

National Board Report

A Quarterly Newsletter of the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

Volume 13 Issue 4

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November 2008

VISIT TO BISMARCK

The NBVME's Executive Committee met in Bismarck on October 23-24. This marked the fourth time that the Executive Committee has made the trip to North Dakota.

On October 23, Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Ben Franklin and I visited six area financial institutions where the NBVME has funds on deposit, to meet staff and update account information.

The full Executive Committee, including Dr. Franklin and Drs. Dennis Feinberg (Chair), Linda Blythe (Chair-Elect) and Meg Glattly (Past Chair), met that evening and the following morning. Topics discussed included a Request for Proposal for a new NAVLE job analysis, renewal of the NBVME's contract with the National Board of Medical Examiners for development of the NAVLE, the date and location for the summer 2009 meeting (July 25 in San Diego), arrangements for a temporary NAVLE test site in Perth, Western Australia to accommodate candidates from Murdoch University, and the status of a NAVLE irregular behavior case. The Executive Committee also met with the NBVME's auditor.

NBVME staff rarely get to meet board members, item writers, licensing board representatives, and other people with whom we interact on a daily basis via telephone and e-mail. That makes a visit like this especially welcome. The Executive Committee members enjoy the opportunity to visit the office, meet the staff, and gain an appreciation of what Bismarck, North Dakota is like. We think it's a great place to live and work!

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD
Executive Director

Board Visits Are Underway

At its July 2008 meeting, the NBVME approved a plan to improve outreach to licensing boards, which are the NBVME's primary clients. The plan calls for teams of two NBVME members to visit individual state licensing boards to conduct a "directed dialogue" with board members and staff.

The goal is to complete about 20 visits in the first year, with the rest of the boards to be visited in the following two years. Drs. Dennis Feinberg and Mike Thomas worked with an outside facilitator, Mr. Michael Barrett, to develop a computer presentation that outlines how the NBVME is structured and what it does. During the visits, the NBVME members seek feedback from licensing boards on the services received from the NBVME at the present time, and ideas for additional services to be provided in the future.

To date, Drs. Feinberg and Thomas have made visits to four boards: New Jersey, North Carolina, Maine, and Massachusetts. Drs. Ben Franklin and Rick Tubbs have visited the Missouri board, and Dr. Linda Blythe and for-

mer NBVME member Dr. James Dalley met with the Iowa board. In December, visits are planned to Michigan and Tennessee. Several additional visits have been arranged for early 2009. Boards interested in scheduling a visit should contact Bridget Whittey in the NBVME office.



Dr. Dennis Feinberg

Next NBVME Meeting
Reports from the initial board visits will be reviewed by the NBVME at its next meeting, scheduled for January 6 in Alexandria, Virginia. The NBVME's afternoon General Session is open to guests. Persons interested in attending should contact the NBVME office.

Dr. Feinberg will chair the January meeting. Two new members will be attending their first NBVME meeting. Dr. Gary Gackstetter is the new member designated by the National Association of Federal Veterinarians, replacing Dr. Dale Boyle. In September, Dr. Jay Hedrick was appointed by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards to succeed Dr. Dalley.

NAVLE Dates

The fall NAVLE testing window closes on Saturday, December 13. Scores should be reported to licensing boards in mid-January, which is about two weeks earlier than in previous years.

The on-line application for the April 13-25 testing window will be available

on the NBVME's web site on December 15, and the deadline for receipt of applications from new candidates is January 3. Candidates who do not pass the NAVLE in the fall and want to retake the examination in the April must submit their applications by February 2.

QE ITEM REVIEW

The Qualifying Examination (QE) is a web-based 300-item basic science examination developed by the NBVME for use in the AAVSB's Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). The QE is also used by four accredited veterinary schools as an outside assessment of basic science knowledge.

Each fall, the QE item writers meet in Philadelphia to review newly-written items and approve them for addition to the item bank. On October 1-2, 10 of this year's 11 item writers participated in the review. The 2008 QE item writers included Drs. Kevin Anderson, Gainesville, FL (anatomy); Pete Bill, West Lafayette, IN (pharmacology); Paul Davenport, Gainesville, FL (physiology); Ron Green, Dallas, TX (principles of radiology); Mary Hondalus, Athens, GA (bacteriology); Ron Johnson, Guelph, ON (pharmacology); Sanjay Kapil, Stillwater, OK (virology and immunology); Susan Little, Stillwater, OK (parasitology); Abdelfattah Nour, West Lafayette, IN (physiology); Jon Patterson, East Lansing, MI (pathology); and Beth Spangler, Auburn, AL (clinical pathology).

QE item writers for 2009 are now being named. New item writers will meet at the NBVME on February 24 for an item writing workshop, and will join returning QE item writers the next day to review the three forms of the examination to be administered in the 2009-2010 testing cycle.

AAVSB Meeting Report

This year's annual meeting of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) was held in Newport Beach, California on September 18-20. Four NBVME members (Drs. Dennis Feinberg, Mike Thomas, Meg Glattly, and Lila Miller) attended the meeting, along with four NBVME staff members. Drs. Boyce, Feinberg, and Thomas gave a joint presentation to the AAVSB Delegate Assembly, providing an update on NBVME activities and summarizing goals and objectives for licensing board visits.

The AAVSB meeting offers an excellent opportunity for NBVME mem-

bers and staff to interact with members and staff from individual licensing boards. This year's meeting included an interesting presentation on examination security from Jennifer Semko, an attorney from Washington DC, and an update on the Foresight Report from AAVMC Executive Director Dr. Marguerite Pappaioanou.

