

Unofficial Report of Major Actions
Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations
April 8, 2009

The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations met at the American Dental Association Headquarters on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 7-8, 2009, and took the following actions.

1. Adopted a mission statement that would provide direction to the examination programs for approximately five years. The mission statement is: "The JCNDE develops and conducts highly reliable, state of the art cognitive examinations that assist regulatory agencies in making valid decisions regarding licensure of oral health care professionals; develops and implements policy for the orderly, secure, and fair administration of its examinations; and is a leader and resource in assessment for the oral health care profession." The JCNDE also adopted a series of goals and objectives related to the mission statement to guide a five-year strategic plan.
2. Approved the appointment of a *Committee for an Integrated Examination (CIE)* to develop and validate a new examination instrument for dentistry that integrates basic, behavioral, and clinical sciences to assess entry level competency in dental practice. The new examination would replace the NBDE Part I and Part II.
3. Adopted a resolution indicating that the Joint Commission will take under consideration international sites for the administration of the National Board examinations only after the successful completion of Commission on Dental Accreditation approval of the dental education programs in the country requesting examination. The Joint Commission adopted a framework of criteria that should be considered in determining whether to test in international locations.
4. Approved of an increase in the number of cases on Part II and decreasing the number items nested within cases where practically possible, based on research findings that this change in structure will enhance score reliability.
5. Approved of a delay in the transition from a reporting of numerical scores to a pass/fail reporting system from January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2012. The JCNDE also specified that anyone taking the examination before January 1, 2012 will retain their numerical scores.
6. As a part of the JCNDE's small grants program, approved of the full funding in the amount of \$59,750 to support the research proposed by Elsbeth Kalenderian, D.D.S, MPH, Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, entitled *Early Performance in the Patient Doctor Relationship as a Predictor of Success in Dental Education*.
7. Approved of a list of 2009-2010 research and development projects and expenditures related to the National Board Dental and Dental Hygiene Examination programs. Approved a request to the American Dental Association to allow the JCNDE to retain the accumulated R & D funds in consideration of anticipated projects as referenced in the R & D Report and future suspension of the candidate assessments.
8. Denied a request from the Council of Interstate Testing Agencies (CITA) to fund a collaborative alignment study to evaluate the content and cognitive demand of Part II of the National Board Dental Examinations with the findings of a task analysis conducted by CITA.

9. Based on the recommendations of a Caveon security audit, approved the investigation of the feasibility and financial implications of using an alternative testing delivery method, using testing windows, expanding the item pools, and purchasing software for forensic analyses.
10. Approved the 2010 budget proposal. Approved increases in the 2010 application fees as follows: \$15.00 for Part I, \$20.00 for Part II, and \$30.00 for the Dental Hygiene examination. Accordingly, the total 2010 examination fees charged to candidates would be \$280 for Part I \$345 for Part II, and \$285 for the Dental Hygiene Examination.
11. Approved the use of the Dental Education and Testing Personal Identification Number (DENTPIN) as the primary identification number for those candidates participating in the National Board Dental and Dental Hygiene Examination programs.
12. Approved the procedure for granting permission for use of NBDE content to dental educational programs, continuing the agreement with ASDA for the sale of examinations for another three years, the continuation of the agreement with Brown and Herbranson for the use of examination content under the same terms, denied the request from Kaplan Medical to acquire a license to use released examinations, and approved the procedure for granting permission for use of Dental Hygiene examination content to dental hygiene education programs.
13. Adopted revisions to the *Examination Regulations* and *Standing Rules*. Many of the proposed revisions reflect changes related to the computerization of the NBDHE. One substantive change reduced the time limit for filing appeals related to examination irregularities from 60 to 30 days.
14. Approved the reappointment of Dental Hygiene examination test constructors and the appointment of primary and alternate test constructors for the Dental Hygiene examination for 2010. Approved the reappointment and the appointment of primary and alternate test constructors for the National Board examinations for 2010.
15. Elected Dr. Bruce D. Horn as chair and Dr. Stephen T. Radack, III as vice chair of the Joint Commission for terms beginning October 2009.

Dr. Ron J. Seeley (ADA) chair
Dr. Ellen B. Byrne (ADEA)
Dr. Susan Calderbank (AADE)
Dr. Mark Christensen (AADE)
Dr. George "Buck" D. Conard, Jr. (AADE)
Ms. Barbara Leatherman Dixon (ADHA)
Dr. Bruce D. Horn (AADE)
Dr. Marsha A. Pyle (ADEA)
Dr. Stephen T. Radack, III (ADA)
Mr. Zeno W. St. Cyr, II (Public)
Dr. Jonathan Schutze (ADA)
Dr. J. Stephen Sill (AADE)
Dr. Andrew Spielman (ADEA)
Mr. Wayne Stephens (ASDA)
Dr. Samuel A. Trinca (AADE)