

# National Board Report

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## WEB SITE ENHANCEMENTS

The NBVME's web site, [www.nbvme.org](http://www.nbvme.org), has undergone an extensive revision. The changes were made to update the appearance, and to help visitors find information more easily. The update coincides with the release of information pertaining to the fall 2008 NAVLE testing window.

New NAVLE Self-Assessments were made available on the web site in January. These are 200-item web-based practice examinations, using items taken from the NAVLE item bank. The assessments cost \$50 each. Once an account is established, candidates can purchase one or more assessments, and have up to 30 days to complete them. A score feedback report is provided once an assessment is completed.

This summer, the web site will feature a new NAVLE online forum, moderated by NBVME staff member Anita Casey-Reed. The intent of the forum is to allow candidates and others to ask questions about the examination and receive prompt and accurate responses from NBVME staff. Watch the NBVME web site for more details.

Thanks to Bridget Whittey in the NBVME office for working hard on the updates to the site, and to the NBVME's web consultants at Tao Interactive for making it all work.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD  
Executive Director

## NBVME Proceeds with Two New Strategic Plan Initiatives

### New Test Development Services

One of the action items in the NBVME's new strategic plan is to explore the feasibility of developing new examinations to address areas of identified need. One of the needs that was brought to the attention of the NBVME earlier this year was a desire on the part of several veterinary specialty boards for assistance with examination development, administration, and scoring tasks.

As noted in the previous issue of the *National Board Report*, the NBVME's first direct involvement with veterinary specialty boards took place in February, when several representatives from the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine participated in the annual NAVLE and QE item writing workshop at the office of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME). This allowed individuals involved in developing the ACVPM examinations to receive the same training in item writing that NAVLE and QE item writers receive.

Late last year, two other veterinary specialty boards contacted the NBME about the possibility of receiving assistance with examination development and scoring. The NBME was not in a position to provide these services directly, and subsequently forwarded the requests to the NBVME. The

NBVME is pleased to announce that it has retained the services of a consultant psychometrician, who will begin providing support to one veterinary specialty board next month. In July, the NBVME will evaluate the results of this initial activity, and hopes to be able to offer examination consulting services to other veterinary specialty boards in the future.

### Visits to Licensing Boards

Outreach to constituents is one of the main goals of the NBVME's new strategic plan. Although veterinary licensing boards are the board's main "clients," the NBVME was concerned that some licensing board members may not be aware of what the NBVME is and what it does. To address this challenge, two NBVME members, Drs. Dennis Feinberg and Mike Thomas, have met twice with an outside consultant to create a short presentation for NBVME members to give during visits to individual licensing boards. The presentation will focus on how the NAVLE is developed, and will outline various services the NBVME can offer to licensing boards.

The first two board visits will be completed by Drs. Feinberg and Thomas prior to the NBVME's July 26 meeting. At that time, the board will evaluate the initial visits and make plans for members to visit additional licensing boards in the coming year.

## NAVLE SCORES TO VETERINARY SCHOOLS

The NBVME sends each accredited veterinary school an annual score report, showing how the school's graduating seniors performed on the NAVLE, compared with all candidates taking the examination. Last year, the NBVME began providing interim score reports to accredited schools following the fall NAVLE administration.

In response to requests from veterinary schools for more information on how their students perform on the NAVLE, the NBVME is planning to collect consents from NAVLE candidates who are senior students at accredited schools as part of the fall 2008 application process. This will make it possible for the NBVME to report individual NAVLE scores to the candidate's veterinary school, without violating candidate confidentiality. In the past, scores identified by candidate name have been reported only to licensing boards and to the AAVSB for addition to its score database. In order to allow licensing boards to have input into this decision, this topic will be discussed at the AAVSB Annual Meeting in September. Assuming the licensing boards are in agreement, 2008-09 NAVLE scores from candidates who give consent will be reported to veterinary schools after they are released to licensing boards.

