

National Board Report

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Leadership Transition

I attended my first meeting of the National Board Examination Committee (NBEC) in January 1987. The NBEC (as the NBVME was called in those days) was going to be one of my responsibilities as a new Assistant Director of Scientific Activities for the American Veterinary Medical Association, and my mentor Dr. E.R. ("Bud") Ames, who had hired me for that position, wanted me to have an opportunity to attend an NBEC meeting before joining the staff the following month. I recall being impressed with the topics discussed and with the knowledge demonstrated by the two Professional Examination Service consultants (Drs. Bill Kay and Susan McDonough), and at the same time being challenged by the number of acronyms used during the meeting!

I served as AVMA staff consultant to the NBEC through the time the board became incorporated as an independent organization in 1994. Since 1995, I have been honored to serve as the board's first, and, so far only, Executive Director.

Now, almost 40 years since I graduated from veterinary school, the time has come to contemplate retirement. The plan is for me to step down as NBVME Executive Director in July 2014. That date can be adjusted as necessary to ensure a smooth transition, and the board and I have agreed that I may continue to work for the NBVME for a period of time following retirement. As noted in the article on page 2, the board will be forming a search committee soon, and plans to work with a search consultant to find a new Executive Director.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD
Executive Director

NBVME-NBME Collaboration Nears Completion

For the past three years, the NBVME and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) have been engaged in discussions to establish a collaborative relationship between the two organizations, focused on the NAVLE®. These discussions have been based on the fact that both organizations are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporations with similar missions, and both organizations develop examinations used by licensing boards for public protection. A collaborative relationship would replace the present vendor-client relationship, and would be of benefit to both parties. In addition, a collaboration would result in important enhancements to the NAVLE program.

The NBVME's participants in these discussions, Drs. Dennis Feinberg, Gary Gackstetter, and Meg Glattly, have met on numerous occasions with NBME officers and staff in Philadelphia to work on draft documents outlining the collaboration. The most recent face-to-face meeting was on April 16, and included NBVME legal counsel Claire Topp. The draft collaboration agreement resulting from that meeting was reviewed by the full board at its meeting in Minneapolis on May 10-11. The goal of both parties is to have an agreement ready to sign in July.

The collaboration will be named the Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments (CVA). The agreement creates a CVA Governance Committee, composed of five members (four voting and one alternate) appointed by each parent organization (NBVME and NBME). This committee, which will be chaired by one of the NBVME's

representatives, will assume primary responsibility for oversight of the NAVLE program. NAVLE candidates will still apply to the NBVME. The NAVLE will still be owned by the NBVME, though items developed after the collaboration is established will be jointly owned by both parents. NAVLE fees will be set by the Governance Committee, within parameters established by the parents.

One of the key opening statements in the agreement reads as follows: "The parents believe that collaboration will preserve the identity and role of the NAVLE Examination System in veterinary licensure, enhance the efficiency of the examination design and delivery process, and permit the incorporation of new methods of assessment deemed relevant to the examination as efficiently as possible, while meeting the changing needs of the veterinary medical assessment process."

The NBVME collaboration is based on two successful collaborations that the NBME has with other organizations. The NBME collaborates with the Federation of State Medical Boards regarding the United States Medical Licensing Examination, and with the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates regarding the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills examination.

To get the collaboration process started, the NBVME created a Collaboration Strategic Planning Group, which met in Philadelphia in December and in Minneapolis on May 9. See the article on page 2 for a report on that group's efforts.

Collaboration Strategic Planning Group Meets

Last fall, the NBVME appointed a 14-member Collaboration Strategic Planning Group (Co-Strat) to look into rapid enhancements to the NAVLE that could be accomplished as part of the new collaboration. The Co-Strat met in Philadelphia in December, and again in Minneapolis on May 9. Dr. Christopher Brown serves as the Co-Strat chair.

