

# National Board Report

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## Change

Change is everywhere. The seasons change, technology changes, preferences and needs change. It has been said "the only thing that is constant is change". Change is not always easy, yet change is inevitable.

Veterinary medicine is not immune to change. Historically we were "horse doctors" caring for horses used as primary transportation. With the arrival of the automobile, veterinarians changed their focus from horses toward agriculture and food production and later companion animals. Today veterinarians have the opportunity to work in increasingly diverse settings treating numerous species of animals.

The first administration of the National Board Examination was in 1954. No doubt the test had changed by the time I took it in my senior year of veterinary medical school and indeed the examination has changed since the first administration of the North American Veterinary Licensure Examination (NAVLE) in November of 2000. Ensuring that the licensing examination keeps pace with change and meets the needs of licensing boards has and always will be a top priority of the NBVME.

Personally and professionally, taking on a new position is a significant change, yet it is one that I embrace. Often undertaking something new is accompanied by a steep learning curve, and moving into the NBVME Executive Director role is no exception. Over the course of the next several months and years I look forward to meeting with you, listening to and learning from you, and working with you as we embrace change together.

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

## July NBVME Meeting Report

The NBVME held its summer meeting in Montreal July 24-27, 2014.

In Executive Session, the board reviewed financial reports and approved a proposed budget for 2014-2015, reviewed the minutes of the May 2 Collaboration Governance Committee meeting, and discussed potential enhancements to the NAVLE. The Collaboration Governance Committee is the group formed as part of the collaboration with the NBME, whose responsibilities include oversight of the Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments (CVA) and the NAVLE Assessment System. Also in Executive Session the Board reviewed a report from its members on Task Force One (a group consisting of representatives from the AAVSB and the NBVME created to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations).



Dr. Gary Gackstetter, NBVME Chair, presented a plaque to Dr. Linda Blythe.

During the General Session the Board discussed several items related to the transition to the new Executive Director, including passing a motion to appoint Dr. Heather Case as NBVME Executive Director effective August 1. The Board also reviewed several reports regarding the NAVLE, and reports from recent visits to the Oregon, Missouri, and Texas licensing boards. Upcoming visits are planned to Iowa, Pennsylvania, and Colorado. Licensing Boards should contact the NBVME office if they are interested in scheduling a visit.

Dr. Becky Malphus, AAVSB President, provided an update on the AAVSB. Also in attendance was Ms. Janine Hawley, who provided an update from the National Board of Medical Examiners.

Dr. Linda Blythe was recognized by her colleagues for nine years of service to the NBVME.

The board discussed strategic planning and agreed to arrange a strategic planning meeting for later in 2014.

The board reappointed Drs. Norman LaFaunce and Susan Little to new three-year terms on the Examination Development Advisory Board in the bovine (dairy) and feline content areas, respectively.

NBVME officers for 2014-2015 are Dr. Jay Hedrick, Chair; Dr. Jack Wilson, Chair-Elect; Ms. Joyceanne Fick, Secretary-Treasurer; and Dr. Gary Gackstetter, Past Chair. The next NBVME meeting will be in San Diego January 23-25, 2015 with a one-day NAVLE pool review meeting on January 22.

## NBVME Executive Director Transition

Dr. John Boyce retired from the NBVME on July 31 after serving as the organization's Executive Director for the past 19 years. Dr. Gary Gackstetter, NBVME Board Chair from July 2013- July 2014, said, "All the members of the NBVME are especially grateful to Dr. Boyce for his dedicated service to veterinary medicine as the first NBVME Executive Director". Dr. Gackstetter added that "...after a lengthy international search process, I am honored to announce Dr. Heather Case as the next Executive Director." He went on to say, "Dr. Case brings a wealth of experience, enthusiasm, and demonstrated leadership to the NBVME and is precisely what the organization needs as we look to the future and new enhancements to the current North American Veterinary Licensing Examination."

Dr. Case spent two weeks in the Bismarck office in early July working with Dr. Boyce and staff, and attended the July Board meeting in Montreal prior to formally taking over the role on August 1.

Dr. Case's experience includes private practice, legislative and health policy expertise as an American Veterinary Medical Association Congressional Fellow on Capital

Hill, managing nonprofit corporations, and most recently leading the AVMA's Scientific Activities Division. Please see the NBVME website for the full press release on the naming of Dr. Case as Executive Director.

Dr. Boyce and his wife Susan (who retired this year from her job as a high school art teacher) plan to spend more time with their three adult children, who all live in the Bismarck area, and at their home about 10 miles south of the town of Medora in the badlands of western North Dakota. There will also be time for travel together, mostly road trips in the US.



Drs. Boyce and Case outside the NBVME office in Bismarck, ND in early July.

Dr. Boyce plans to continue to serve as Executive Secretary of the North Dakota Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, a part-time position he has held for about 15 years, and as treasurer for his church and condominium association.

