

National Board Report

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Strategy

Google defines strategy as “a plan of action or policy designed to achieve a major or overall aim.”

Like so many of my veterinary colleagues, I decided that I wanted to become a veterinarian by the age of five. From that point forward I developed a strategy to accomplish that goal which included working at horse farms and cleaning kennels while in high school, studying biology and riding along with the local veterinarians while in college, and then attending veterinary medical school at the University of Minnesota. I have continually reevaluated and revised my professional career strategy since receiving my veterinary degree.

Organizations must do the same. The vision, mission and values of the NBVME are centered on being the recognized leader in providing psychometrically sound, defensible examinations and assessments for use by governmental licensing agencies and other entities to assure the protection of public and animal health and welfare by assessing professional competency. A strategy must be in place to accomplish these objectives, and that strategy must be reevaluated to accomplish the vision, mission and values the organization sets forth.

Early next month the NBVME will reevaluate our strategy (see article on this page) to allow us to take action towards ensuring we continue providing you with the service you need.

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

January Meeting Preview

The NBVME will meet in San Diego, California January 23-25, 2015. The meeting will be chaired by Dr. Jay Hedrick. Persons interested in attending the January meeting should contact the NBVME office for details.



NBVME Chair Dr. Jay Hedrick

New Member Orientation

NBVME legal counsel Claire Topp will present a new member orientation to Dr. Michael Chaddock, who was appointed to the NBVME board by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC). Dr. Chaddock's term began following the July meeting.

Agenda Items

Board members will hear reports from the recent Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments (CVA) Governance Committee meeting (see page 2), and discuss any updates recommended for the NAVLE program.

The NBVME Finance Committee will also present a report from its November meeting (see page 2).

NAVLE® Pool Review NBVME board members will join members of the

NBVME's Examination Development Advisory Board (EDAB) and some former board members in a review of several hundred items from the NAVLE item bank the day before the board meeting begins. These reviews, which are done at least once per year, ensure that items in the active item pool are suitable for continued use on NAVLE forms. Participants will work in teams, by content area, and will be assisted by editors from the NBME's test development department.

Strategic Planning

The NBVME last enlisted a professional facilitator to work with the board on their Strategic Plan in May 2013, and a 2013-2015 Strategic Plan was adopted at that time.

Because of the changing needs of the profession, veterinary licensing boards, veterinary schools, students and other stakeholders, the NBVME will gather in early December in Chicago, Illinois with a professional facilitator to once again review and update their Strategic Plan. In preparation for this meeting, the facilitator conducted one on one interviews with meeting participants, and a survey was sent out to stakeholders in October seeking feedback to be used to guide the strategic plan update. Many of you have provided input to this process through your survey responses and we thank you for doing so.

Finalizing the NBVME Strategic Plan will be on the Board's agenda at the January meeting in San Diego, California.

NBVME Finance Committee Meeting



Members of the NBVME Finance Committee from left to right: Dr. Patty Provost, NBVME Chair Dr. Jay Hedrick, NBVME Chair Elect Dr. Jack Wilson, and Committee Chair and NBVME Secretary-Treasurer Joyceanne Fick. Not pictured: Dr. Bruce Louderback.

The NBVME's Finance Committee held its fall meeting at the AVMA headquarters in Schaumburg, Illinois November 18-19. The meeting was chaired by Joyceanne Fick. Other members of the NBVME Finance Committee include Drs. Jack Wilson, Patty Provost and Bruce Louderback. NBVME Chair Dr. Jay Hedrick and NBVME Executive Director Dr. Heather Case were also in attendance.

Task Force One Update

Task Force One, a group created by the NBVME and AAVSB to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations and composed of four members from the NBVME and four members from the AAVSB, is in the process of planning a joint NBVME/ AAVSB meeting for June 2015. Additional details about the meeting will be forthcoming.

The Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments (CVA) Governance Committee will meet December 3 at the NBME headquarters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 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). This committee is chaired by Dr. Meg Glattly as a representative of the NBVME.

