

National Board Report

A Quarterly Newsletter of the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

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Perspective

The NBVME holds a place of considerable importance in the house of veterinary medicine. While focusing on the continuous enhancement of our particular segment, it is critical to consider the perspective of our veterinary counterparts.

The NBVME has challenged itself with several projects to gain insight into how we improve our contribution to the advancement of veterinary medicine. The current Practice Analysis utilizes the expertise of practitioners to gain their perspective of what skills, knowledge, and competencies are needed by entry-level veterinarians.

The governance review is an opportunity to evaluate current structure and operations to ensure the NBVME is functioning in accordance with best practices. The branding engagement will allow us to connect with our stakeholders and gather their feedback to shape a solid identity for NBVME. For more on these initiatives, please see page 2.

It is important to maintain a broad perspective, especially during times of change. Listening to and understanding the perspective of our stakeholders will help the NBVME make even stronger contributions to veterinary medicine as we move forward in our mission.

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

January 2016 Board of Directors Meeting

The NBVME Board of Directors met January 22-24, 2016 in Scottsdale, AZ. The Board received reports on several items including the on-going Practice Analysis, the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®), the Veterinary Educational Assessment (VEA), the Species Specific Examinations, the Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments Governance Committee (CVAGC), the Life of an Item, and the Examination Development Advisory Board. The Board also considered proposals for a governance review and branding engagement. (continued on page 2)

The Practice Analysis Needs You!

The Practice Analysis Survey will launch in early March. If you are among the select group of veterinarians that receives a link, we ask that you please complete the survey. Your participation is critical to the success of this survey and ensuring the NAVLE® is assessing required competencies. Thank you in advance for your expertise and feedback.

2015-2016 Board of Directors



Front L-R: Dr. Bruce Louderback, *AAVSB*; Ms. Kathy Bowler, *AAVSB Public Member*; Dr. Susan Little, *AAHA*

Middle L-R: Drs. Bob Cherenon, *AABP*; Patty Provost, *AAEP, Secretary-Treasurer*; Billy Martindale, *AVMA COE*; Gary Gackstetter, *NAFV*; Jon Betts, *AAVSB*; Jack Wilson, *CNEB, Chair*; Mike Chaddock, *AAVMC*

Back L-R: Drs. Karen Lehe, *AASV, Chair-Elect*; Mark Russak, *AAHA*; Jay Hedrick, *AAVSB, Past-Chair*

Practice Analysis

The NBVME and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) are diligently working to launch the survey tool for the Practice Analysis. The practice analysis survey will be sent to a carefully selected sample of veterinarians throughout the US and Canada, and it is critical that everyone included in this sample respond. This survey provides veterinarians in practice with the opportunity to help build the foundation for the NAVLE® and ensure that it accurately assesses entry-level competencies. The NBVME is working closely with both the American and Canadian Veterinary Medical Associations to administer the Practice Analysis survey.

The NBVME needs your help during this critical juncture for veterinary assessments. We greatly appreciate the time, effort, and expertise of everyone in the select group of veterinarians who receive and complete the survey. It is approximately 15-20 minutes in length and will ask veterinarians about their specific area of expertise. The survey will be released in early March. The NBVME asks that everyone who receives the survey complete it. The information captured will play a vital role in the development of the next NAVLE® blueprint.

Governance Review

During its January meeting, the NBVME Board of Directors considered governance review proposals and selected Harrison Coerver & Associates as its review facilitator. The goal of the governance review is to ensure the NBVME is operating in accordance with current best practices for non-profit organizations.

The Board selected seven individuals to serve on the NBVME Governance Review Working Group. Members of the working group include Drs. Jack Wilson, Meg Glattly, Jon Betts, Dennis Feinberg, Chris Runde, Karen Lehe, and Ms. Kathy Bowler. The first meeting will be held on March 15 in Chicago, IL.

Branding

The Board of Directors also considered branding proposals at its January meeting. 88 Brand Partners, based in Chicago, IL, was selected as the firm to complete the NBVME's branding engagement. The goal of the branding process is to establish a solid identity for the NBVME within the house of veterinary medicine and be recognized as the leader in veterinary assessments. A discovery workshop will be conducted on March 14 to gain insights into the NBVME from individuals who frequently interact with the organization.

Life of an Item

The Life of an Item was presented to 12 veterinary student audiences during the fall of 2015. It is scheduled for several more events, including the SAVMA Symposium on March 19 at Iowa State University. The presentation provides an overview of the NBVME and explains NAVLE® item development and selection, and the examination process. The NBVME welcomes all inquiries regarding the presentation.

Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments

The Board approved the Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments Governance Committee (CVAGC) budget for fiscal year 2017. The budget includes a 2.5% fee increase for candidates taking the NAVLE®. The new candidate fee for the 2016-2017 NAVLE® testing cycle will be \$620.

The Board also received a request to establish an advisory board for the CVAGC to provide expertise on veterinary issues that may arise. The Board decided to expand the role of the Examination Development Advisory Board (EDAB) to fill this need.

The next CVAGC meeting will be held on April 4, 2016 at the NBME Headquarters in Philadelphia, PA.

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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 board members, unless expressly so stated.

Jon Betts, DVM; Michael Chaddock, DVM, EML; Robert Cherenson, DVM; Kathy Bowler, *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*

Examination Development Advisory Board

The NBVME held a call for nominations for two open positions on the Examination Development Advisory Board (EDAB) in late 2015. Dr. Allan Corber was appointed to serve as the representative for the Feline (also Other Small Animal) position. Dr. Cheryl Dhein was appointed to serve as the representative for the Canine (also Pet Bird) position.

The EDAB also established Chair and Chair-Elect positions. Dr. Helen Tuzio will serve as Chair, with Dr. Benjamin Darien serving as Chair-Elect.

Another call for nominations will be issued this spring for newly open positions in the Feline, Canine, and Equine content areas, with terms beginning in June 2016.

NBVME Finance Committee

The NBVME Finance Committee met in Mobile, AL on February 24-25. The agenda covered several items, including the development of the 2016-2017 budget.



L-R: Mr. Patrick Brown, CPA, *Brady, Martz & Associates*; Dr. Bruce Loudereback, *AAVSB*; Dr. Patricia Provost, *Secretary-Treasurer, AAEP*; Dr. Bob Cherenson, *AABP*; Dr. Heather Case, *Executive Director*

Upcoming Meetings

The NBVME will be represented at several meetings this spring.

AAVMC Annual Conference:

March 4-6, 2016

SAVMA Symposium: March 17-19, 2016

ATP Innovations in Testing Annual Conference: March 20-23, 2016

National Board of Medical Examiners Annual Meeting: March 31-April 1, 2016

The Economics of Veterinary Medical Education Summit: April 20-22, 2016

Additionally, the NBVME has the following meetings planned for April in Philadelphia, PA:

CVAGC: April 4, 2016

NAVLE® Form Review: April 5-6, 2016

Board of Directors: April 6, 2016

NAVLE® Pool Review

On January 21, a group of experts from the US and Canada met to review items from the NAVLE® item bank. They were assisted by test development staff from the National Board of Medical Examiners.



NAVLE®

A total of 4,452 candidates took the NAVLE® during the November 16 - December 12, 2015 testing window, an increase of 77 from November-December 2014. Scores were reported on January 11. There were 3,819 criterion candidates, 334 non-criterion candidates, and 299 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 91%, the same as it was in November-December 2014.

The NBVME office has submitted eligibility files to the NBME for 624 new candidates and 480 repeating candidates for the April 11-23, 2016 NAVLE® administration.

NAVLE® Agreements

Another recent change in the NAVLE® program was the move from single-year Letters of Agreement between the NBVME and individual licensing boards to multi-year agreements. On February 1, boards received updated information on the fees and dates for the upcoming 2016-2017 NAVLE® testing cycle.

The dates for the upcoming testing cycle will be November 14 - December 10, 2016 and April 10-22, 2017. The application receipt deadlines 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 NBVME website. Boards were also provided with information to have a member of their licensing board review the NAVLE® during the November-December testing window, and with a separate memo regarding the NAVLE® accommodations request process.

The NBVME office has been approving NAVLE® candidates on behalf of licensing boards since 2004, at the request of the individual boards. For the 2015-2016 testing cycle, the NBVME approved 3,479 candidates applying through 31 boards.

Veterinary Educational Assessment

A total of 538 students from Iowa State University, Ross University, St. George's University, St. Matthew's University, Tuskegee University, and the University of Tennessee took the Veterinary Educational Assessment during the January 11-22, 2016 testing window, with scores reported to the schools in early February. St. Matthew's University, Tuskegee University, and the University of Missouri administered the test to their students during the August 31 - September 11, 2015 testing window. Administrations are currently planned at Lincoln Memorial University, Ross University, St. Matthew's University, and the University of Georgia for the May 9 - 20, 2016 testing window.

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