In December, the Co-Strat members were assigned to three committees, and those committees reported back to the full group in Minneapolis. One committee looked at recommendations related to examination timing, number of parts, format, and species emphasis. Another committee considered assessment of professional competencies. The third committee focused on multispecies knowledge and One Health. At the meeting, the group agreed on recommendations for several near-term enhancements to the NAVLE, and also a few changes that would take longer to implement. A report from the Co-Strat will be given to the NBVME for evaluation in July. However, one of the recommendations was incorporated into the NBVME Strategic Plan the following day: development of a competency-based NAVLE. The thinking here is that the NAVLE blueprint, which now has animal species and practice activities as its two main dimensions, also should include the professional competencies identified by the North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium (NAVMEC).

NBVME Strategic Planning Retreat

The NBVME met on May 10 for an all-day strategic planning retreat. The meeting was held in downtown Minneapolis, in the offices of the NBVME's legal counsel, Dorsey&Whitney, and was facilitated by Mr. Michael Barrett. Mr. Barrett has served as a facilitator for the NBVME on several previous occasions.

The NBVME convened the retreat for several reasons, including the fact that the previous strategic plan needed to be updated, but also because of membership turnover (three new board members in 2012 and four more in 2013), and upcoming staff changes. Changes coming in association with the NBVME-NBME collaboration were also key points for

consideration as part of the strategic planning process.

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Barrett conducted one-on-one telephone interviews with the meeting participants. At the meeting, the board revised and updated its strategic plan for the next two years, as summarized below.

Joining the board members for the strategic planning retreat were two newly-appointed board members, who will take office following the July NBVME meeting: Drs. Bob Chersonson and Karen Lehe. Claire Topp, NBVME legal counsel, and Bridget Whittey, NBVME Executive Assistant, also participated in the meeting.

NBVME Strategic Plan

Mission: The NBVME is a nonprofit professional veterinary examination service that provides psychometrically sound, defensible examinations and other assessments for use by government licensing agencies and other entities to assure the protection of public and animal health and welfare by assessing professional competency.

Strategic Objectives: Continuous Improvement, Organization Effectiveness, Outreach, and New Initiatives

2013-2014 Priorities:

- Establish a task force to develop criteria for a competency-based NAVLE
- * Establish a search committee for finding a new executive to prepare for leadership changes
- Revise the job description of the finance committee to meet the needs of the collaboration agreement
- Develop an on-site messaging platform for the veterinary college communities to enhance understanding of the NAVLE's role in assessing professional competencies
- Establish a strategic planning committee that sets research priorities with justification

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Jon Betts, DVM; Linda L. Blythe, DVM, PhD; Dennis A. Feinberg, DVM, *Chair*; Joyceanne Fick, *Public Member and Secretary-Treasurer*; Gary D. Gackstetter, DVM, MPH, PhD, *Chair-Elect*; Meg Glattly, DVM; Thomas B. Hairgrove, DVM, DABVP; Jay Hedrick, DVM; Jayne Jensen, DVM; Patricia J. Provost, MS, VMD, DACVS; John D. Tait, DVM, MBA; Rick Tubbs, DVM, MS, MBA, DACT, DABVP, *Past Chair*; Jack Wilson, DVM. John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD, *Executive Director*

2013 NAVLE Form Review

On April 17-18, the annual NAVLE form review meeting was held at the NBME office in Philadelphia. The purpose of this meeting is to review draft forms of the NAVLE to be administered in the upcoming November-December and April testing windows. During the meeting, teams of reviewers verify that the test items are relevant to entry-level private clinical practice, and that the forms are balanced with regard to content. Items are edited, moved or deleted as necessary to ensure that the forms are ready for administration to NAVLE candidates.

Participants in the April review included nine of the 13 NBVME members, nine of the 10 members of the NBVME's Examination Development Advisory Board, two representatives from the AAVSB Board of Directors (Drs. Tom Kendall and Beckey Malphus), and



four recent veterinary graduates. The NBVME invites recent graduates to participate in the NAVLE form review every year, to help ensure that the test forms reflect content that is taught in accredited schools. The re-

cent graduates are pictured above and include, left to right: Dr. Seth Fox, a 2012 graduate of Kansas State University, working in a mixed animal practice in Fredonia, Kansas; Dr. Karine Forget, a 2010 graduate of the

University of Montreal, working in a large animal practice in Victoriaville, Quebec; Dr. Katherine Fogelberg, a 2008 graduate of Texas A&M University, working on a PhD degree at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas; and Dr. Katy Campbell, a 2012 graduate of Oregon State University, working in a small animal practice in Boise, Idaho.

