Dear Veterinarians,

As you may know, the National Examining Board (NEB) is responsible for the administration of the veterinary medicine examination process. Graduates from non-accredited schools must successfully pass the BCSE, NAVLE, PSA, and CPE in order to obtain a Certificate of Qualification. Some of you are already involved in the PSA and CPE process.

The first exam that all graduates of non-accredited schools must complete is the Basic and Clinical Sciences Examination (BCSE), which is designed to assess basic and clinical veterinary sciences knowledge. This exam is developed and updated with the help of veterinary practitioners and veterinary faculty members in Canada and in the United States. Our counterpart in the United States, the AVMA Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) (the owner of the exam), runs several workshops throughout the year with the goal of updating exam content.

The ECFVG is currently looking for participants, known as item writers, to attend their next **BCSE Item Writing** event. This event will be held remotely to enable more participants to get involved in the BCSE development process. Item writers can have the flexibility of writing items during their free time at work or at home, and on their own electronic device.

***Does this sound like you?***
Item writers must hold a DVM/VMD or equivalent degree; be actively working in or recently retired (within 5 years) from the veterinary profession (e.g., private clinical practice, corporate practice, academia, public practice, government), and during employment in the veterinary profession must have interacted with new graduates (within 2 years) from AVMA/CVMA/COE-accredited veterinary schools/colleges.

***What is involved?***
Interested participants will have to attend **one** information/training sessions that will be held on **Monday, February 27th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST.** Item writers will be provided training in the construct of multiple-choice and alternative questions by Prometric (exam provider) content specialists so participants can write to several domains of the BCSE at any convenient time. A list of subject references used for developing BCSE items can be found here. During the item writing process, the Prometric Content Specialist will also hold two short follow-up meetings to track progress and address any additional concerns. Participants can also e-mail Prometric staff at any time in the interim to address any issues such as software navigation, writing style, etc.

During the course of this item writing session, participants will be required to use ProBuilder, the platform used by Prometric for item development.

There will be some deadlines to keep in mind. First assignments will be due on **March 10, 2023. Final assignments will be due on March 20, 2023.**

***Whom to contact?***
We hope you will find it valuable to participate in this new item writing format. Please RSVP via e-mail (rcook@avma.org) regarding your interest in participation in this 2023 item writing session **by February 01, 2023**. Please be sure to include your current contact information (address, phone, and E-mail) with your RSVP.

On behalf of the NEB and ECFVG, we thank you for your time and consideration of the examination development process. We look forward to hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about either the ECFVG program or the BCSE development process.

Best wishes,

*Michelle Chen, MEd*

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