

National Board Report

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Year Three

The NBVME office is now well into the third year of the NAVLE examination cycle. Tonee VanderVliet and Anita Casey-Reed are busy handling applications and fees and answering candidate inquiries. By the time the deadlines for the November 18 - December 14 administration have passed, Tonee and Anita will have successfully processed approximately 3,000 applications and nearly \$1 million in candidate fees.

This year, we are using a new credit card approval system for on-line applications, whereby the candidate's credit card transaction is approved on-line, before the application is submitted. After a few problems in the first days the system was up, the process is working well. So far, about 75% of the fall 2002 NAVLE candidates are using the on-line application option.

Also new this year will be the option for candidates to make their testing appointment with Prometric on-line, through Prometric's www.2test.com web site. Previously, all NAVLE appointments were made by calling the Prometric scheduling center. Scheduling permits, which will be mailed to all approved candidates in October, will contain information on the on-line registration option.

As always, we welcome questions and comments on the NAVLE application and approval process. We are always looking for ways to enhance and improve our delivery of services to candidates and licensing boards.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD
Executive Director

First Qualifying Examination Administration Completed

Thirty-three candidates took the new Qualifying Examination at Prometric testing centers on August 15, 2002. The Qualifying Examination (QE) is a basic science examination developed by the NBVME for the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) for its Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). PAVE is a program designed by AAVSB to determine education equivalence of foreign veterinary graduates seeking licensure. The QE constitutes step 3 of the four step PAVE program. For more information on PAVE, see the AAVSB's web site, www.aavsb.org.

The QE is a 300 item multiple choice examination, designed to address basic science or preclinical subject matter not covered on the NAVLE. QE items cover five broad content areas: anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, microbiology, and pathology. For more information on the QE, see the NBVME's web site, www.nbvme.org.

The first administration of the QE was scheduled for January 3, 2002, but that administration was suspended by the AAVSB last November, pending the negotiation of a tentative agreement between the AAVSB and the AVMA on a proposed harmonization between PAVE and the AVMA's Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) program. When those discussions broke off in January, the AAVSB proceeded with PAVE, and the August 15 QE administration went ahead as originally planned.

The NBVME is now working with its test vendor, the National Board of Medical Examiners

(NBME), to score the examination administered on August 15, and to establish a criterion-referenced passing standard.

As part of the standard setting process, approximately 300 junior or senior students at five veterinary schools (Iowa State, Louisiana State, Michigan State, the University of Pennsylvania, and Washington State) will take part in a field test in early September, in which they will take a portion of the QE and provide feedback on it.

On September 13, a panel of content experts and veterinary students will participate in a standard setting exercise at the NBME office in Philadelphia. Later in September, the NBVME will evaluate the results of the standard setting exercise and the field test, and decide on a passing standard for the QE. The AAVSB will report scores to candidates in October.

The next administration of the QE is scheduled for January 2, 2003, followed by another administration on August 14. Candidates apply for the QE through the AAVSB office.

The NBVME recently extended its contract with the NBME for development of additional forms of the QE to cover administrations through 2004. On September 12, this year's QE item writers will meet in Philadelphia to review new items for addition to the QE item bank.

In October, representatives of the NBVME are scheduled to take a form of the QE to the ECFVG meeting in Schaumburg, Illinois, for review by ECFVG members. The ECFVG is considering using the QE as part of its certification program for foreign veterinary graduates.

Job Analysis Study Underway

A job analysis (also called a role delineation) outlines the tasks performed by practicing veterinarians, and the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to competently perform them. A valid licensing examination must be based on a good job analysis.

The present job analysis, developed to support the NAVLE, was approved in 1997. Earlier this year, the NBVME voted to undertake a thorough revision of the job analysis. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued in April, and proposals were received from five testing companies. The NBVME reviewed the proposals at its July 16 meeting, and selected Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP) of Lenexa, Kansas to conduct the job analysis study. AMP has provided job analysis services to the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, and the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care.