### SPECIES SPECIFIC EXAMINATIONS

As noted in previous newsletters, the recently-revised species specific examinations addressing companion animal and equine practice are now available for use by licensing boards.

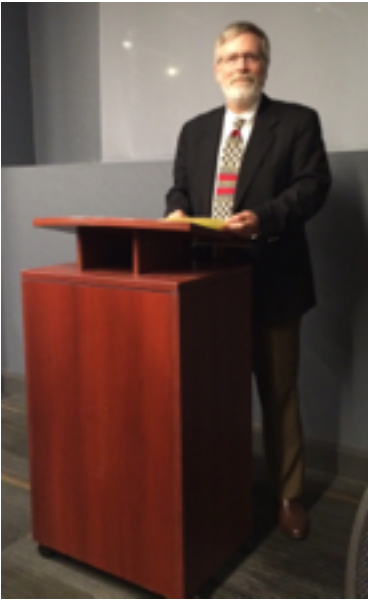
There are two forms of each examination available. The 100-item paper-and-pencil examinations may be given at any time, and are scored in the NBVME office. The NBVME sent a memo to each licensing board in April with information on ordering these examinations.

Boards interested in reviewing these examinations for future use should contact Anita Casey-Reed in the NBVME office.

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Jon Betts, DVM; Michael Chaddock, DVM, EML; Robert Cherenon, 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*



## Dr. John R. Boyce Honored in Montreal

The NBVME celebrated retiring Executive Director Dr. John Boyce's dedication to the organization and over 19 years of service with a special dinner and retirement ceremony on July 26.



## New NBVME Member: Dr. Michael Chaddock

The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) has named Dr. Michael Chaddock to succeed Dr. Linda Blythe as its designee on the NBVME. His first term as an NBVME member began at the close of the July 25-27 meeting.

Dr. Chaddock received his DVM degree from Michigan State University and an Executive Master's Degree in Leadership from the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University.

He served in private practice for 13 years and worked in industry for two years before being appointed Michigan State Veterinarian in 1986. Dr. Chaddock was a Kellogg Fellow in Food and Agricultural Policy, a Congressional Science and Engineering Fellow of the AAAS sponsored by the AVMA, and a Fellow and Faculty Member in Biodefense Strategies for the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. He was



appointed Director of the AVMA Governmental Relations Division in 2003. In 2006, he joined the AAVMC where he served as Director of Communications, Associate Executive Director, and Deputy Director. In September 2012, Dr. Chaddock accepted the position of Assistant Dean for One Health and Strategic Initiatives and Clinical Professor, Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. Chaddock is a member of several professional societies, including the AVMA, Michigan Veterinary Medical Association, Texas Veterinary Medical Association, United States Animal Health Association, and the American Association of Corporate and Public Practice Veterinarians.

Dr. Chaddock has been active in organized veterinary medicine serving in the AVMA House of Delegates, AVMA House Advisory Committee, AVMA Political Action Committee (serving as Chair for two years), on the AVMA Legislative Advisory Committee, and the AVMA Judicial Council. For 15 years he was a member of the veterinary licensing board for the state of Michigan.

In addition to serving on the Board of the NBVME, Dr. Chaddock is also on the Board of the Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association where he serves as treasurer.

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## NBVME Examination Updates

### NAVLE®

The NBVME office received and processed a total of 4430 approved candidate eligibility files for the November 17-December 13, 2014 NAVLE testing window. Candidates will be able to access their 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 web site for \$50 each. The score report from the Assessment includes a NAVLE performance prediction based on how well the candidate did on the Assessment. There are four English forms and three French forms of the Assessment available. Four accredited schools are now purchasing vouchers allowing each of their senior students to complete an Assessment.

The 2013-2014 NAVLE Technical Report was mailed to each of the

NBVME's constituent organizations, each veterinary licensing board, and each accredited veterinary school this month. The report is also available on the NBVME's web site. A total of 5,354 candidates took the NAVLE during the 2013-2014 testing cycle, an increase of 398 from last year. The total included 3,942 criterion candidates (senior students at accredited schools taking the examination for the first time), 709 non-criterion candidates (graduate veterinarians, repeating candidates from accredited schools, and candidates testing with accommodations), and 703 students and graduates from non-accredited schools.

The 95% overall passing rate for criterion candidates 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 lower than last year. The mean score for November-December criterion candidates was somewhat lower in 2013 (515)

than it was for the two previous years (518 and 521).

### Qualifying Examination

The Qualifying Examination (QE) is a 200-item basic science examination used as a standardized assessment of basic science knowledge for students in veterinary school. The NBVME office has made arrangements with the University of Missouri to administer the web-based QE to 108 students on September 4th and 5th. The 2014-2015 QE Bulletin of Information for Candidates is available on the NBVME's web site. Copies of the 2013-2014 QE Technical Report were mailed earlier this month to all licensing boards that accept PAVE certification, since the QE was used as the step three requirement of the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) during those test administrations. Veterinary schools interested in using the QE should contact the NBVME office.