

National Board Report

A Quarterly Newsletter of the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

Volume 20 Issue 1

© National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

February 2015

Enhancements

The NBVME is committed to the continued enhancement of the NAVLE, both within the examination itself and in the logistics involving all aspects of the process.

From application to score reporting, the 2015-2016 testing cycle will mark the beginning of several changes that will enhance the NAVLE experience for candidates and for licensing boards. At the request of multiple licensing boards, a change was incorporated into the NAVLE letter of agreement packets sent out earlier this month (see page 4) to move from an annual agreement to a multi-year agreement covering the next three testing cycles.

In response to another request from licensing boards, beginning with the November-December 2015 NAVLE testing window, all NAVLE candidates will be able to access their NAVLE scores approximately four weeks after the end of the test administration by logging in to a secure online portal. This will allow candidates to know their results more quickly than for previous administrations, and prevent delays in the reapplication process for those candidates who fail the test in November-December and need to repeat the test in April. It will also eliminate differences in the score reporting procedures, reducing candidate confusion and reducing the workload for licensing boards. (continued on page 3)

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

January 2015 NBVME Meeting

The NBVME met in San Diego, California January 23-25. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Jay Hedrick.

Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments (CVA) Governance Committee

Collaboration Governance Committee Chair Dr. Meg Glattly provided an update on the CVA's December 3 meeting (see page 2). During its January meeting the NBVME Board appointed Dr. Heather Case as Administrative Officer for the committee. She replaces Dr. John Boyce following his retirement.

NBVME Strategic Plan

Dr. Ken Andrews of High Impact Facilitation lead a facilitated open discussion with guests in attendance, overviewing the NBVME's strategic planning process and gathering feedback on proposed changes to the NBVME's mission, vision, and strategic direction. Following further discussion the board unanimously approved a new strategic plan. The full board met previously with Dr. An-

draws in Chicago, Illinois in early December to review the results of stakeholder surveys and develop an initial strategic plan.

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.

Qualifying Examination (QE) Name Change

The board voted to change the name of the QE to the NBVME Veterinary Educational Assessment (VEA) to reflect that the examination is now being used solely as an assessment for veterinary schools. (continued on page 2)



Participants in the NBVME Pool Review front row left to right: Dr. Rick Tubbs, Dr. Darcy Shaw, Dr. Meg Glattly, Dr. Jayne Jensen, Dr. Susan Little, Dr. Helen Tuzio, Dr. Karen Lehe, Ms. Melissa Dudlick. Back row left to right: Mr. Paul Basilio, Ms. Elizabeth Juarez, Ms. Kristin Britton, Dr. Fernando Marques, Dr. Ben Darien, Dr. Mike Chaddock, Dr. Jon Betts, Dr. Bob Chersonson, Dr. Linda Blythe, Dr. Norm LaFaunce, Dr. Gary Gackstetter, Dr. Bruce Louderback, Ms. Janine Hawley, Dr. Jay Hedrick, Ms. Joyceanne Fick, Dr. Patty Provost, and Dr. Heather Case.

January 2014 NBVME Meeting

(continued from page 1)

NAVLE Pool Review

The day before the NBVME meeting, 19 individuals met to review items from the NAVLE item bank. They were assisted by four test development staff from the NBME.

Upcoming Meetings

The board will meet in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania April 8-9 for the annual NAVLE form review, and will have a joint meeting with the AAVSB June 18-21 in Kansas City, Missouri.



Members of the NBVME Finance Committee: left to right: Dr. Bruce Louderback, NBVME Chair-Elect; Dr. Jack Wilson, Committee Chair and NBVME Secretary-Treasurer; Ms. Joyceanne Fick, NBVME accountant; Mr. Pat Brown. Not pictured: Dr. Patty Provost.

Collaboration Governance Committee Meeting

The Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments (CVA) Governance Committee met December 3 at the NBME headquarters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Meg Glattly as a representative of the NBVME. In addition to other items, the committee voted to move to electronic NAVLE score reporting. This committee's primary responsibility is oversight and enhancement of the NAVLE program. The CVA

Governance Committee is composed of five members (four voting and one alternate) appointed by each parent organization (NBVME and NBME). The next CVA meeting will be at the NBME headquarters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on April 10.



Members of the CVA: left to right front row: Dr. Jerry Dillon, NBME; Dr. Meg Glattly, Chair, NBVME; Dr. Stacy Lankford, NBME; Mr. Jack Hinke, NBME. Left to right second row: Dr. Jon Betts, NBVME; Dr. Peter Katsufakis, NBME; Dr. Don Melnick, NBME; and Dr. John Boyce, NBVME.

