

National Board Report

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PROCESSING

From time to time, we talk about "processing" NAVLE applications. I thought it would be helpful to summarize what this involves.

Applications for the fall testing window are received beginning in early June, and most candidates apply on-line and pay the NAVLE fee by credit card. Bridget Whittey has primary responsibility for downloading the applications, checking them for accuracy, and entering them into our database, as well as for handling the credit card payments.

NAVLE candidates also must be approved to take the examination by a licensing board. Debbie Larson handles applications and approvals for candidates from the 12 states approved by our office.

Anita Casey-Reed works with the other licensing boards to ensure that they submit their lists of approved candidates to us by the mid-August deadline. Anita is also responsible for the NAVLE letter agreements with each licensing board, and for reviewing requests for test accommodations.

Once all the candidates are entered into the database, have paid the fees, and have been approved by a licensing board, the eligibility files are submitted in late August, and the NBME then prints scheduling permits for mailing to candidates.

This process requires ongoing communication and cooperation between NBVME staff, candidates, licensing boards, veterinary schools, ECFVG and PAVE, the NBME, and web site and database consultants. We appreciate all the work that goes into this prior to each testing window. Thank you for your help.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD
Executive Director

NBVME Meets in Vancouver

The NBVME returned to Canada for its July 2008 meeting, which was held in Vancouver, BC prior to the World Veterinary Congress. Like the July 2007 meeting in Ottawa, this year's meeting allowed members of the Canadian National Examining Board to attend the NBVME meeting, and also allowed NBVME members to observe the NEB's meeting with provincial registrars and presidents the following day.

The board discussed a draft proposal outlining enhancements to the NAVLE application process. The proposal would simplify the process for candidates by eliminating the separate licensing board application and approval, and having all candidates apply to, and be approved by, the NBVME. Candidates would be able to access their NAVLE score through the NBVME's web site, and could request that their score be reported to a licensing board at the time of application for licensure. The proposal, which would apply only to candidates seeking licensure in the US, will be discussed further at the AAVSB annual meeting in September.

The board agreed to proceed with a new NAVLE job analysis during the coming year. The present job analysis was completed and approved in 2003.

In June, the NBVME's new consultant psychometrician worked with the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine to provide testing services for the ACVIM's specialty certification examinations. The NBVME has also entered into an agreement with the American College of Veterinary Radiology to provide services for the ACVR's examinations. The NBVME hopes to be able to offer these services to additional specialty boards in the future.

Several licensing boards have expressed interest in an examination dealing with medical records, for veterinarians involved in disciplinary cases. The NBVME agreed to explore options for developing such examinations, to supplement the companion animal and equine species specific examinations that have been available to licensing boards since 1997.

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Drs. Fran Kallfelz, John Boyce, Ben Franklin, Linda Blythe, Sylvie Latour, Mike Thomas, Dennis Feinberg, Rick Tubbs, Meg Glattly, Lila Miller, Dale Boyle, Jim Dalley, and Tom Hairgrove

SETTING A STANDARD

In early July, the NBVME convened two standard setting exercises at the office of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) in Philadelphia. Passing standards for the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) and the Qualifying Examination (QE) are established using a content-based procedure. To do this, teams of "judges" individually rate the difficulty of examination items for the target candidate. In the case of the NAVLE, this is the borderline candidate with entry-level knowledge and skills. For the QE, this is the minimally proficient student who has completed the basic science portion of the curriculum at an accredited veterinary school. The present NAVLE standard was approved in January 2001 and again in December 2004. The present QE passing standard was derived from a workshop held in September 2002.

The NAVLE exercise involved 14 participants, including practicing veterinarians, academicians, and recent veterinary graduates. They rated 300 items from a recent form of the NAVLE. For the QE, 16 judges, including faculty members, veterinary students, and private practitioners, rated one 300-item form of the QE. The results of the standard setting exercises were compiled by NBME staff into two reports, which will be reviewed by members of the NBVME Executive Committee. The new passing standards will be applied to the November-December 2008 NAVLE and the September 2008 QE.

