

# National Board Report

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## Staff Changes

After serving on the NBVME staff for nearly five years, Tonee VanderVliet has announced her resignation, effective in mid-June. Tonee has been the primary person responsible for maintaining the NAVLE candidate database. In that capacity, she has provided outstanding service to NAVLE candidates and licensing boards.

When the NBVME became an independent organization at the end of 1995, I operated the office from my home. This continued when we moved from Illinois to North Dakota in 1997. With the beginning of the NAVLE, we quickly outgrew the home office. In April 1998 we moved into our present office in downtown Bismarck, and in September that year, Tonee joined the staff. Now, nearly 12,000 candidates later, she has decided that it is time to move on to other things.

Since she began working for the NBVME, Tonee has also provided staff support to the North Dakota Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, which also operates out of this office.

Most readers of the *National Board Report* have never had the opportunity to meet Tonee personally, but I am sure that those who have corresponded with her over the years by mail, phone, and e-mail realize what a great job she has done for the NBVME. We try to stress customer service in this office, and Tonee has always excelled in that capacity.

We will surely miss Tonee, and wish her great success in all she does in the coming years.

Anita Casey-Reed, will assume most of Tonee's responsibilities, and we have begun the process of hiring another staff member.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD  
Executive Director

## April NBVME Meeting in Philadelphia

Each spring, the NBVME meets at the offices of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) in Philadelphia to review final forms of the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) to be administered during the upcoming fall-spring examination cycle. During a brief business meeting on Friday, April 10, the board dealt with the following items.

### Job Analysis

The board voted to accept the report of the NAVLE job analysis prepared by Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP). The job analysis describes the tasks performed by an entry-level veterinary practitioner in sufficient detail to provide validity evidence for the NAVLE, and to ensure that the content of the NAVLE is job-related. NBVME members Drs. Norman LaFaunce and Mike Thomas, who served as members of the job analysis task force, summarized the report and answered questions from other board members. An edited version of the job analysis report is being prepared for distribution to interested parties. The NBVME will make a final decision on revised NAVLE test specifications at its July meeting in Denver.

### Clinical Skills Assessment

The NBVME reviewed a report of an April 2 meeting of the committee formed to oversee development of the Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment (VCSA), a hands-on test of clinical skills being prepared by the NBVME for use by the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). The examination will

include a live animal anesthesia/surgery component, and a series of clinical encounters designed to assess the candidate's problem solving and communication skills. Members of the VCSA committee include NBVME members Drs. Jan Krehbiel, James Dalley, and Mike Thomas, and Dr. John Tait of the Ontario Veterinary College. Dr. Tait will prepare a report on the VCSA for review by the NBVME in July.

### Species Specific Examinations

The board reviewed a report from the January standard setting exercise for the revised companion animal species specific examination, and preliminary data on the standard setting for the equine species specific examination. These two examinations are now being finalized, and they should be ready for use by licensing boards by July.

### NAVLE contract

Members of the NBVME Executive Committee met with NBME staff to discuss a new contract covering development of the NAVLE through the April 2006 administration. A final contract should be ready to sign in July.

### QE School Score Reports

The board authorized the NBME to prepare score reports for non-accredited veterinary schools, indicating how their students perform on the Qualifying Examination (QE). The first reports, covering the August 2002 and January 2003 QE administrations, were sent to schools this month.

### Strategic Plan

The board reviewed and updated its three-year strategic plan, noting specific goals to be addressed in 2003-2004.

## Swenson to Be Honored at July Meeting

In April, the NBVME named Dr. Melvin Swenson the recipient of the 2003 NBVME Award. The award will be presented at the July 21 NBVME meeting in Denver.

Dr. Swenson, a physiology professor from Iowa State University, served as a member of the NBVME from 1957 through 1972, and served as a member of the NBVME's Examination Committee from 1958 through 1965. The National Board Examination was first offered in 1954, and Dr. Swenson's leadership and scientific expertise was critical in seeing that this new examination developed into a high quality assessment instrument.

Friends and colleagues of Dr. Swenson are encouraged to attend the NBVME meeting to help recognize his important contributions to the national licensing examination program. The meeting will be on Monday morning, July 21, beginning at 9:00 am, in the Silver Room of the Adam's Mark Hotel.

## Trademarks

The NBVME has recently obtained US Trademark registration for "NAVLE" and "NBVME." These acronyms will now carry the registered trademark symbol when they appear in print: NAVLE® and NBVME®.

## From the Past: State Board Questions Number 9 in a Series

Here are some more practice state board examination questions, taken from *Veterinary State Board Questions and Answers* by V.G. Kimball, published in 1917. These questions are from the chapter entitled "Theory and Practice of Medicine." A footnote to the chapter title states, "Unless otherwise stated all questions relate to the horse."

