

# National Board Report

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## Values

The NBVME's strategic plan lists seven values. In previous issues of the *National Board Report*, I have covered Transparency, Service, Confidentiality, and Reliability. Here are the last three.

**Collegiality** is a value inherent in the concept of a profession. Veterinarians should regard other professionals as colleagues, working together for the public good. The term also implies a shared responsibility, which is appropriate for an organization entering into a collaborative relationship with the National Board of Medical Examiners. In fact, working together as colleagues was one of the main points emphasized as the collaboration discussions were initiated two years ago.

No organization can survive for very long without **integrity**. The NBVME strives for honesty and impartiality in all of its interactions, including those with examination candidates and constituent organizations. The term is also applied to data; and the NBVME staff all work hard to ensure accuracy and security in the collection and transmission of all candidate data.

**Fiscal responsibility** is also essential for any organization, particularly one like the NBVME that is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. The board and its Finance Committee work closely with staff to ensure that the funds collected and administered by the NBVME are accounted for through monthly reports and annual audits, invested wisely according to established policies, and spent appropriately in support of the NBVME's mission.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD  
Executive Director

## July NBVME Meeting Report

The NBVME held its summer meeting in Asheville, NC July 26-27.

In Executive Session, the board reviewed financial information, discussed relations with the American Association of Veterinary State Boards, and discussed the status of the search for a new executive director to succeed Dr. Boyce, who has indicated his desire to retire in July 2014.

Most of the time in Executive Session was spent reviewing the status of the proposed collaboration between the NBVME and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME). The board reviewed the latest draft of the collaboration agreement and, in the subsequent General Session, approved a motion to accept the agreement as written, with the exception of the section devoted to finances. That section will be the subject of a face-to-face meeting with representatives of the NBME in Philadelphia in September. The expectation is that the collaboration will be finalized this fall.

The board reviewed proposed changes to the Outcomes Assessment standard of the AVMA Council on Education that were released for public comment on July 26, and voted to submit formal comments to the COE. The comments recognized the COE's

need to ensure that accredited veterinary colleges meet certain standards, but expressed concerns about the use of NAVLE scores for this purpose, given that the NAVLE is a licensing examination, developed for use by licensing boards. The NBVME offered to participate in discussions with the COE on the use of NAVLE scores in the accreditation process.

The board voted to update its species specific examinations. These examinations, in companion animal and equine medicine, are used by licensing boards in disciplinary cases and for other purposes, and were last updated in 2007.

The board agreed to participate in an AVMA-sponsored Summit on Workforce Issues on October 15, and to send Dr. Karen Lehe to a Global Conference on Veterinary Education in Brazil in December.

NBVME officers for 2013-2014 are Dr. Gary Gackstetter, Chair; Dr. Jay Hedrick, Chair-Elect; Ms. Joyceanne Fick, Secretary-Treasurer; and Dr. Dennis Feinberg, Past Chair.

The next NBVME meeting will be in San Antonio January 24-25, with a one-day NAVLE pool review meeting on January 23.



## EDAB UPDATE

Before the NAVLE was introduced in 2000, the NBVME appointed a 10-member Examination Development Advisory Board (EDAB) to oversee the test development process. The primary duties of EDAB members are to identify item writers and participate in test form and item bank review meetings. Members function as content experts in the canine, feline, bovine, equine, swine, and public health content areas.

At the July meeting, the board appointed Drs. Julie Fixman, Helen Tuzio, and Benjamin Darien to new three-year terms on the EDAB in the canine, feline, and equine content areas, respectively. The board appointed Dr. Rick Tubbs to succeed Dr. Lehe as the swine content expert on the EDAB.

Also in July, the board approved a plan to work with the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (ACVPM) on the public health content area of the NAVLE, designating an ACVPM member to serve as the point of contact between that organization and the NBVME. The intent is for the relationship to be mutually beneficial, by generating more high-quality public health items for the NAVLE, while training more ACVPM members on how to write good multiple-choice items for use on their own certification examinations. A collegial collaboration, in other words.

## NBVME Membership Transition Continues

NBVME members serve for three-year terms, and can serve for a maximum of three terms. Last year, three members who had each served on the board for nine years, Drs. Benjamin Franklin, Lila Miller, and Sylvie Latour, stepped down. They were succeeded by Drs. Patricia Provost, Jon Betts, and Jack Wilson, respectively. This year, three more members reached the nine-year limit, and a fourth member chose not to be appointed to a second term. Dr. Robert Chersonson was named by the American Association of Bovine Practitioners to succeed Dr. Tom Hairgrove, Dr. Karen Lehe was named by the American Association of Swine Veterinarians to succeed Dr. Rick Tubbs, and Dr. Mark Russak was named by the American Animal Hospital Association to succeed Dr. John Tait. A successor to Dr. Meg Glattly will be elected by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards at its Annual Meeting in September.