After the meeting, the NBVME staff had the opportunity to visit with former NBVME member Dr. Nancy Collins at her home in Alta Loma, California. Dr. Collins is an equine practitioner, and was the recipient of the 2008 NBVME Award.



NBVME staff members Bridget Whittey, Debbie Larson, Anita Casey-Reed, and John Boyce, with Dr. Nancy Collins.

The *National Board Report* is published quarterly by the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (NBVME®), PO Box 1356, Bismarck, ND 58502. Phone (701) 224-0332, fax (701) 224-0435, mail@nbvme.org, <http://www.nbvme.org>.

The purpose of the *National Board Report* is to educate, to inform, and to communicate information about the objectives and programs of the NBVME. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official opinions, views, or policies of the NBVME or any of its members, unless expressly so stated.

Linda L. Blythe, DVM, PhD, *Chair-Elect*; Dennis A. Feinberg, DVM, *Chair*; Benjamin Franklin, Jr., DVM, *Secretary-Treasurer*; Gary D. Gackstetter, DVM, MPH, PhD; Meg Glattly, DVM, *Past Chair*; Thomas B. Hairgrove, DVM, DABVP; Jay Hedrick, DVM; Francis A. Kallfelz, DVM, PhD, DACVN; Sylvie Latour, DVM; Lila Miller, DVM; Ellen L. O'Connor, *Public Member*; Mike Thomas, DVM; Rick Tubbs, DVM, MS, MBA, DACT, DABVP. John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD, *Executive Director*

NAVLE® Item Review

Every year, NAVLE item writers meet to review newly-written items and approve them for addition to the item bank. Nineteen of the 22 item writers for 2008 met at the NBME office in Philadelphia November 11-12. This year's NAVLE item writers included Drs. Paul Coe (Walsenburg, CO), Allan Corber (Toronto, ON), Karen Cornell (Athens, GA), Cheryl Dhein (Pullman, WA), Alison Eddy (Mississippi State, MS), Maria Fahie (Pomona, CA), Ned Gentz (Albuquerque, NM), Nadine

Hackman (Philadelphia, PA), Johanna Heseltine (Vancouver, BC), Amanda House (Gainesville, FL), Veronika Kiklevich (Boerne, TX), Adam Langer (Decatur, GA), Isabelle Langlois (St-Hyacinthe, QC), Susan Little (Ottawa, ON), Jeanne Lofstedt (Charlottetown, PEI), Fernando Marques (Saskatoon, SK), Dianne Mawby (Knoxville, TN), Morgan Morrow (Raleigh, NC), Fred Scott (Ithaca, NY), Saralyn Smith-Carr (Auburn, AL), Jeff Tyler (Columbia, MO), and Frank Welcome (Ithaca, NY).



Standing (l to r): Drs. Adam Langer, Allan Corber, Dianne Mawby, Frank Welcome, Karen Cornell, Morgan Morrow, Nadine Hackman, Ned Gentz, Paul Coe, Jeanne Lofstedt, Cheryl Dhein, Fernando Marques, John Boyce and Susan Little. Seated (l to r): Drs. Amanda House, Maria Fahie, Alison Eddy, Jeff Tyler, Saralyn Smith-Carr, and Veronika Kiklevich.

NBVME Hosts Korean Visitor

On September 15-16, the NBVME was pleased to host a visit from Dr. Cho Dong-Ho, who is responsible for the national veterinary licensing examination program in South Korea. Dr. Cho and his colleague, Dr. Henry Yoo of Santa Monica, CA, visited several veterinary organizations during Dr. Cho's three-week stay in the US. The NBVME arranged for Dr. Cho to meet with staff at the National Board of Medi-

cal Examiners in Philadelphia, where he learned about NAVLE development. While in Philadelphia, he and Dr. Yoo also visited the headquarters of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, and the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Cho is employed by the National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service in South Korea.



Drs. Richard Hawkins (NBME), Cho Dong-Ho, John Boyce, Henry Yoo, and Peter Scoles (NBME)

Qualifying Examination Update

A total of 124 PAVE candidates took the Qualifying Examination on September 11, 2008. The examination was administered in St. Kitts, Grenada, Grand Cayman, Australia, and at 14 sites in the US. The NBVME Executive Committee met via conference call on October 10 to review the examination statistics and a report prepared by the NBME following the QE passing standard exercise held at the NBME office in Philadelphia in July. The Executive Committee then approved a new criterion-referenced passing standard for the examination. The failure rate for the 87 Sep-

tember criterion candidates (first time test takers) was 28.7%, and the overall failure rate was 33.1%.

The QE is administered three times per year. Upcoming administrations are scheduled for January 15 and May 14, 2009. Candidates apply for the QE through the AAVSB office, www.aavsb.org. The NBVME has received applications from a record 160 PAVE candidates for the January examination. That examination will also be given to students at Iowa State University and the University of Minnesota.

NAVLE Score Portal

The NAVLE score portal, which allows certain NAVLE candidates to access their pass/fail status online, will be activated again in January, following the November-December 2008 testing window. Candidates who applied through one of the 12 licensing boards for which the NBVME office handles approvals (CO, FL, ME, MD, MI, NE, NH, NJ, NY, PA, UT, and VA) will be able to access the score portal through the NBVME's web site, on the same date scores are released to licensing boards. To retrieve their results, candidates enter their NAVID number (which they received at the time they applied for the examination) and their date of birth. These candidates will also receive printed copies of their score reports through the mail. All other NAVLE candidates will continue to receive their score reports through the licensing board that approved them to take the examination.