NBVME Members attend the AAVSB Annual Meeting

NBVME board members and staff attended the AAVSB Annual Meeting September 11- 13 in St. Petersburg, Florida. The meeting provided networking opportunities with veterinary regulators, and excellent presentations and open forums, in addition to the AAVSB business sessions.



NBVME board members and NBVME staff at the AAVSB meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida.

From left to right, front row: Dr. Bruce Louderback, Anita Casey-Reed, Dr. Jay Hedrick, Dr. Karen Lehe, Bridget Whittey, Tonee Vander Vliet, Dr. Gary Gackstetter, and Dr. Jon Betts. Back row: Laurie Holverson, Dr. Heather Case, and Joyceanne Fick.

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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 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*

Fall NAVLE Item Review Meeting

Twenty-four of the 28 2014 NAVLE item writers met at the NBME office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania November 10-11 to review NAVLE items written and submitted earlier this year. Nearly 800 new items were approved for addition to the NAVLE item bank.

Each form of the NAVLE includes 300 scored items and 60 pretest items, and all new items are pretested before they are used as scored items. Pretesting ensures that items that count toward a candidate's score have acceptable performance statistics. New items approved at the November 2014 review meeting will appear for the first time as pretest items on examination forms developed for use during the 2015-2016 NAVLE testing cycle. Most NAVLE item writers are appointed by the

members of the NBVME's Examination Development Advisory Board, according to the main content areas of the examination. Work is now underway to finalize the list of item writers for 2015.

2014 NAVLE Item Writers:

Canine: Drs. Erica Barron, Julie Fixman, Susan Golgoski, Christine Savage, and Karen Tefft.

Pet Bird: Dr. Marion Desmarchelier.

Feline: Drs. Steven Bailey, Allan Corber, Alice Johns, Margie Scherk and Helen Tuzio.

Other Small Animal: Dr. Sandra Mitchel.

Bovine: Drs. Arn Anderson, Bob Chersonson, and Joe Klopfenstein.

Small Ruminant: Dr. Joan Bowen.

Poultry: Dr. Patricia Wakenell.

Porcine: Dr. Robyn Fleck.

Equine: Drs. Lauren Kleine, Simon Peek, Ramiro Toribio and David Wilson.

Cervids/Camelids: Dr. Keith Poulsen.

Public Health: Drs. Katie Steneroden and Emilio DeBess.

Professional Behavior, Communications, and Practice Management: Drs. Ruthanne Chun, Brent Calhoun and Carin Smith.



Left to right back row: Janine Hawley, Drs. Heather Case, Brent Calhoun, Allan Corber, Steven Bailey, Erica Barron, Arn Anderson, Katie Steneroden, Carin Smith, Bob Chersonson, Joan Bowen, David Wilson, Patricia Wakenell, Ramiro Toribio, Simon Peek, Lauren Kleine, Karen Tefft, Joe Klopfenstein, Alice Johns, Julie Fixman. Front row: Drs. Susan Gogolski, Christine Savidge, Ruthanne Chun, Robyn Fleck, Sandra Mitchell, and Helen Tuzio.

NBVME Examination Updates

NAVLE®

The November-December 2014 testing window for the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) runs from Monday, November 17 through Saturday, December 13. The NBVME office processed and submitted 4,430 candidate eligibility files for this testing window; 57 more than in November-December 2013.

Applications for the April 13-25, 2015 testing window will be available beginning in early December, and the NBVME application receipt deadline for new candidates is January 3. Scores from the November-December testing window will be reported in mid-January. Candidates who do not pass the November-December 2014 NAVLE will be able to reapply for the April

2015 testing window by the repeater application receipt deadline of February 15.

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 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 in August. On September 4 and 5, the University of Missouri administered the web-based QE to 108 of their students. Iowa State University will be administering the test to 143 of their students in January. Veterinary schools interested in using the QE should contact the NBVME office.

Species Specific Examinations

Since 1997, the NBVME has offered species specific examinations in companion animal and equine medicine to licensing boards. There are two 100-item forms for each examination. The paper and pencil examinations are used by boards in disciplinary cases and for other purposes. The present test forms were last updated in early 2014. Licensing boards interested in reviewing or administering the updated species specific examinations should contact the NBVME office.