## On-Line Results Now Available for Some NAVLE Candidates

Beginning with the April 2008 NAVLE administration, candidates applying through the nine licensing boards for which the NBVME handled approvals (Colorado, Florida, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia) were able to access their pass/fail status through the NBVME's new NAVLE score portal. The score portal, linked through the NBVME's web site, requires candidates to enter their NAVID number (which they receive at the time they apply for the examination) and their date of birth. If this information can be verified through the NAVLE database, the score portal informs the candidate whether they passed or failed the examination. Only the pass/fail status is provided, not actual scores. The score portal was ac-

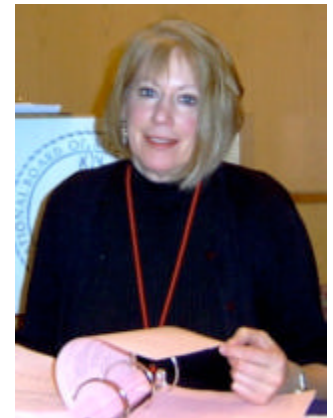
tivated on May 8, the day the April scores were received in the NBVME office. All candidates received printed score reports, and diagnostic score reports were sent to candidates who did not pass the examination.

The NAVLE score portal will be available again in January 2009, as soon as scores from the fall 2008 testing window are released. For the 2008-09 testing cycle, Nebraska, New Hampshire, and Utah have been added to the list of states for which the NBVME handles NAVLE approvals, and these candidates also will be able to use the score portal. All other NAVLE candidates will continue to receive their score reports through the licensing board that approved them to take the examination.

## NBVME Summer Meeting

The next NBVME meeting will be in Vancouver, BC on Saturday, July 26, prior to the World Veterinary Congress. The afternoon session will be open to guests. Dr. Meg Glattly (shown at right participating in the April NAVLE form review) will chair the meeting.

Contact the NBVME office for more information.



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Linda L. Blythe, DVM, PhD; Dale D. Boyle, DVM, MPH, DACVPM; James Dalley, DVM, MS; Dennis A. Feinberg, DVM, *Chair-Elect*; Benjamin Franklin, Jr., DVM, *Secretary-Treasurer*; Meg Glattly, DVM, *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, *Past Chair*; Rick Tubbs, DVM, MS, MBA, DACT, DABVP. John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD, *Executive Director*

# 2008 NAVLE Form Review Meeting

On April 9-10, 22 veterinarians, including NBVME members, Examination Development Advisory Board (EDAB) members, licensing board representatives, and recent veterinary graduates, met at the NBME office in Philadelphia to review forms of the NAVLE to be administered in the fall 2008 and spring 2009 testing windows.



Recent graduates: Drs. Kerry Collins (Virginia Tech 2007), Malia Ireland (Minnesota 2004), Kimberley MacDonald (PEI 2003), Jennifer White (Massey 2007), and Annette McCoy (Michigan State 2006).



Drs. Benjamin Darien and Julie Fixman (EDAB), and Sylvie Latour (NBVME)



Drs. Emilio DeBess (Oregon board) and Helen Tuzio (EDAB)



Dr. Linda Blythe (NBVME)



Dr. Steve Colquhoun (South Carolina board)



Dr. Dennis Feinberg (NBVME)



Dr. Frank Welcome (EDAB)



Drs. James Dalley and Rick Tubbs (NBVME)



Drs. Darcy Shaw and David Reeves (EDAB)

## NBVME Examination Updates

### NAVLE®

A total of 602 candidates took the NAVLE during the April 7-19, 2008 testing window. Scores were reported to licensing boards on May 8.

Applications for the fall 2008 NAVLE testing window will be accepted beginning in June, and the application receipt deadline is August 1. The 2008-09 edition of the NAVLE Bulletin of Information for Candidates is now available on the NBVME's web site, [www.nbvme.org](http://www.nbvme.org). The NAVLE fee for the 2008-09 testing windows is \$500, an increase of \$20 over last year.

All NAVLE candidates must be approved by a licensing board. For the 2008-09 testing windows, the NBVME office will be responsible for approving candidates applying through 12 states: Colorado, Florida, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, New

Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Virginia. All NAVLE candidates who are enrolled in ECFVG or PAVE must have completed the step three examination requirement of their respective program before they can be approved to take the NAVLE.

### 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 QE was administered to 124 PAVE candidates on May 15. The examination was offered in St. Kitts, Grenada, Grand Cayman, Guam, and at 14 sites in the US. Scores will be reported in early June.

The May QE was also administered to 105 students at the Western University

College of Veterinary Medicine and, for the first time, to 58 students at the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Future QE administrations are planned for September 11, 2008, and January 15 and May 14, 2009. The 2008-09 QE Bulletin of Information for Candidates will be available on the NBVME's web site in June.

### Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment (VCSA)

The VCSA is a two day hands-on examination of clinical and communication skills, and is used as an option for step four of the PAVE program. It will be administered next on January 10-11, 2009 at Cedar Valley College in Dallas, Texas. Candidates apply for the VCSA through the AAVSB office.