

National Board Report

A Quarterly Newsletter of the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

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March 2014

Signed

On February 27, I had the privilege to sign, on behalf of the NBVME, the collaboration agreement between the NBVME and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME). Signing for the NBME was Dr. Donald Melinck, NBME President.

The NBVME first became involved with the NBME in 1997, when it issued a Request for Proposal for development of a new computer-based examination to replace the National Board Examination and the Clinical Competency Test. The NBME was one of six organizations to submit a proposal, and was the one chosen by the NBVME to develop the new North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®). Until now, the NBME has functioned as an examination vendor, under the terms of a series of contracts with the NBVME for the development and administration of the NAVLE program. The collaboration will change this relationship into one that will see the two organizations working as partners.

The collaboration discussions began about three years ago, at the suggestion of Dr. Melnick and Dr. Peter Scoles who, until recently, was NBME Senior Vice President. The framework for the NAVLE collaboration is based on successful collaborations the NBME has with the Federation of State Medical Boards and the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates. Completion of the collaboration involved the work of many people on both sides, but Dr. Dennis Feinberg, NBVME Past Chair, deserves special recognition for his commitment to the process.

As I near retirement this summer, I am confident that the NAVLE examination system is now on very solid footing, and the future looks extremely promising.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD
Executive Director

January 2014 NBVME Meeting

The NBVME met in San Antonio January 24-25. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Gary Gackstetter.

NBME Collaboration

The board met with Mr. Pat Brown, the NBVME's accountant, to discuss the financial section of the collaboration agreement, the only section not approved at the July 2013 meeting. On September 17, Mr. Brown and NBVME representatives met with NBME counterparts in Philadelphia to review financial arrangements. In San Antonio, the board unanimously approved the financial section of the collaboration agreement. The initial NBVME members on the Collaboration Governance Committee will include Drs. Meg Glattly, Rick Tubbs, Jack Wilson, Leah Steinberg, and Jay Hedrick (alternate). Dr. John Boyce will serve as the Administrative Officer. The NBME will appoint five members to the committee, which will meet for the first time in May or June.

The board reviewed a memo sent to each veterinary licensing board on

November 25, providing information on the collaboration and how it will lead to enhancements to the NAVLE. Follow-up telephone calls to boards were made by the NBVME staff, and in-person visits to boards are being arranged as requested by the individual licensing boards.

AAVSB

The board reviewed reports from a January 11 facilitated meeting in Atlanta between NBVME and AAVSB officers. The purpose of the meeting was to improve communications between the two organizations, and to begin to look at possible collaborative relationships. A follow-up meeting between representatives of both organizations, also facilitated by Mr. Michael Barrett, is scheduled for April 10 in Philadelphia. NBVME participants in this group, called Task Force One, include Drs. Patty Provost, Bob Chersonson, and Karen Lehe, with Dr. Jon Betts as the alternate.

(continued on page 2)



NBVME members: Jayne Jensen, Jack Wilson, Bruce Louderback, Jay Hedrick, Gary Gackstetter, Linda Blythe, Dennis Feinberg, Joyceanne Fick, Mark Russak, Karen Lehe, Patricia Provost, Jon Betts, and Bob Chersonson.

January 2014 NBVME Meeting

(continued from page 1)

Qualifying Examination

In a letter to the NBVME in August, the AAVSB indicated it had decided not to renew the contract with the NBVME to use the Qualifying Examination in the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). Dr. John Lawrence, AAVSB President-Elect, confirmed that decision, which means that the May 2014 QE administration will be the last one for PAVE candidates. The NBVME is working with the NBME to develop one form of the QE per year, beginning this fall, for use by accredited veterinary schools as an independent assessment of basic science knowledge.

Finance Committee

Drs. Patricia Provost and Jack Wilson will join Secretary-Treasurer Joyceanne Fick on the NBVME Finance Committee for the coming year.

NAVLE Pool Review

The day before the NBVME meeting, 22 individuals met to review items from the NAVLE item bank. They were assisted by four test development staff from the NBME.

Next Meetings

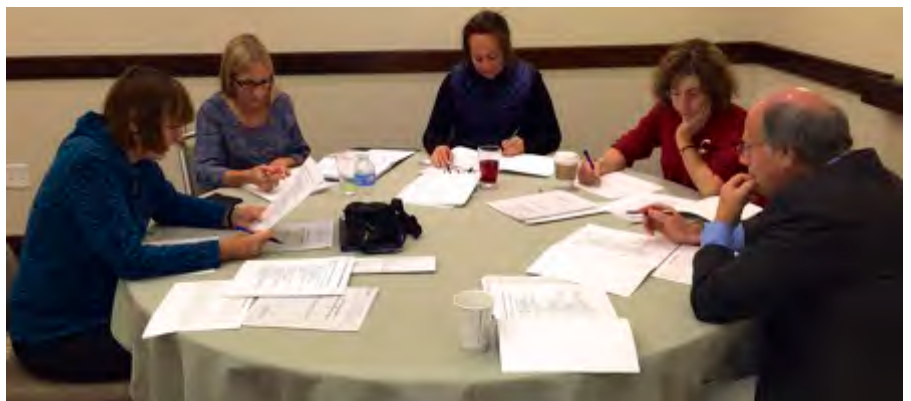
The board will meet in Philadelphia April 8-9 for the annual NAVLE form review, and July 24-26 in Montreal.



