary-Treasurer, and Jon Betts (AAVSB) as Past Chair.

(article continues on page 3)



ICVA's Chair, Dr. Patricia Provost, (left) presents a plaque to Dr. Jon Betts (right) in recognition of his service as 2017-2018 ICVA Chair.

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 Tuskegee University on August 14, and is slated to give the presentation at the University of Florida on September 5, at Kansas State University on September 19, and at Purdue University on September 25.

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

AVMA CONVENTION

Dr. Patricia Provost, ICVA Chair, and Dr. Heather Case attended the AVMA Convention July 13-17 in Denver, CO. Drs. Provost 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 ICVA in their interactions with a number of veterinarians and other professional organizations.

CVMA CONVENTION

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association held their annual convention July 5 - 8 in Vancouver, BC. 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 ICVA's work, including the NAVLE® and the VEA.

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. More information about the current examination can be found on page 5.

NAVLE RECODING UNDERWAY

As a result of the recently-completed Practice Analysis, current NAVLE items are now being recoded to be listed under new competency codes. In late June, 15 NAVLE subject matter experts and items writers agreed to assist with this recoding effort, and they should have the first batch of test items completed in early September. Additional batches of NAVLE test items will be recoded in late 2018 and in early 2019.

NEWSLETTER MOVING TO NEW FORMAT

ICVA's quarterly newsletter, *Veterinary Assessment In Focus*, will be getting a new look and format beginning with the December 2018 edition. To provide expanded information in an easily-accessible manner, the newsletter will move to a web-based format where headlines can be clicked on and the reader then moves to view the entire article in their browser. This will allow ICVA to include longer articles, video, and other special features to the newsletter's readers.

NAVLE SESSION SET FOR AAVSB MEETING

ICVA Board members and staff will be attending the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) Annual Meeting September 13-15 in Washington DC. A special session focusing on the NAVLE will be held from 10am to noon on September 13, with speakers including Drs. Heather Case, Meg Glattly, and Gary Gackstetter from ICVA and Dr. Rich Feinberg, Ms. Janine Hawley, and Ms. Melissa Dudlick from NBME.

Additionally, Dr. Mike Chaddock (Chair-Elect) will present an update on ICVA activities during the Friday meeting session, and the four AAVSB designees on the ICVA Board are slated to join the AAVSB Executive Board, Dr. Case, and Jim Penrod in a Q&A session with meeting attendees.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 13-15, AAVSB Annual Meeting - Washington, DC

October 16, AAVMC Competencies Workshop Meeting - Washington, DC

October 22-23, AVMA Economics Summit - Chicago, IL

November 13-14, NAVLE Item Review Meeting - Philadelphia, PA

December 6, Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments Governance Committee Meeting - Philadelphia, PA

ICVA June Board Meeting Highlights Future Plans (con't)

In addition to appointing officers for the 2018-2019 term, the ICVA received a report on the Talent Management Committee recommendation that the Board of Directors elect Drs. Susan Little and Patricia Provost to serve another three-year term as At-Large Directors. The board later voted to accept the recommendation and elected both Drs. Little and Provost to serve from 2018 to 2021. The board of directors also approved the recommendations for Drs. Bradley Heins (Bovine); Cheryl Dhein (Canine); Allan Corber (Feline); Fernando Marques (Equine); and Douglas Whiteside (Wildlife) to serve on the ICVA Assessment Development Committee.

Dr. Case provided the board with a report on current ICVA activities, including the search process for the new Chief Assessment Officer position. The board also received information about the COE-elect designee to ICVA's Board of Directors, Dr. Fern Tablin. Dr. Tablin will be invited to attend the January and June 2019 meetings so she can shadow Dr. Martindale (the current COE designee) and learn more about ICVA.

The next ICVA Board of Directors Meeting will be January 18-19, 2019 in Palm Springs, California.



ICVA Board of Directors in attendance at the June 2-23 meeting in Vancouver, BC.

Front row (from left): Drs. Mark Russak, Helen Tuzio, Patricia Provost, and Robert Chersonson.

Middle row (from left): Drs. Misty Edmondson, Susan Little, and Ms. Kathy Bowler.

Back row (from left): Drs. Mike Chaddock, Bruce Louderback, Jack Wilson, Karen Lehe, Billy Martindale, and Jon Betts.



AAVSB Chair Dr. Mark Olson (above) presents a report to the ICVA Board of Directors on current AAVSB activities.

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.

New ICVA Board Chair - Dr. Patty Provost

Dr. Patricia Provost is the 2018-2019 ICVA Chair. Appointed by the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), she was appointed to the board in 2012 re-appointed for a second three-year term in 2015, and is currently serving in her final three-year term (2018-2021). Prior to her appointment to the board, Dr. Provost was a member of the Examination Development Advisory Board (EDAB) as an equine expert.

Dr. Provost, a 1985 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, is an American College of Veterinary Surgeons Diplomate who currently owns her own equine sports medicine practice in western Pennsylvania.

Previously, Dr. Provost was a faculty member in the Department of Large Animal Surgery at Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine for 24 years. She has a passion for teaching and for all creatures, great and small.

The January 18-19, 2019 meeting will be Dr. Provost's first ICVA Board of Directors meeting as Chair.



VEA Updates Format and Sets Performance Guidelines Beginning With 2018-2019 Cycle

As noted earlier this year, ICVA has been implementing 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. Starting with the August - September 2018 testing window, schools will now be provided with a set of guidelines that they can use to assist them in evaluating student performance, and individual examinees will receive score reports that show both how the student performed and how this compares to the performance of the other examinees during that administration. In July, content experts participated in an online activity that informed these guidelines.

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.

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

ASSESSMENT UPDATES

NAVLE

The ICVA office received and processed a total of 4975 approved candidate eligibility files for the November 12 - December 8, 2018 NAVLE® testing window. Of these candidates, 3257 were processed and approved on behalf of the 33 licensing boards that have the ICVA as their designated NAVLE processor. 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 5832 candidates took the NAVLE® during the 2017-2018 testing cycle, an increase of 245 from the previous year. The total included 4242 criterion candidates (senior students at AVMA-accredited schools taking the examination for the first time and with standard testing conditions), 988 non-criterion candidates (graduate veterinarians, repeating candidates from AVMA-accredited schools, and candidates testing with accommodations), and 602 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 the past two years. The mean score for the November-December criterion candidates was the same in 2017 (507) as it was in the previous year.

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. We have verified that the projection is most accurate when the NAVLE Self-Assessment is taken under standard timing in one sitting. 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 in our June 2018 newsletter, 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 240-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.

The VEA is being administered during the current August - September 2018 testing window at St. Matthew's University, the University of Missouri, Midwestern University, Tuskegee University, St. George's University, Texas A&M University, Ross University, and the University of Sydney. Scores will be reported early October, in the new format described on page 4. 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 the ICVA office.

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.