In late August, the NBVME appointed members to an Advisory Committee to oversee development of the new job analysis. The Advisory Committee will meet in September. A panel of about 20 Subject Matter Experts (private practitioners) will assist in developing the job analysis, as will a separate group of approximately 30 Key Constituents. The Advisory Committee will review and approve a survey, which will be sent to approximately 3,000 practicing veterinarians later this year. The target date for completion of the job analysis is next April.

From the Past: State Board Questions

Number 6 in a Series

We have received several positive comments about our series featuring old state board questions, taken from the 1917 book, *Veterinary State Board Questions and Answers* by V.G. Kimball. Here are some pathology questions.

Questions

1. State what value you would give to each of the following agents in the development of an infectious disease: microbes, chill, electric tension, imperfect ventilation, impure water, decayed or indigestible foods, emanations from sewers, cesspools or heaps of manure, impaired health or vigor from previous illness, fatigue, overwork, damp soils, exposure to hot summer sun.

2. What is cancer? Name the varieties.

3. What are the lesions of arthritis chronica deformans tarsi (spavin)?

4. Discuss verminous aneurisms of the cœliac or mesenteric arteries of the horse.

Answers

1. The first named agent, microbes, and it only, can produce the disease alone. The other agents can only act as accessory factors in lessening the resisting powers but none of them alone, or together, can produce an infectious disease without the causative factor, the microbe.

2. Cancer or carcinoma is a malignant tumor made up chiefly of epithelial cells. It is characterized by an infiltrative growth and the formation of metastases. Three

varieties: squamous epitheliomata, cylindrical epitheliomata, and glandular-cell cancers.

3. The lesions, confined usually to the articular cartilage of the cuneiform and of the upper part of the metatarsus, though sometimes the scaphoid and other bones of the hock are involved, consist of ulceration, abrasions, and at the borders of the articular surfaces, rugged, uneven swellings produced by the thickening of the articular cartilage which is ossified. Under the microscope, the intercellular substance is seen to be fibrillated and the cartilage cells to be undergoing multiplication. The synovial membrane is thickened and vascular. Partial or complete ankylosis of the articular surfaces and ossification of the ligaments are seen.

4. They are due to the larvae of the sclerostoma equinum which enter the blood-stream from the intestines, are carried to the cœliac artery and enter the vasa vasorum of the same and cause infarction in the media of the vessel, and then meso-arteritis or peri- and endarteritis. This leads to the formation of a thrombus and narrowing of the lumen of the vessel, providing dilatation is not commensurate with the diminution in calibre. The inflamed vessel-wall, losing its tone, yields more readily to the internal tension and as a result an enormous distention and thickening of the wall occurs.

Next issue: more pathology.

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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.

Douglas Aspros, DVM; R.B. Baker, DVM; Dale D. Boyle, DVM, MPH, DACVPM; Nancy L. Collins, DVM; James Dalley, DVM, MS, *Secretary-Treasurer*; Donald D. Draper, DVM, PhD, MBA; Lynn Green, *Public Member*; Al Hopkins, DVM; Jan Krehbiel, DVM, PhD, DACVP, *Chair Elect*; Norman LaFauce, DVM, DACT, *Past Chair*; Roger A. Magnusson, DVM, DABVP, *Chair*; David Sandals, DVM, MSc; Mike Thomas, DVM. John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD, *Executive Director*

July Meeting Highlights

Highlights of the NBVME's July 16 meeting in Nashville:
NAVLE Fee

The NBVME approved an increase in the NAVLE fee from \$325 to \$375, effective with the fall 2003 administration. In addition, the NBVME announced plans to implement annual fee increases of 5-10% in subsequent years. This will allow the NBVME to cover increases in the NAVLE per-candidate fee payable to the National Board of Medical Examiners beginning this year, and help the board move toward its goal of maintaining a reserve balance equal to one year's operating budget. The NAVLE fee was \$325 for the first three administrations (2000-2002).

Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment

The NBVME reviewed a report prepared by a consultant, Dr. John Tait, on the new clinical skills examination to be used as an option for step 4 of the PAVE program. Dr. Tait outlined several options for the new examination. The NBVME voted



NBVME members in Nashville. Front (l to r): Drs. Magnusson, Krehbiel, LaFaunce, and Collins. Back: Drs. Thomas, Groves, Aspros, Hopkins, Baker, and Dalley, Mrs. Green, and Dr. Boyce. Not pictured: Drs. Sandals and Draper.

to proceed with a 2-3 day hands-on examination involving live animals and a major communications module, to be administered at one site as often as necessary to meet demand. Staff was directed to hire a veterinarian to select an examination site and finalize the test plan.

Species Specific Examinations

The NBVME approved a

plan to review and revise the two species specific examinations (small animal and equine). These examinations are available to licensing boards for use in disciplinary cases and for other purposes. The revised examinations should be available early next year.

(continued on page 4)

Hooper Receives NBVME Award in Nashville

Dr. Billy Hooper of Lafayette, Indiana was honored by his peers with the fourth NBVME Award at the NBVME's July 16 meeting. Dr. Hooper served as a member of the NBVME from 1975 to 1980. In presenting the award to Dr. Hooper, NBVME Chair Dr. Norman LaFaunce noted that Dr. Hooper was "known throughout the profession for his keen mind and his ability to look at a complex situation and come up with a well reasoned solution." Two examples of this were Dr. Hooper's development of the three-dimensional blueprint for the National Board Examination, and his role in writing the first set of bylaws for the National Board Examination Committee.

Previous recipients of the NBVME award have included Dr. Whitey Albrecht in 1999, Dr. Sam Strahm in 2000 and Dr. Richard Hawe in 2001. For a full text of the award press release, see www.nbvme.org.



NBVME Chair Norman LaFaunce (r) presents the 2002 NBVME Award to Dr. Billy Hooper. The award is a print entitled "A Quiet Afternoon" by Bismarck artist Gary Miller.

July Meeting Highlights (continued from page 3)

Overseas NAVLE Administration

Ms. Jennifer Pappas, NBME staff member responsible for the NBVME program, announced that it soon will be possible to administer the NAVLE at select overseas locations. The NBVME had inquired about offering the NAVLE in countries where there is an AVMA accredited veterinary school. Recent discussions between NBME and Prometric have resulted in this option now being available at a reasonable additional cost per candidate. Plans call for making this option available beginning with the April 2003 administration.

SAVMA Survey

Representatives of the Student AVMA presented the results of a survey of recent NAVLE candidates. Concerns raised in the survey focused on three main areas: quality of the pictorials, content balance from one form to another, and the fact that only senior students or graduates may take the

examination. The NBVME addressed these points in discussion and thanked the SAVMA representatives for conducting the survey and compiling the comments.

Audit

The NBVME audit for calendar year 2001 shows revenue of \$1,345,013 and expenses of \$1,237,978, with unrestricted net assets at the end of the year of \$923,648. Copies of the audit were mailed to the NBVME's constituent organizations in August. Copies are available from the NBVME office. As a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization, the NBVME's annual IRS Form 990 is available on the internet at www.guidestar.org.

Membership

In July, Dr. Michael Groves completed nine years of service on the NBVME, as the member designated by the National Association of Federal Veterinarians. Dr. Groves, who is now Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Louisiana State University, received a plaque recognizing his three terms on the NBVME. In his remarks to

his colleagues, Dr. Groves stated that of all the organizations he has served on in his veterinary career, the NBVME was his favorite. Dr. Groves was succeeded by Dr. Dale Boyle, who will be featured in the next issue of the *National Board Report*.

Officers

The following officers will serve as the NBVME Executive Committee for 2002-2003: Dr. Roger Magnusson, Chair; Dr. Jan Krehbiel Chair-Elect; Dr. James Dalley, Secretary-Treasurer; and Dr. Norman LaFauce, Past Chair.



Dr. Michael Groves addresses his colleagues in Nashville.

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