

National Board Report

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Web Site Updated

On November 26, the NBVME rolled out an updated website at nbvme.org. NBVME Executive Assistant Bridget Whitley had primary responsibility for updating the site, with help from other staff and the NBVME's web site consultant. The update did not add a lot of new information, but it presents the information in a new and hopefully improved way. Changes were also made behind the scenes to allow the website to display more efficiently when accessed with a mobile device. That being said, we hope that future candidates won't try to complete and submit their NAVLE applications from their smart phones!

Transparency is one of the NBVME's values, and we work hard to provide licensing boards, candidates, and other interested parties with accurate and current information on the NBVME and its examination programs. There is a lot of information on the NBVME website, and we update it continually. The part of the site that is of greatest interest to candidates is the NAVLE application portion, where candidates can apply for the NAVLE and pay the fee by credit card. For 25 state licensing boards, candidates can complete the state approval application and pay the state application fee through the website. When scores are reported, the score portal becomes very popular for candidates who applied through one of the 25 states.

Among other things, the website also includes the following information:

- copies of detailed annual technical reports for the NAVLE and the Qualifying Examination
- copies of the NBVME's quarterly newsletter, the *National Board Report*
- a report on the NAVLE job analysis
- the NAVLE and QE Candidate Bulletins
- access to the NAVLE Self-Assessments
- discussion forums
- a list of licensing boards with contact information

Feedback on the website is appreciated.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD
Executive Director

Collaboration Planning Underway

For the past three years, the NBVME has been actively exploring the creation of a collaborative relationship with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) with respect to the NAVLE®. Collaboration would change the present client-vendor relationship into one where each party shares in the risks and benefits of the NAVLE program. A series of meetings between leaders of both organizations has resulted in a set of fundamental principles and a draft collaboration agreement. The plan is to have the agreement ready to present to the NBVME and the NBME Executive Board for review and approval by July 2013.

As an initial step toward a collaboration, a Collaboration Strategic Planning Group was created and charged with recommending a few rapid enhancements to the NAVLE that could be implemented in the next several years. The group will also look at possible longer-term changes to the NAVLE system that could be done in collaboration with the NBME. The NBME has recently completed a comprehensive review of its United States Medical Licensing Examination program, and the expectation is that some of the present and proposed components of the USMLE® would be appropriate to consider for the NAVLE as well.

The chair of the Collaboration Strategic Planning Group is Dr. Christopher Brown, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University. Dr. Brown has extensive experience with the veterinary medical licensing examination program, having served as a content expert and item writer for the National Board

Examination and the Clinical Competency Test, and for the NAVLE.

Other members of the group include the following:

Dr. Cheryl Dhein, Washington State University; Dr. Mike Chaddock, Texas A&M University; Dr. Darcy Shaw, University of Prince Edward Island; Dr. Sanjay Kapil, Oklahoma State University; Dr. Jon Betts, NBVME member and private practitioner from Oregon; Dr. Joan Norton, recent graduate and private practitioner from Indiana; Dr. Bob Cherenson, private practitioner from California; Dr. Jason Coe, University of Guelph; Dr. Jane Shaw, Colorado State University; Dr. Erica Barron, recent graduate and private practitioner from Virginia; Dr. Gary Gackstetter, NBVME member and public health consultant from Virginia; Dr. Stacy Lankford, a physician and member of the NBME Executive Board; and Ms. Janine Hawley, NBME staff member.

Background materials to be reviewed by the group as it begins its work include the NAVLE content outline and job analysis, the report from the North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium (NAVMEC), the curriculum and outcomes assessment accreditation standards of the AVMA Council on Education, and a report on the comprehensive review of the USMLE.

The group will hold its first meeting in Philadelphia on December 14. Additional meetings will be scheduled at that time. The expectation is that the group will complete its work and forward its recommendations to the NBVME by the end of 2013.

MARQUÉS NAMED TO EDAB

The NBVME's Examination Development Advisory Board (EDAB) is a 10-member panel of content experts whose main responsibilities are appointing NAVLE item writers and participating in NAVLE review activities.

Earlier this year, one of the EDAB members, Dr. Patricia Provost, was appointed by the American Association of Equine Practitioners to succeed Dr. Benjamin Franklin as a member of the NBVME. That created a vacancy on the EDAB, which the NBVME filled in July by appointing Dr. Fernando Marqués as one of the two EDAB equine content experts.

Dr. Marqués is an Associate Professor at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. A native of Argentina, Dr. Marqués was an equine practitioner there for 15 years before coming to North America, where he completed a residency in equine medicine at the University of Wisconsin in 2005. Dr. Marqués is board certified in veterinary internal medicine, and has served as a NAVLE equine item writer for the past five years.



January NBVME Meeting

The NBVME's next meeting will be in Atlanta January 25-26, 2013. The meeting will be chaired by Dr. Dennis Feinberg. Persons interested in attending the January meeting should contact the NBVME office for details.

New Members

Three NBVME members completed nine years of service on the NBVME at the conclusion of the July 2012 meeting, and their successors will attend their first NBVME meeting in January. The new members include Dr. Patricia Provost, American Association of Equine Practitioners; Dr. Jack Wilson, Canadian National Examining Board; and Dr. Jon Betts, American Association of Veterinary State Boards.

