

National Board Report

A Quarterly Newsletter of the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

Volume 20 Issue 2

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May 2015

Evolution

Punctuated equilibrium is the theory that evolution does not happen as a smooth and gradual curve, but rather moves between calm times of general stasis, followed by periods of swift and significant change. Veterinary medicine seems to be going through its own period of swift and significant change, and the NBVME is dedicated to ensuring that the NAVLE evolves in order to meet the needs of the veterinary licensing boards and of veterinary medicine as a whole.

The next two years will be a time of exciting activity for the NBVME. Some of our enhancements to the NAVLE application and score reporting system were discussed in the last issue of the National Board Report, and now I want to turn the spotlight to our upcoming practice analysis. The NAVLE is designed to assess knowledge of veterinary medicine as it relates to entry-level private clinical practice in North America. Since both veterinary medical knowledge and clinical practice are rapidly changing, the NBVME conducts a practice analysis on a periodic basis to ensure that the test items on the NAVLE are relevant to the tasks that practitioners perform in practice and the knowledge required for competent performance of those tasks.

In the coming months we will survey a statistically significant, representative number of veterinarians from across veterinary medicine. By replying to the survey, you'll have the opportunity to directly influence the evolution of the NAVLE. How cool is that?

Heather Case DVM, MPH,
DACVPM, CAE
Executive Director

NAVLE Practice Analysis Underway

As noted in the last issue, the NBVME conducts a systematic professional job (practice) analysis periodically, surveying veterinarians from across all aspects of veterinary medicine to ensure we are assessing entry level competencies on the NAVLE. The last job analysis was conducted in 2009.

While preplanning for the project began many months ago, the NBVME and our collaborators on the NAVLE, the NBME, officially launched the new professional practice analysis process with a meeting earlier this month.

Members of the NBVME Practice Analysis Subject Matter Expert Working Group met in Philadelphia, PA May 11-12. These subject matter experts will serve to review initial drafts of survey content and may be called upon for additional review. The working group is comprised of six representatives from the NBVME Examination Development Advisory Board (one for each species area), and one representative each from AAVMC,

AVMA COE, the Canadian NEB, and the AAVSB.

At their first face-to-face meeting the Working Group began identifying proficiencies in the fundamental or basic veterinary sciences, clinical veterinary sciences, and professional activities of recently licensed veterinarians, as well as the knowledge, skills and abilities required to carry out those competencies. Updates on the progress of the practice analysis will be in future issues of this newsletter.

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.



Participants in the NAVLE Practice Analysis Subject Matter Expert Working Group meeting. Front row left to right: Dr. Mark Raymond, NBME; Ms. Elizabeth Billings, NBME; Dr. Heather Case, NBVME Executive Director; Dr. Rick Tubbs, NBVME EDAB; Dr. Helen Tuzio, NBVME EDAB; and Dr. Julia Wilson, AAVSB representative. Back row left to right: Ms. Janine Hawley, NBME; Ms. Melissa Dudlick, NBME; Dr. Norm LaFauce, NBVME EDAB; Dr. Robert Lester, AAVMC representative; Dr. William Epperson, AVMA COE representative; Dr. Gary Gackstetter, NBVME Board; Dr. Benjamin Darien, NBVME EDAB; Dr. Katie Stenroden, NBVME EDAB; Dr. Cary Hashizume, Canadian NEB representative; and Dr. Gerry Dillon, NBME.

NBVME Award: Dr. Peter V. Scoles

NBVME Team Member Retires



From left to right: Dr. Jay Hedrick (current NBVME Chair), Dr. Dennis Feinberg (NBVME Chair 2012-13), Dr. Peter Scoles, and Dr. Gary Gackstetter (NBVME Immediate Past Chair).

The NBVME presented the NBVME Award to Dr. Peter Scoles on April 8 in Philadelphia, PA. The NBVME Award was established in 1999 to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination program. The NBVME Board voted unanimously to present this prestigious award to Dr. Scoles in recognition of his tireless efforts promoting the best interests for veterinary medicine and the NBVME. Peter Scoles, MD lead the NBME team responsible for the design and implementation of the NBME/ NBVME Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments. An avid sailor, in addition to a plaque, Dr. Scoles received a Morris yacht jacket. The last NBVME award was awarded to Dr. Mike Thomas in 2011.

Bridget Whittey retired from the NBVME March 31.

When Bridget was hired by Dr. John Boyce in April 2007 there was literally “no room at the inn” for her in the NBVME’s original small downtown Bismarck office. She joined the staff a week later after the NBVME moved to a nearby location that had adequate space to accommodate an additional staff member. Five years later, in May 2012, Bridget coordinated the move to the NBVME’s current office location in south Bismarck.

Along with keeping the cogs turning in the office, Bridget’s primary responsibility was managing NAVLE applications and fee payments, and assisting in the coordination of the examination delivery in conjunction with her co-workers and the National Board of Medical Examiners. She was instrumental in streamlining the online application and credit card payment process for candidates, establishing the online NAVLE school portal for delivery of NAVLE school reports to veterinary school administrators, and coordinating the online NAVLE score portal, which provides NAVLE results to candidates applying through one of the licensing boards for which the NBVME is the designated NAVLE processor.

