

National Board Report

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Diversity

Diversity can seem like a difficult goal to achieve. Yet, a diverse body of talent with fresh ideas and perspectives is a key component to an organization's long-term success. A veterinary workforce where individuals are empowered to achieve their full potential will develop innovative solutions for animal and public health.

To foster diversity in its segment of the veterinary profession, the NBVME has recently adopted a statement on diversity and inclusion. This statement embraces the value of individuals and the qualities they bring to the many areas of veterinary medicine. Additionally, the profession must promote a work environment where individuals are treated fairly, respectfully, and have equal access to opportunities and resources. Veterinarians should also be aware of the human component of veterinary medicine. Building relationships, educating clients, and addressing concerns of the public all require the ability to communicate empathetically with a diverse group of people. Ultimately, better understanding and engagement will lead to enhanced animal care.

The NBVME encourages diverse, inclusive environments for the advancement of veterinary medicine. The veterinary profession is making progress in the promotion of diversity and we plan to be a part of it.

Heather Case, DVM, MPH,
DACVPM, CAE
Executive Director

June NBVME Board of Directors Meeting Report

The Board of Directors held its summer meeting in conjunction with the AAVSB Board of Directors meeting in Kansas City on June 18-21, 2015. In Executive Session, the Board received reports from the Finance Committee, Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments Governance Committee (CVA GC), and the Stipend Working Group. The Board also adopted a new statement on diversity and inclusion:

The National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (NBVME) encourages its staff, volunteers, stakeholders, and directors to view, evaluate, and treat all persons in any professional activity or circumstance in which they may be involved, solely as individuals on the basis of their own personal abilities, qualifications, and other relevant characteristics.

The NBVME confronts and addresses all forms of prejudice and discrimination by its staff, volunteers, stakeholders, and directors that have led to misunderstanding, hostility and injustice in the work of the NBVME. These include, but are not limited to, those based on race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, parental status, religious beliefs, military or veteran status, political beliefs, geographic, socioeconomic, and educational background and any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, state, provincial or territorial law. (continued on page 2)

NBVME Vision (2015-2018)

The world leader in veterinary assessments.

NBVME 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.

2014-2015 NBVME and AAVSB Boards of Directors



During the General Session, the Board reviewed several reports regarding the Practice Analysis, NAVLE® and other assessments, and Task Force One.

Practice Analysis

The Board received an update on the Practice Analysis from Drs. Gary Gackstetter, NBVME and Mark Raymond, NBME. The purpose of the Practice Analysis is to ensure the NAVLE is appropriately assessing the skills and knowledge needed in practice. It is focused on the basic veterinary sciences, clinical sciences, and professional activities of entry-level veterinarians.

CVA GC

Ms. Janine Hawley from NBME was present to provide an update on NAVLE governance activities, new initiatives, and examination statistics. Two new research initiatives are slated for later this year. The first of those is a predictive validity study that will investigate how well scores on the NAVLE Self-Assessments predict performance on the NAVLE.

Life of an Item

The Board approved a presentation titled “Life of an Item.” The target audience is veterinary school students who are preparing for the NAVLE. The presentation provides an overview of the NBVME, the creation of items, and NAVLE administration.

Task Force One



Pictured L-R: Drs. Beckey Malphus (AAVSB), Patty Provost (NBVME), Karen Lehe (NBVME), Back: Roger Redman (AAVSB), Mark Olson (AAVSB), Frank Walker (AAVSB), Bob Cherson (NBVME), Jack Wilson (NBVME)

Task Force One is composed of 4 NBVME members and 4 AAVSB members. During the joint meeting, NBVME and AAVSB received a presentation from Task Force One on ways to enhance the relationship.

2015 AVMA Convention in Boston



Pictured L to R: Drs. John Lawrence, President (AAVSB); Frank Walker, President-Elect (AAVSB); Jack Wilson, Chair (NBVME) at the AVMA Convention.

Dr. Jack Wilson, NBVME Chair, and Dr. Heather Case attended the AVMA Convention in Boston on July 8-13, 2015. Drs. Wilson and Case had the opportunity to attend the AVMA Board of Directors meeting, annual meeting of the House of Delegates, and several presentations and sessions. It was a great opportunity to network with other veterinarians and professional organizations.

2015 CVMA Meeting in Calgary

Dr. Case attended the 2015 Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Annual Meeting in Calgary with Dr. Wilson. She presented on the NBVME, the NAVLE and other available veterinary assessments.



Pictured: Drs. Case and Wilson at the University of Calgary Veterinary School

Item Writer Call for Nominations

At its June meeting, the Board voted to establish a nomination process for NAVLE item writers. Please contact nominations@nbvme.org for more information if you are interested in becoming an item writer.

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The purpose of the *National Board Report* is to educate, inform, and communicate information about the objectives and programs of the NBVME. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official opinions, views or policies of the NBVME or any of its members, unless expressly so stated.