Finance Committee Meeting

The NBVME Finance Committee met in Phoenix, Arizona on February 17-19. The agenda covered several items including development of the 2015-2016 budget.

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>.

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

Item Writer Training

Each year, new NAVLE item writers meet in Philadelphia at the office of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) for an item writing workshop. On February 25, NBME Director of Test Materials Development Melissa Billings presented information on how to write good multiple-choice questions that assess clinical reasoning. The workshop helped item writers identify and avoid common mistakes made when constructing multiple-choice questions, and provided training on how to write items that test clinical reasoning, rather than memorization of isolated facts.



Participants in the Item Writer Workshop: front row from left to right: Dr. Laura Garrett, Dr. Rachel Baratz, Dr. Amanda Marino, Dr. E. Jane Kelly. Left to right second row: Dr. Heather Case, Dr. Tegwin Taylor, Dr. Stephen Foulke, Dr. Glenn Olah, Dr. Donna Harris, and Dr. Travis White.

Job Analysis

Periodically, the NBVME conducts a job analysis, 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. In the coming months many of you may receive a survey from the NBVME. We would appreciate your participation, since feedback from all areas of veterinary medicine is critical as we develop the next blueprint for the NAVLE. Look for more information on the job analysis process in upcoming issues of this newsletter.

Enhancements (continued from page 1)

Licensing boards will also receive the score reports for their candidates in a more efficient manner, by accessing the information electronically from a secure on-line portal rather than waiting for the computer disks and paper reports to be delivered by Federal Express.

As a result of these improvements in score reporting and permit processing procedures, the NBVME has also eliminated the two application receipt deadlines previously set for April candidates: January 3 for new candidates, and February 15 for candidates who failed the preceding November-December NAVLE. **Going forward there will be a single April NAVLE application receipt deadline of February 1 for all candidates.** This will reduce confusion among candidates, allow additional time for applica-

tions and supporting documentation to be received without the issue of offices being closed during the year-end holiday season, and allow all candidates access to their scheduling permits at the same time.

Finally, NAVLE candidates will now have the additional option of presenting an electronic copy of their NAVLE Scheduling and Admission Permit (for example, on their smartphone) during check-in at the Prometric Testing Center (PTC). Previously, only paper copies of the permit were accepted, and there were multiple situations each administration where NAVLE candidates were not able to test due to their failure to bring their printed permit to the PTC. All testing programs coordinated by the National Board of Medical Exam-

iners (NBME) are moving to this electronic option, which allows more convenience for test-takers while still meeting high standards of security.

The NBVME will continue to work with the NBME on updates to improve the NAVLE experience for licensing boards and for candidates, while maintaining the high standards of credibility and reliability of the examination. As with many other licensing examinations, the NAVLE® is taking advantage of emerging technology to speed delivery of test results, to streamline the application and score reporting process, and to maximize communications with candidates in a way that minimizes situations where candidate errors may prevent them from testing as scheduled.

NAVLE Agreements

Letters of Agreement between the NBVME and individual licensing boards were mailed to boards on February 10.

The candidate fee for the 2015-16 testing cycle will be \$605, an increase of \$15. The testing windows for the first testing cycle covered by the agreement will be November 16 - December 12, 2015 and April 11-23, 2016. The application receipt deadlines will remain August 1 for the November-December testing window but will **move to February 1 for all candidates applying for the April testing window.**

Previously, there had been a January 3 deadline for April

candidates who had not taken the preceding November-December NAVLE, and a February 15 deadline for those candidates who failed the examination in the November-December testing window.

The NBVME office has been approving NAVLE candidates on behalf of licensing boards since 2004, at the request of the individual boards. For the 2014-2015 testing cycle, the NBVME approved 3,403 candidates applying through 29 boards.

Examination Update

NAVLE

A total of 4375 candidates took the NAVLE during the November 17 - December 13, 2014 testing window, an increase of 79 from November-December 2013. Scores were reported to licensing boards on January 22. There were 3696 criterion candidates, 339 non-criterion candidates, and 340 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%, down from 92% in November-December 2013.

The NBVME office has submitted eligibility files to

the NBME for 590 new candidates and 492 repeating candidates for the April 13-25, 2015 NAVLE administration.

Qualifying Examination

A total of 143 third-year students at Iowa State University took the QE on January 14 and 15. The University of Missouri administered the QE to its students in September, and St. Matthew's University and Ross University plan on administering the test, now known as the VEA (see first page), to their students this May.

The NBVME is presenting information regarding the VEA to attendees at the AAVMC meeting this March.