

National Board Report

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NAVLE Application Process

In August, the NBVME sent a proposal to all licensing boards outlining possible enhancements to the NAVLE application process. The proposal eliminated the separate state application and approval step, allowing nearly all NAVLE candidates to apply only to the NBVME office. It also provided for electronic score reporting to all candidates and licensing boards through the NBVME's web site. The intent of the proposal was to simplify the application process for candidates, reduce the workload for licensing boards, and facilitate the rapid reporting of examination results. The cover memo welcomed input from boards on the proposal.

The NBVME has received letters from two licensing boards indicating opposition to the proposal, and a third board expressed opposition at the AAVSB meeting. In addition, the NBVME has heard indirectly that two or three other boards are uncomfortable with the idea of eliminating the separate state board approval step. Although several other boards have expressed support for the proposal, the NBVME takes these concerns seriously, so the proposal will not be implemented for the 2010-2011 testing cycle.

The NBVME continues to receive and respond to requests from individual licensing boards to approve NAVLE candidates on their behalf (we are doing this for 15 boards for the current testing cycle), and will continue to explore ways to improve the application process for future candidates.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD
Executive Director

January Meeting Preview

The NBVME will meet in Key West, Florida January 22-23, 2010. The meeting will be chaired by Dr. Linda Blythe.

Job Analysis

The board will review a report prepared by Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP) on the NAVLE job analysis project. Earlier this year, the NBVME appointed a 14-member advisory committee to oversee the job analysis. The committee met in April to review and update a list of activities and diagnoses important for entry-level private clinical practice. AMP then developed an on-line survey that nearly 700 veterinarians completed in August and early September. The committee met again in October to review the results of the survey. AMP is preparing a report of the job analysis project, which will include proposed NAVLE test specifications.

Special Session with Constituents

Over the past year, the NBVME has held several discussions with representatives of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) about the possibility of establishing a cooperative relationship, whereby the two organizations could share costs and benefits from joint projects. To further those discussions, Dr. Peter Scoles, NBME Senior Vice President, will attend the January meeting to discuss the NBME's relationships with licensure, education, and accrediting or-

ganizations in human medicine, and new developments in testing being explored by the NBME. The NBVME has invited leaders from four key constituent organizations in veterinary medicine to participate in this session, including the AAVSB, the AAVMC, the AVMA Council on Education, and the new North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium. All four organizations are planning to attend.



Licensing Board Visits

The board will review an update on outreach visits to licensing boards. Visits were completed to 21 boards before the July 2009 meeting. Since then, five additional visits have been completed, and eight more are scheduled.

NBVME Award

The January meeting will see the presentation of the 2010 NBVME award to Dr. James B. Dalley. Dr. Dalley is a former member of the NBVME, a past president of the AAVSB, and a retired faculty member from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University. More details, and a photo or two, will appear in the February newsletter.

Persons interested in attending the January meeting should contact the NBVME office for details.

NEW NBVME MEMBERS

The NBVME's 13 members are directly appointed by its constituent organizations. The American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) and the AVMA Council on Education (COE) recently appointed new members to the NBVME.

Joyceanne Fick

In September, the AAVSB Delegate Assembly elected Ms. Joyceanne Fick to succeed Ms. Ellen O'Connor as the NBVME's public member. Ms. Fick is a member of the Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine, and has served on that board as its public member since 2005.

Ms. Fick is a resident of Kuna, Idaho. She has been active in several local organizations and boards, including those involved with historic preservation, breast cancer, planning and zoning, and golden retriever rescue. She is a graduate of the University of Missouri in St. Louis, and has work experience in manuscript editing, library management, and banking.

In her spare time, Ms. Fick enjoys walking with her three golden retrievers, ceramics, and quilting.



Jayne Jensen

Dr. Jayne E Jensen of Issaquah, Washington has been named by the AVMA Council on Education to succeed Dr. Fran Kallfelz. Dr. Jensen has been a member of the COE since 2008.



Dr. Jensen received her veterinary degree from the University of Illinois in 1970. She founded the Tiger Mountain Veterinary Clinic, a companion animal practice, in Issaquah in 1990.

Dr. Jensen has been active in organized veterinary medicine, serving as President of the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association in 2003, and in various other leadership capacities for the association since the mid-1980's. She has also served with the Morris Animal Foundation, and on the admissions committee for the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

In the community, Dr. Jensen has served as a foster parent, and in various youth and church groups. She has hosted a weekly radio program for over 13 years, and a weekly television program for over 8 years.

Dr. Jensen has three adult children.

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

Fall QE and NAVLE Item Review Meetings

Each fall, QE and NAVLE item writers meet at the NBME office in Philadelphia to review newly-written items. Items that are judged to be acceptable are added to the respective examina-

tion item banks. New QE and NAVLE items approved at the fall review meetings will be used for the first time on examination forms developed for the 2010-2011 testing cycles. The QE

item review meeting was held September 30 - October 1, and the NAVLE item review was November 11-12.



2009 NAVLE Item Writers. *Seated:* Donna Shettko, Amanda House, Don Benoit, Vicki Thayer, and Fernando Marqués. *Standing:* Reid Groman, Alex Gallagher, Eric Gingerich, Cheryl Dhein, Beth Boynton, Karen Cornell, Bob Larson, Henry Yoo, Locke Karriker, Elisabeth Snead, Christa Irwin, Susan Little, John Angelos, Alison Eddy, and Nadine Hackman. *Back row:* Doug Aspros, Jeanne Lofstedt, Dale Boyle, and Tom Graham. *Not pictured:* Anthony Nanton and Maggie Coffey.



2009 QE Item Writers. *Seated:* Murlu Manohar, Karen Russell, Mary Hondalus, Lora Ballweber, and Hari Goyal. *Standing:* James Schadt, Eric Rowe, Kevin Anderson, Sanjay Kapil, Frederick Tippett, and Pete Bill.

NBVME Examination Updates

NAVLE®

The fall 2009 testing window for the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) opened Monday, November 16 and runs through Saturday, December 12. The NBVME office processed and submitted 3,676 candidate eligibility files for the fall examination.

Applications for the April 12-24, 2010 testing window will be available in mid-December, and the application deadline for new candidates is January 3. Scores from the fall testing window will be reported in mid-January. Candidates who do not pass will be able to submit applications for the April window until February 15.

NAVLE Self-Assessments, consisting of 200 items formatted like the actual examination, continue to be available for purchase on the NBVME's web site. Each assessment is \$50. Assessments now include a prediction of fu-

ture NAVLE performance based on the candidate's performance on the assessment.

Qualifying Examination

The NBVME's Qualifying Examination (QE) is a 300-item web-based basic science examination used as the step three requirement of the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). A total of 167 candidates took the QE at 13 locations on September 17. The failure rate for the 132 first time test takers was 20.5%.

The NBVME has received 178 applications from PAVE candidates for the January 21, 2010 QE administration. Iowa State University and Tuskegee University plan to administer the QE to their third year students in January.

The QE will be administered again on May 13, 2010.

Veterinary Clinical Skills

Assessment (VCSA)

The VCSA is a two day hands-on examination of clinical and communication skills, used as an option for step four of the PAVE program. The next administration will be January 9-10, 2010 at Cedar Valley College in Dallas, Texas. Ten candidates are scheduled to take the VCSA in January.

Species Specific Examinations

The NBVME offers companion animal and equine species specific examinations for use by licensing boards. There are two forms of each examination, each consisting of 100 multiple-choice items taken from the NAVLE item bank. Each form has its own recommended criterion-referenced passing point. Boards interested in the species specific examinations should contact the NBVME office.