After the form review is completed, NBME editorial staff make final revisions to the test forms based on the work done at the meeting, and the forms are then prepared for delivery to Prometric for administration during the upcoming test cycle.

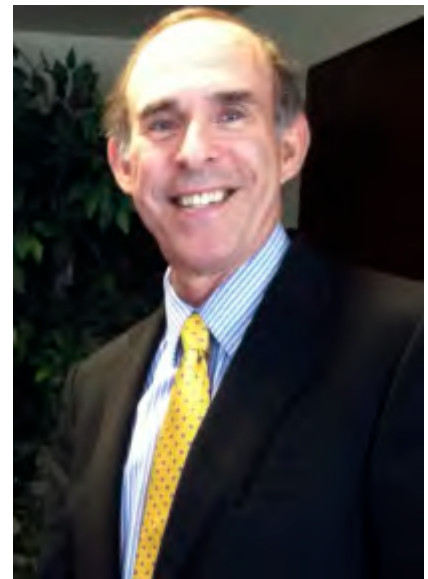
July NBVME Meeting in Asheville

The NBVME will hold its summer meeting in Asheville, NC July 26-27. The board plans to meet all day both days. The General Session, which is open to guests, will be on Friday afternoon. Please contact the NBVME office for additional information.

Last July, Drs. Ben Franklin, Lila Miller, and Sylvie Latour completed the maximum of nine years of service on the board. Their successors were Drs. Patricia Provost, Jon Betts, and Jack Wilson. This July, Drs. Tom Hairgrove, Rick Tubbs, and Meg Glattly will complete nine years as NBVME members. The American Association of Bovine Practitioners has named Dr. Bob Cherson of Turlock, CA to succeed Dr. Hair-

grove, and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians has appointed Dr. Karen Lehe of West Lafayette, IN to succeed Dr. Tubbs. The American Association of Veterinary State Boards will elect a successor to Dr. Glattly at its meeting in September. In addition to these three new members, the American Animal Hospital Association has named Dr. Mark Russak of Berlin, CT to succeed Dr. John Tait, who has decided not to seek appointment by the AAHA to a second term on the NBVME.

Dr. Dennis Feinberg will chair the July meeting.



Dr. Dennis Feinberg, NBVME Chair

NBVME Examination Updates

NAVLE®

A total of 978 candidates took the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®) during the April 8-20, 2013 testing window, an increase of 28 from last April. Scores were reported to licensing boards on May 7.

Applications for the November-December 2013 NAVLE testing window will be accepted beginning in early June, and the NBVME application receipt deadline is August 1. The 2013-2014 edition of the NAVLE Bulletin of Information for Candidates will be available on the NBVME's web site (www.nbvme.org) in June. The NAVLE fee for 2013-14 will be \$570, an increase of \$10.

All NAVLE candidates must be approved by a licensing board to take the examination. For the 2013-14 testing cycle, the NBVME office will approve candidates applying through

28 states: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Virginia. These candidates can complete their state NAVLE application and pay the corresponding state application fee online, through the NBVME's website. Illinois candidates apply through Continental Testing Services, California candidates apply through the AAVSB office, and all Canadian NAVLE candidates apply through the Canadian National Examining Board office.

Qualifying Examination (QE)

The QE, a 200-item web-based basic science examination, is the step three requirement of the AAVSB's Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Edu-

cation Equivalence (PAVE). The QE is also used by several accredited veterinary schools as a standardized assessment of knowledge in veterinary anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, microbiology, and pathology.

The QE was administered to 30 PAVE candidates on May 13 and to two additional PAVE candidates on May 23. The examination was given in Grand Cayman, South Korea, and Greece, and at seven sites in the US. The May QE was also administered to 108 students at the Western University College of Veterinary Medicine, and to 144 students at the Ross University College of Veterinary Medicine. Scores will be reported in mid-June.

Future QE administrations are planned for September 12, 2013, and January 16 and May 15, 2014. The 2013-2014 QE Bulletin of Information for Candidates will be available on the NBVME's website in June.