Bridget has enjoyed her relationships with licensing board administrators, veterinary school and constituent group staff, past and present NBVME board members, the good folks at the National Board of Medical Examin-

ers, and the NBVME crew. She stated that those relationships are what she will miss most.

Bridget plans to devote more time to her family, especially her mother and grandchildren. She has a long list of household and yard projects to attack in her first months of retirement, and intends to spend more time on the good sailboat Promise on Lake Sakakawea. Bridget and her husband Bruce enjoy cooking together, and the Whittey deck is expected to be busy entertaining family and friends this summer. She also hopes to get reacquainted with her cello, piano, and sewing machine when the winter months arrive in North Dakota. Bridget’s reminders to those she encountered were, “Slow and steady wins the race,” and “He who laughs, lasts.”



NBVME Team Member Bridget Whittey retired from the NBVME on March 31

The *National Board Report* is published quarterly by the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (NBVME®), PO Box 1356, Bismarck, ND 58502. Phone (701) 224-0332, fax (701) 224-0435, mail@nbvme.org, <http://www.nbvme.org>.

The purpose of the *National Board Report* is to educate, to inform, and to 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; Dennis A. Feinberg, DVM; Joyceanne Fick, *Public Member and Secretary-Treasurer*; Gary D. Gackstetter, DVM, MPH, PhD, *Past Chair*; Jay Hedrick, DVM, *Chair*; Jayne Jensen, DVM; Karen E. Lehe, DVM, DACVPM; Bruce Louderback, DVM; Patricia J. Provost, MS, VMD, DACVS; Mark Russak, DVM; Jack Wilson, DVM, *Chair-Elect*. Heather Case, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, CAE, *Executive Director*

2015 NAVLE Form Review

Each year, the NBVME conducts a review of draft forms of the NAVLE to be administered in the coming year. The review ensures that the forms are balanced with regard to content, and allows reviewers to evaluate the quality of the images associated with many of the items. On April 8-9, 27 veterinarians met at the offices of the National Board of Medical Examiners in Philadelphia, PA to review and approve NAVLE forms to be administered in the November-December 2015 and April 2016 testing windows. Participants

(see photo below) included all 13 NBVME members, 9 of the 10 members of the NBVME's Examination Development Advisory Board, one veterinarian designated by the AAVSB, and four recent veterinary graduates. This year's recent graduates were (pictured with NBVME Chair Dr. Hedrick at right from left to right Drs. Blake Miller (University of Illinois 2014), Joseph Hicks (Texas A&M 2014), Kurt Breuning (U of Penn 2010), and Will McCauley (Texas A&M 2012).



June NBVME Meeting with AAVSB

The NBVME will hold its summer meeting alongside the AAVSB's Board meeting in Kansas City, MO June 18-21. The NBVME General Session, which is open to guests, is scheduled for Friday afternoon and all day on Saturday including joint meeting time with both Boards Saturday afternoon. Please contact the NBVME office for additional information.

Dr. Jayne Jensen, the NBVME member appointed by the AVMA Council on Education, will complete her final three-year term in June. Her successor will be Dr. Billy Martindale from Denison, TX. Dr. Dennis Feinberg, one of two members appointed by the American Animal Hospital Association, will also complete his final (third) three-year term in June. His successor will be Dr. Susan Little, a feline practitioner in Ottawa, Ontario who has also served on the NBVME EDAB.

Dr. Jay Hedrick will chair the June meeting.

NBVME Represented at NBME Centennial Gala and Conference



Dr. Dennis Feinberg and his wife Sharon represented the NBVME at the NBME Centennial Gala held May 4 at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (see photo at left).

The NBME Centennial Gala event was a celebration of the NBME's 100 years of service to the public and the health professions and was held in conjunction with the NBME Centennial Conference: Innovation in Future Assessments of Health Professionals.

NBVME Examination Updates

NAVLE®

With all of the scores now reported, a total of 1040 candidates took the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®) during the April 11-23, 2015 testing window, an increase of 12 from April 2014. The majority of scores were reported to licensing boards on May 18.

Applications for the November-December 2015 NAVLE testing window will be accepted beginning in early June, and the NBVME application receipt deadline is August 1. The 2015-2016 edition of the NAVLE Bulletin of Information for Candidates is available on the NBVME's web site (www.nbvme.org). The NAVLE fee for 2015-16 will be \$605, an increase of \$15.

All NAVLE candidates must be approved by a licensing board to take the examination. For the 2015-16 test-

ing cycle, the NBVME office will approve candidates applying through 30 states: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Virginia. These candidates can complete their state NAVLE application and pay the corresponding state application fee on-line, through the NBVME's website. Information for candidates applying through other licensing boards is available in the Candidate Bulletin and on the NBVME website.

Veterinary Educational Assessment (VEA)

The VEA is a 200-item web-based basic science examination made avail-

able 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 was administered on multiple dates in May, with St. Matthew's University School of Veterinary Medicine administering the test to 20 of their students, the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine administering the test to 101 of their students, and Ross University College of Veterinary Medicine administering the test to 140 of their students. Scores will be reported by early June.

Additional information regarding the upcoming 2015-2016 VEA administration cycle will be sent to veterinary schools in early June. Schools interested in using the VEA should contact the NBVME office.