Species Specific Examinations Updated

Revisions to the NBVME's species specific examinations are nearly complete. Last fall, two teams were assembled to review the existing forms (two forms of the companion animal and equine examinations). The companion animal reviewers include Drs. Cheryl Dhein, Mara Doughty, Julie Fixman, Patricia Handal, Veronika Kiklevich, Susan Little, Bruce Louderback, Bill Taylor, and Helen Tuzio. Equine form reviewers include Drs. Benjamin Darien, Alison Eddy, Jaime

Hustace, John King, Joan Norton, Patty Provost, and Leah Steinberg. Ten of the reviewers met in person in Minneapolis on December 16 to work on revised forms. A standard-setting exercise will be conducted on March 5 under the direction of NBME psychometricians, and final versions of the four forms, with a recommended passing standard for each, should be available for use by licensing boards in April.



Companion animal review team: Drs. Cheryl Dhein, Veronika Kiklevich, Mara Doughty, Helen Tuzio, and Bruce Louderback.



Equine review team: Drs. Benjamin Darien, John King, Patty Provost, Leah Steinberg, and Alison Eddy.

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

Item Writers Receive 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 27, 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 reason-

ing, rather than memorization of isolated facts. Workshop participants also had the opportunity to revise some sample flawed items to make them suitable for use on the NAVLE. At the end of the workshop, the participants received their item-writing assignments from the NBME test development staff.

Beginning this year, NAVLE public health items will be developed with the assistance of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (ACVPM). Dr. Katie Steneroden has

been designated the point of contact between the NBVME and the ACVPM. She will work with fellow diplomates to write 30 public health questions suitable for use on the NAVLE. In return, the NBVME will provide training for ACVPM item writers that will help them write better questions for the ACVPM certification examination. In addition to Dr. Steneroden, three other ACVPM item writers attended the February workshop: Drs. Danelle Beckett-Weddle, Lisa Conti, and Vicky Fogelman.



2014 new item writers at the NBME in Philadelphia. Front row: Drs. Arn Anderson, Steve Bailey, Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Joan Bowen, Lisa Conti, and Brent Calhoun. Back row: Drs. Ramiro Toribio, Karen Tefft, Katie Steneroden, Carin Smith, Keith Poulsen, and Vicky Fogelman.

New NBVME Member: Dr. Bob Cherenson

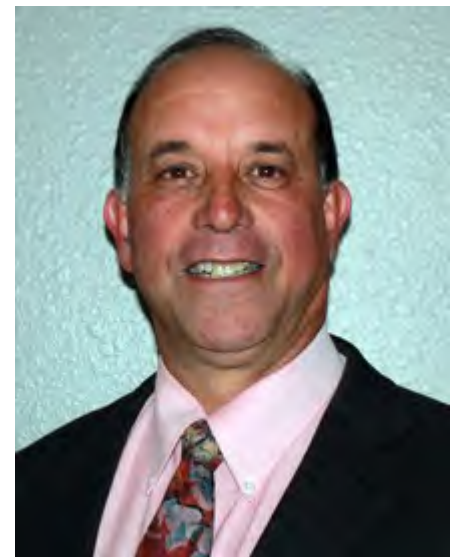
Dr. Robert Cherenson was named by the American Association of Bovine Practitioners last year to succeed Dr. Tom Hairgrove as its member on the NBVME.

Dr. Cherenson is a native of New Jersey, and graduated from the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1984. After graduation, he worked in dairy practices in New York and New England, then joined Lander Veterinary Clinic in Turlock, CA, where he has worked for the past 24 years. In California, he manages Lander's 550-cow Jersey dairy, and he also is involved with a grain farm in Indiana. His professional interests are in

reproduction, surgery, calf raising, mastitis, immunology, and dairy management.

Dr. Cherenson is a graduate of Class 29 of the California Agricultural Leadership Program, and completed a five-year term on the AVMA Council on Education in 2012.

Dr. Cherenson is married to Lisa, a registered nurse, and they have two adult children. They enjoy traveling, yoga, photography, politics, and appreciating the beauty of nature. Dr. Cherenson indicates that he enjoys anything "cow"!



2014-15 NAVLE AGREEMENTS

Letters of Agreement between the NBVME and individual licensing boards covering the 2014-2015 NAVLE testing cycle were mailed to boards on February 3.

The candidate fee for the 2014-15 testing cycle will be \$590, an increase of \$20. The testing windows will be November 17 - December 13, 2014 and April 13-25, 2015. The application receipt deadlines will remain August 1 and January 3.

The NBVME office has been approving NAVLE candidates on behalf of licensing boards since 2004, at the request of the individual boards. For the 2013-2014 testing cycle, the NBVME office approved 3,356 candidates applying through 28 boards.

Examination Statistics

NAVLE

A total of 4,296 candidates took the NAVLE during the November 18-December 14, 2013 testing window, an increase of 318 from fall 2012. Scores were reported to licensing boards on January 22. There were 3,652 criterion candidates, 286 non-criterion candidates, and 358 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 92%, the same as November-December 2012

The NBVME office has submitted eligibility files to the NBME for 604 new candidates and 464 repeating candidates for the April 14-26, 2014 NAVLE administration.

Qualifying Examination

The web-based Qualifying Examination (QE) was administered to nine PAVE candidates on January 16, 2014, in Grand Cayman and at six sites in the US. Scores were reported to the AAVSB in late February. The passing rate for the PAVE candidates was 22%. As noted on page 1, the May 16 administration will represent the last use of the QE as part of the PAVE program.

A total of 146 third-year students at Iowa State University also took the QE on January 16. The University of Missouri administered the QE to its students in September, and Western University and Ross University plan to administer the QE in May. The NBVME will continue to offer the QE to accredited schools, with more flexible test administration options. More information on the 2014-15 QE testing cycle will be available in April.