NAVLE® Pool Review

The day before the board meeting, most of the NBVME members will join members of the NBVME's Examination Development Advisory Board (EDAB) and some former board members in a review of several hundred items from the NAVLE item bank. These reviews, which are done at least once per year, ensure that

items in the active item pool are suitable for continued use on NAVLE forms. Participants will work in teams, by content area, and will be assisted by editors from the NBME's test development department.



Collaboration

An important agenda item for the January meeting will be the proposed collaborative relationship with the NBME.

The board will have the opportunity to review the complete draft of the collaboration agreement, and consider input from NBVME legal counsel. The board will also review a report from the first meeting of the Collaboration Strategic Planning Group and evaluate progress made toward identifying proposed enhancements to the NAVLE. This work is particularly relevant, considering the fact that the content and format of the NAVLE has not changed appreciably since it was first offered in 2000, except for minor adjustments to the blueprint based on updates to the NAVLE job analysis.

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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.

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*

Fall NAVLE Item Review Meeting

Twenty of the 24 NAVLE item writers for 2012 met at the NBME office in Philadelphia November 14-15 to review newly-written items. Over 800 new items were approved by the review teams for addition to the NAVLE item bank.

Each form of the NAVLE includes 300 scored items and 60 pretest items, and all new items are pretested before they are used as live items. Pretesting ensures that items that count toward a candidate's score have acceptable performance statistics. New items approved at the November 2012 review meeting will appear for the first time as pretest items on examination forms developed for the 2013-2014 testing cycle.

Most NAVLE item writers are appointed by the members of the NBVME's Examination Development Advisory Board, according to the content areas identified in the list to the right. Work is now underway to finalize the item writers for 2013.

NAVLE item writers include veterinarians in academia, private practice, and other employment categories. To date, a total of 127 veterinarians have served as NAVLE item writers. Item writers receive an honorarium, and are reimbursed for travel expenses for meetings in Philadelphia. Persons interested in serving as NAVLE item writers can contact the NBVME office for more information.

2012 NAVLE Item Writers

Canine: Erica Barron, Beth Boynton, Alex Gallagher, and Allan Corber

Pet Bird: Marion Desmarchelier

Feline: Anthony Nanton, Vicki Thayer, Susan Little, Lorraine Jarboe, and Alice Johns

Other Small Animal: Sandra Mitchell

Bovine: Jeff Ondrak, Rodney Auffet, and Joe Klopfenstein

Small Ruminant: David VanMetre

Poultry: Patricia Wakenell

Equine: Lais Costa, Lauren Kleine, and Fernando Marqués

Porcine: Robyn Fleck

Public Health: Mike Gilsdorf

Professional Behavior, Communications, and Practice Management: Ruthanne Chun, Margaret Coffey, and Joie Watson.

New NBVME Member: Dr. Jack Wilson

The National Examining Board of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association has named Dr. Jack Wilson of Calgary, Alberta to succeed Dr. Sylvie Latour as its designee on the NBVME. Dr. Wilson's first term as an NBVME member began at the close of the July 20 meeting. Dr. Latour completed nine years of service on the NBVME in 2012.

The National Examining Board (NEB) administers the veterinary medical licensure examination process in Canada, and issues a Certificate of Qualification to candidates who pass the NAVLE, enabling them to seek licensure in a province. The NEB has appointed a member to the NBVME since the NBVME became an independent organization in 1994. Dr. Wilson has been a member of the NEB since 2006.

Dr. Wilson graduated from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan in 1972.



After graduation, he worked as a clinician and later as a partner in a small animal hospital in Calgary until he left private practice in 2008. Subsequently, he joined the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary, where he teaches Professional Skills. An integral part of this work involves

communications exercises, where veterinary students interact with actors who portray clients in clinical settings. In 2011, Dr. Wilson served as an examiner for the NBVME's Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment, which incorporated four communications stations as part of the two-day evaluation of graduates of non-accredited veterinary schools.

In 2009, Dr. Wilson served as a member of the NBVME's Job Analysis Advisory Committee. That group developed the present NAVLE job analysis, which was approved by the NBVME in 2010 and is used to guide NAVLE item development.

In his spare time, Dr. Wilson enjoys golf, fishing, bird dogs and bird hunting, sporting clays, and music.

NBVME Examination Updates

NAVLE®

The November-December 2012 testing window for the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) opened Monday, November 12 and runs through Saturday, December 8. The NBVME office processed and submitted 4,029 candidate eligibility files for the fall examination, which was 215 more than fall 2011.

Applications for the April 8-20, 2013 testing window will be available beginning December 3, 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 the November-December examination will be able to reapply for the April testing window until February 15.

Qualifying Examination

The NBVME's Qualifying Examination (QE) is a 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 27 PAVE candidates took the QE at nine locations on September 13. Nine of the 13 first time test takers achieved a passing score; the passing rate for all 27 candidates was 41%.

The NBVME has received eligibility files for 32 PAVE candidates for the January 17, 2013 QE administration. In addition, Iowa State University plans to administer the QE to 147 third year students in January. The QE will be administered again on May 16, 2013.

NAVLE Self-Assessments

Web-based NAVLE Self-Assessments are intended to help candidates determine how prepared they are for the examination. Each assessment consists of 200 items taken from the NAVLE item bank. The forms are structured like the actual examination and are available in a standard and extended timing format. Answers to the questions are not provided. When the assessment is completed, the score report shows how well the candidate performed on the various sections and, since the items were previously used on the NAVLE, it includes a prediction of how well the candidate will do on the NAVLE. There are presently four English forms and three French forms available, and each form is \$50. See nbvme.org for more information.