New EDAB Members Appointed

When the NAVLE was first being developed, the NBVME appointed 10 veterinarians to serve as experts for the major content areas on the examination. Members of the Examination Development Advisory Board (EDAB) could serve a maximum of three, three-year terms. July 2008 marked the end of the term of service for the last of the original members of the EDAB. At the Vancouver meeting, the board appointed successors for Drs. Alice Wolf (feline), Frank Welcome (bovine), and David Reeves (swine).

The new EDAB member in the feline content area is Dr. Susan Little. Dr. Little is a 1988 graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College and is in private feline practice in Ottawa. Dr. Little has served as a NAVLE item writer, and is certified by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners in Feline Practice.

Dr. Norman LaFaunce was named to the EDAB in the bovine content area, with emphasis on dairy. Dr. La-

Faunce is a 1970 graduate of the University of California, Davis, with a Master's degree in reproduction from Cornell University. A former member of the NBVME, Dr. LaFaunce is in private dairy practice in Turlock, California. Dr. LaFaunce is board certified in Theriogenology.

Dr. Karen Lehe is the new EDAB member in the swine content area. Dr. Lehe is a 1992 graduate of Virginia Tech and is board certified in Veterinary Preventive Medicine. She is in private swine practice in West Lafayette, Indiana, and has served as a NAVLE item writer.

The three new members will join the other seven EDAB members, who include Drs. Darcy Shaw, Charlottetown PEI, and Julie Fixman, Holmes, NY (canine); Helen Tuzio, New York, NY (feline); Jeff Tyler, Columbia, MO (bovine); Patricia Provost, North Grafton, MA, and Benjamin Darien, Madison, WI (equine); and Dale Boyle, Stafford, VA (public health).

NBVME Meets in Vancouver (continued from page 1)

Two NBVME members completed terms of service on the board this year. Dr. Dale Boyle, who was appointed by the National Association of Federal Veterinarians, was succeeded by Dr. Gary Gackstetter. A successor to Dr. James Dalley, one of the members designated by the

American Association of Veterinary State Boards, will be named by the AAVSB in September.

NBVME officers for 2008-09 include Drs. Dennis Feinberg, Chair; Linda Blythe, Chair-Elect; Ben Franklin, Secretary-Treasurer; and Meg Glatly, Past Chair. The Executive Committee plans to meet in Bismarck in October.

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Linda L. Blythe, DVM, PhD, *Chair-Elect*; James Dalley, DVM, MS; Dennis A. Feinberg, DVM, *Chair*; Benjamin Franklin, Jr., DVM, *Secretary-Treasurer*; Gary D. Gackstetter, DVM, MPH, PhD; Meg Glatly, DVM, *Past Chair*; Thomas B. Hairgrove, DVM, DABVP; Francis A. Kallfelz, DVM, PhD, DACVN; Sylvie Latour, DVM; Lila Miller, DVM; Ellen L. O'Connor, *Public Member*; Mike Thomas, DVM; Rick Tubbs, DVM, MS, MBA, DACT, DABVP. John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD, *Executive Director*

2008 NBVME Award: Dr. Nancy Collins

At the Vancouver meeting, the NBVME honored Dr. Nancy A. Collins of Alta Loma, California with the 2008 NBVME Award. The award was given to Dr. Collins by NBVME Chair Dr. Meg Glattly.

A 1976 graduate of the veterinary school at the University of California, Davis, Dr. Collins has been engaged in private equine practice in southern California since 1978, as the owner of Collins Equine Veterinary Services.

Dr. Collins was appointed to the California Veterinary Medical Board in 1990, and served until 2003, including four years as President. Through her service on the California board, she became active in the American Association of Veterinary State Boards, where she served as AAVSB President from 1994-95. The AAVSB appointed Dr. Collins to the National Board Examination Committee (NBEC) in 1995, and she served for three, three-year terms. She chaired the NBEC from 2000-2001.

