



## April 2023 Board Meeting Executive Summary

The ACVIM Board of Regents met at the end of April. Below is a summary of items that were discussed for which we invite your input. We hope to see many of you at the upcoming Forum. However, to those not able to attend in person, or if we aren't able to connect during the week, please share any feedback with us at [Membership@ACVIM.org](mailto:Membership@ACVIM.org).

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### Residency Training Program Requirements

#### *RTP Oversight Task Force – Preliminary Data Review*

Dr. Lynn Guptill, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (SAIM), Chair of the Residency Training Program (RTP) Task Force shared findings from a recent survey of ACVIM candidates and mentors. This is a continuation of the work of the IOCART Task Force (2013-2015).

The preliminary analysis described resident and mentor perspectives on 1) roadblocks to achieving board certification, 2) the most challenging RTP requirements, and 3) the support and resources that programs provide for residents. A more in depth data analysis will include correlations between survey results and variables such as exam pass rates, program attrition, and certification completion.

The Task Force will meet monthly to review the findings from this ongoing analysis, and to develop a membership communication plan. The Task Force expects to make final recommendations for the ongoing improvement and oversight of credentials and residency training within the coming year.

#### *AAVMC Guidelines*

The Board reviewed and discussed the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) Intern & Resident Wellbeing Guidelines. The Board solicited feedback on the advantages and barriers to implementing these guidelines from ACVIM Specialty Presidents and Residency Training Committee Chairs (RTCCs). The [Board affirmed the organization's support](#) of these guidelines and emphasized its commitment to supporting wellbeing for all members of an educational team, including residents, supervising Diplomates, and support staff.

#### *Future of Training*

It has been several years since ACVIM training requirements underwent a holistic, comprehensive review. Now that the governance restructure has taken place and examination

redesign is well underway, the next phase in our commitment to continuous improvement will focus on residency training. The Board of Regents will work with committee and task force chairs to co-create a vision for this work. Central to this effort will be our commitment to resident and Diplomate wellbeing and preserving critical elements of our existing residency training design. This will be a significant effort and will require the input and guidance from all ACVIM members. This work will begin toward the end of 2023 and will continue for 18-24 months.

## **Specialist Shortage Summit**

The Board [reviewed the output](#) from a recent collaborative event, during which representatives from academia, private practice, certifying associations, and industry gathered to address the shortage of veterinary specialists. The group discussed intricacies fueling the problem, and continued collaboration was seen as imperative to this issue. A coalition of interested stakeholder groups will be meeting monthly to address this topic, as well as other areas that are of shared concern to the veterinary specialist community.

## **2024 Priorities**

The Board meeting concluded with recommendations for the following 2024 priorities. The list below\* will inform the development of a 2024 Scope of Work and corresponding budget:

- Optimize the residency training experience for all members of the educational team.
- Strengthen the coalition of veterinary specialty colleges and affiliated organizations.
- Define and explore mechanisms to engage and provide professional development for paraprofessionals, particularly veterinary specialty technicians, in areas of our shared missions and interests.
- Expand the portfolio of educational offerings of interest to ACVIM members and candidates.
- Modernize ACVIM technology platforms, including the candidate and program tracking platform, learning management system, and central member database.
- Define and implement an ACVIM Endorsed Statement Program.
- Continue to promote the unique value of veterinary specialists to animal owners and DVMs.

These priorities are in addition to the broad scope of activities described in the [2023 Scope of Work](#), including such items as the launch of the Fellowship Program, formation of the Certification Council, expansion of member benefits, and growth of our ACE program offerings. The Board and ACVIM staff will work with the various committees that lead these efforts to define specific tactics and plans. The 2023 Scope of Work will then be revised for 2024 to include these activities.

*\*Not in order of priority*