As a result of these membership changes, seven of the 13 NBVME members will be new to the board in 2012 or 2013. To help facilitate the transition, the NBVME Chair names a current board member to serve as a mentor for each new member. This year's transition was aided by including the new members in the May strategic planning session and the July meeting. Drs. Chersonson and Lehe were able to attend and participate in the May meeting, and they were joined by Dr. Russak in Asheville in July. Formal new member orientation takes place at each January meeting.

Former NBVME members are not forgotten, however. They are invited to participate in item review meetings, where their experience reviewing test items enhances the review process. In addition, former members can continue to support the board's mission by serving on the EDAB or on board committees, as allowed by the NBVME Bylaws.



New NBVME members in Asheville: Drs. Mark Russak, Karen Lehe, and Bob Chersonson

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Dennis A. Feinberg, DVM, *Past Chair*; Linda L. Blythe, DVM, PhD; Robert Chersonson, DVM; Joyceanne Fick, *Public Member and Secretary-Treasurer*; Meg Glattly, DVM; Gary D. Gackstetter, DVM, MPH, PhD, *Chair*; Jay Hedrick, DVM, *Chair-Elect*; Jayne Jensen, DVM; Karen E. Lehe, DVM, DACVPM; Patricia J. Provost, MS, VMD, DACVS; Mark Russak, DVM; Jack Wilson, DVM. John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD, *Executive Director*

## Outgoing Board-Members Honored in Asheville

Dr. Dennis Feinberg, NBVME Chair, presented plaques to Drs. Meg Glatly, Tom Hairgrove, Rick Tubbs, and John Tait. Drs. Glatly, Hairgrove and Tubbs completed nine years of service on the board; Dr. Tait served for one, three-year term.



## New NBVME Member: Dr. Karen Lehe

The American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV) has named Dr. Karen Lehe of West Lafayette, Indiana to succeed Dr. Rick Tubbs as its designee on the NBVME. Her first term as an NBVME member began at the close of the July 26-27 meeting.

A native of southwest Virginia, Dr. Lehe earned her DVM degree from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in 1992, and completed residency training in Clinical Nutrition at Michigan State University. After 15 years of swine-exclusive private practice, Dr. Lehe entered a new phase of her career as a corporate veterinarian, and currently provides technical support to the pork team at Merck Animal Health. She is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine.



For the AASV, Dr. Lehe served as a member and chair of the Pig Welfare Committee.

Dr. Lehe is no stranger to the NAVLE, having served as a member of the NBVME's Examination Development Advisory Board since 2008.

Dr. Lehe and her husband Dave have four teenage children. The family is actively involved in 4-H, and Dr. Lehe coaches their county's Horse Bowl and Hippology teams. She enjoys riding and driving her horses, biking, and educating consumers about modern pork production.

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## NBVME Examination Updates

### NAVLE®

The NBVME office received and processed a total of 4,374 candidate eligibility files for the November 18-December 14, 2013 NAVLE testing window. Candidates will be able to access their e-permits online by September 25, allowing them to make their testing appointments with Pro-metric.

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 access an Assessment.

The 2012-2013 NAVLE Technical Re-

port 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 4,956 candidates took the NAVLE during the 2012-2013 testing cycle, an increase of 227 from last year. The total included 3,665 criterion candidates (senior students at accredited schools taking the examination for the first time), 651 non-criterion candidates (graduate veterinarians, repeating candidates from accredited schools, and candidates testing with accommodations), and 640 students and graduates from non-accredited schools.

The 96% 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 the same as last year. The mean score for November-December crite-

riion candidates was somewhat lower in 2012 (518) than it was for the two previous years (521 and 534).

### Qualifying Examination

The Qualifying Examination (QE) is a 200-item basic science examination used as the step three requirement of the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). The NBVME office has made arrangements to administer the web-based QE to 18 PAVE candidates at nine locations on September 12, and to 116 students at the University of Missouri, which is using the QE for the first time as a standardized assessment of basic science knowledge. Future QE administrations are planned for January 16 and May 15, 2014. The 2013-2014 QE Bulletin of Information for Candidates is available on the NBVME's web site. Copies of the 2012-2013 QE Technical Report will be mailed in September to all licensing boards that accept PAVE certification.