The NBEC underwent some of the most significant changes in its 54-year history during the time Dr. Collins served as a member of the board, including incorporation as an independent organization, moving the office from suburban Chicago to Bismarck, development of disciplinary examinations for use by licensing boards, selection of the National Board of Medical Examiners as the vendor for the new computer-based North American Veterinary Medical Licensing Examination (NAVLE®), and development of the Qualifying Examination and the Veterinary



Clinical Skills Assessment for use by the AAVSB's Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). The first administration of the NAVLE in November-December 2000 took place during the year that Dr. Collins served as NBEC Chair.

In presenting the award to Dr. Collins, Dr. Glattly noted the countless hours of volunteer service that Dr. Collins, a fellow private practitioner, has devoted to the veterinary medical licensing examination program, and also commented on her distinguished record of service as a member of a licensing board. She noted that board members receive little or no compensation for their time, and too often receive insufficient credit for the work they do in the

interest of public protection and the betterment of veterinary medicine. Dr. Collins' long involvement in these important areas should serve as a model for future leaders in the profession.

The award was a gold brooch with an equine theme, made by Australian artist Marina Andersen.

The NBVME Award was established in 1999 to recognize individuals who have made significant personal contributions to the national licensing examination program. Previous recipients include: Drs. Duane T. (Whitey) Albrecht, 1999; Samuel E. Strahm, 2000; Richard S. Hawe, 2001; Billy E. Hooper, 2002; Melvin Swenson, 2003; George Wadley, 2004; Susan McDonough, 2006; and Al Hopkins, 2007.

Licensing Board Visits to be Scheduled

A key component of the outreach goal of NBVME's strategic plan involves visits by NBVME members to individual licensing boards. Drs. Dennis Feinberg and Mike Thomas have been working with an outside consultant to develop a directed dialog outreach program, designed to let licensing board members know what the

NBVME does, and to gather input from boards on services that the NBVME could provide to them.

Initial presentations were given to the New Jersey Board in June and the North Carolina Board in July. In Vancouver, Drs. Feinberg and Thomas reported on those visits. The board

approved a plan to proceed with visits to additional licensing boards in the coming year, and approved a budget to support those visits.

Any licensing board that is interested in scheduling a visit should contact the NBVME office.

NBVME Examination Updates

NAVLE®

The application receipt deadline for the November-December 2008 NAVLE testing window was August 1, and NBVME staff have been working hard to process the applications. Nearly 3,500 eligibility files have been submitted to the National Board of Medical Examiners, and scheduling permits should be mailed to the majority of candidates by late September.

NAVLE Self-Assessments, consisting of 200 items formatted like the actual examination, are available for purchase on the NBVME's web site.

A copy of the 2007-08 NAVLE Technical Report was mailed to each of the NBVME's constituent organizations

earlier this month. The report is also available on the NBVME's web site.

Qualifying Examination

The Qualifying Examination (QE), a 300-item web-based basic science examination, is the step three requirement of the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). The NBVME office has made arrangements to administer the QE to 134 candidates at 20 locations on September 11. Future administrations are planned for January 15 and May 14, 2009. The 2008-09 QE Bulletin of Information for Candidates is available on the NBVME's web site. A copy of the 2007-08 QE Technical Report, summarizing the September 2007 and January and May 2008 administra-

tions, was mailed to all licensing boards that accept PAVE certificates earlier this month. The report is also available on the NBVME's web site.

Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment (VCSA)

The VCSA is a two day hands-on examination of clinical and communication skills, used as an option for step four of the PAVE program. The next administration will be January 10-11, 2009 at Cedar Valley College in Dallas, Texas. Candidates apply for the VCSA through the AAVSB office. A Technical Report on the VCSA, covering all administrations to date, was mailed to all licensing boards that accept PAVE certificates earlier this month.