### Questions

1. Describe a hard pulse, a fast pulse, a compressible pulse, a dicrotic pulse and state conditions in which each occur.
2. Name the diagnostic tests for glanders.
3. Give the distinctive symptoms of spasmodic colic and enteritis.
4. Give mode of examining a horse for soundness.

### Answers

1. A hard pulse is one in which the arterial wall is firmly distended and does not yield readily to pressure. Seen in inflammation of serous membranes, tetanus, and acute brain diseases. A fast pulse is an abnormal increase in the frequency of the pulse. It is seen physiologically after exercise, excitement, high atmospheric temperature; pathologically in most all severe diseases. A compressible pulse is one which yields readily to moderate pressure and does not lift the finger palpating it; seen in diseases associated with cardiac weakness. A dicrotic pulse is one in which two expansions can be felt in one beat of the artery; seen in cases of lowered arterial tension, associated with weakened heart action, as in long-continued fevers and in all forms of anaemia.

2. Animal inoculation; subcutaneous, cutaneous, intradermal, and ophthalmic mallein; complement fixation; agglutination; precipitin; autogenous bacterin; post-mortem; and clinical.

3. Spasmodic colic shows intervals of ease, no fever, and violent movements when spasms occur; early recovery. Enteritis is accompanied by fever, constant uneasiness, careful decubitus and rising; gradually gets worse.

4. Examine the horse in the stable, outside, and at work. Record a description of the animal for the purpose of identification. Examine thoroughly every accessible part or organ by inspection, palpation and auscultation. As very few horses are absolutely sound, most examiners employ the phrase "serviceably sound," meaning that the defects present will not interfere with the animal performing the required duty. "This certifies that I have this day examined, at the request of Mr. John Doe, a bay gelding, 15.2 hands high, 9 years old, white star and blaze patch between nostrils, clipped foretop, full mane and tail, all black points, saddle and collar marks, slit in the tip of left ear.

Notes: ringbone on near fore, chronic arthritis deformans of the left hock. From above notes, to the best of my judgment and belief, said animal is not sound. The above examination does not include such obscure diseases as staggers (epilepsy and immobility), recurrent ophthalmia, cribbing without evidence on teeth, etc."

Next month: more Theory and Practice of Medicine

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## August 14 Qualifying Examination

Twenty candidates have applied to take the next Qualifying Examination (QE), to be given on Thursday, August 14. Scheduling permits were mailed to candidates on May 27.

The QE is a 300-item computer based basic science examination designed to be used as part of the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). It addresses basic science content areas

(including anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, microbiology, and pathology) not covered on the NAVLE.

Like the NAVLE, the QE is developed in cooperation with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), and is given at Prometric testing centers.

Future administrations of the QE are scheduled for January 8 and August 12, 2004. For more information, contact the AAVSB ([www.aavsb.org](http://www.aavsb.org), or 877-698-8482).

## July NBVME Meeting in Denver

The next NBVME meeting will be on Monday morning, July 21, in Denver, Colorado. The General Session is scheduled to begin at 9:00 am in the Silver Room of the Adam's Mark Hotel. All are welcome to attend.



## NAVLE Form Review

Images from the April NAVLE form review meeting in Philadelphia. Clockwise from upper left: Dr. Roger Magnusson (NBVME Chair); Drs. Nancy Collins (NBVME) and Bob Kritsberg (Arizona Board); Mrs. Lynn Green (NBVME Public Member); Dr. Lila Miller (New York Board); Drs. Dale Boyle (NBVME) and Norman LaFauce (NBVME Past Chair).

## April NAVLE Administration

Nearly 900 candidates took the NAVLE during the April 7-19, 2003 testing window. Scores were reported to licensing boards on May 20.

For the first time, the NAVLE was offered at select overseas testing centers. Fourteen candidates took the examination at Prometric centers in England and New Zealand.

A detailed technical report, containing score data for the fall 2002 and spring 2003 NAVLE administrations, will be released after the NBVME's July meeting. Copies of the report will be sent to licensing boards and veterinary schools, and the report also will be posted on the NBVME's web site, [www.nbvme.org](http://www.nbvme.org).

## Fall NAVLE Candidate Information

Revised NAVLE candidate information bulletins for the November 17-December 13, 2003 and April 5-17, 2004 NAVLE administrations will be sent to licensing boards in early June. Candidates receive copies of the bulletin from their licensing board when they apply to take the NAVLE. Electronic versions of the bulletin (in plain text and pdf format) are available on the NBVME's web site, [www.nbvme.org](http://www.nbvme.org). The site also contains a NAVLE application form, a practice examination, and additional information.

The on-line NAVLE application and credit card payment option, which is available to candidates applying through licensing boards that prefer that they submit their NAVLE application and fee directly to the NBVME, will be available on the NBVME's web site in June. A chart listing licensing board application and payment preferences is also on the web site.

The NAVLE fee will be \$375 per candidate for the 2003-2004 administration, an increase of \$50. The NAVLE fee was \$325 for the first three years.

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