Jon Betts, DVM; Michael Chaddock, DVM, EML; Robert Cherson, DVM; Joyceanne Fick, *Public Member*; Gary D. Gackstetter, DVM, MPH, PhD, DACVPM, Fellow A.C.E; Jay Hedrick, DVM, *Past Chair*; Karen Lehe, DVM, DACVPM, *Chair-Elect*; Susan Little, DVM, DABVP; Bruce Louderback, DVM; Billy Martindale, DVM; Patricia J. Provost, MS, VMD, DACVS, *Secretary-Treasurer*; Mark Russak, DVM; Jack Wilson, DVM, *Chair*; Heather Case, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, CAE, *Executive Director*

New NBVME Board Members: Drs. Susan Little and Billy Martindale

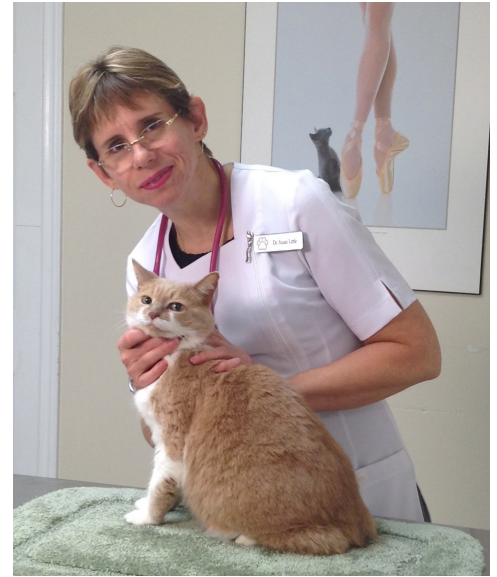
The American Animal Hospital Association has named Dr. Susan Little to succeed Dr. Dennis Feinberg as its designee on the NBVME Board of Directors. Her first term began at the close of the June 19-21 meeting.

Dr. Little received her BSc from Dalhousie University (Nova Scotia Canada) and her DVM from the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph. She has been in feline practice since 1990 and achieved board certification in Feline Practice in 1997. Dr. Little is part owner of two feline specialty practices in Ottawa, Canada. She is the 2015 President for the American Association of Feline Practitioners. She is also a peer reviewer for veterinary journals as well

as the author of many journal articles.

Dr. Little is the recipient of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Small Animal Practitioner Award (2010), the NAVC Small Animal Speaker of the Year Award (2013), and the International Society of Feline Medicine/Hill's Pet Nutrition Award for outstanding contributions to feline medicine. (2013).

She is also the editor and co-author of *The Cat - Clinical Medicine and Management* (Elsevier, 2012) and the editor of Volume 7 of *August's Consultations in Feline Internal Medicine* (2015).



Susan Little, DVM, DABVP



Billy Martindale, DVM

The AVMA Council on Education has named Dr. Billy Martindale to succeed Dr. Jayne Jensen as its designee on the NBVME Board of

Directors. His first term began at the close of the June 19-21 meeting.

Since graduating from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University in 1968, Dr. Martindale has dedicated his veterinary career to private practice. Over the span of those years, his practice has included food animal, equine, game stock, and companion animal. It has been an exclusive pet animal practice for the past 15 years. With the exception of building a new facility in 1981, he has practiced at the same location in Denison, Texas as the principal owner for over 35 years. This practice is over 70 years old and received the TVMA Heritage Practice Award in 2012.

In partnership with other veterinarians, Dr. Martindale has been instrumental in the establishment of an

additional two veterinary practices in Texas. One is associated with an animal shelter and the other is an emergency animal practice.

Dr. Martindale is a founding member of the Grayson County Veterinary Association. He has served on the TVMA Board of Directors including Chairman of the Board, Council Chair for the TVMA Council on Veterinary Practice, TVMA President, and Chairman of the AVMA/TVMA Liaison Committee for the Texas Veterinary Medical Association. He is in his fourth year as a member of the AVMA Council on Education.

Dr. Martindale has also been involved in church and community organizations serving in leadership positions throughout his adult life. He and his wife, Linda Ann, have 7 married children and 18 grandchildren.

NBVME Examination Updates

NAVLE®

The NBVME office received and processed a total of 4,496 approved candidate eligibility files for the November 16-December 12, 2015 NAVLE testing window. Candidates will be able to access their scheduling and admissions e-permits online by September 25, allowing them to make their testing appointments with Prometric.

NAVLE Self-Assessments, consisting of 200 items formatted like the actual examination, are available for purchase on the NBVME's website. The score report from the Assessment includes a NAVLE score prediction based on how well the candidate performed. There are four English forms and three French forms available. Four accredited schools now purchase vouchers allowing their senior students to complete an Assessment.

A total of 5,415 candidates took the NAVLE during the 2014-2015 testing cycle, an increase of 61 from last year. The total included 3,983 criterion candidates (senior students at accredited schools taking the examination for the first time), 818 non-criterion candidates (graduate veterinarians, repeating candidates from accredited schools, and candidates testing with accommodations) and 614 students and graduates from non-accredited schools.

The 96% overall passing rate for criterion at graduation (including those who passed on their first attempt in November-December and those who failed in the fall but passed on repeating the examination in April) was one percentage point higher than last year. The mean score for the November-December criterion candidates was lower in 2014 (510) than it was for the previous two years (515 and 518).

Veterinary Educational Assessment

The Veterinary Educational Assessment (VEA) is a 200-item basic science examination used as a standardized assessment of basic science knowledge for students in veterinary school. The August 31-September 11, 2015 testing window will include administrations to 113 students at the University of Missouri, 65 students at Tuskegee University, and 16 students at St. Matthew's University. The testing windows in the 2015-2016 cycle are January 11-22, 2016 and May 9-20, 2016. Veterinary schools interested in using the VEA should contact the NBVME office. The 2015-2016 VEA Bulletin of Information for Candidates is available on the NBVME website.