

**Unofficial Report of Major Actions  
Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations  
June 26, 2019**

The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) met at the American Dental Association (ADA) headquarters on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 and took the following actions:

1. Approved the 2020 budget proposal, proposed research and development activities for 2019 and 2020, and 2020 proposed candidate examination fees. The JCNDE recommended 2020 examination fees as follows:
  - National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) Part I: \$445
  - NBDE Part II: \$490
  - Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) \$680
  - National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE): \$455
  - Processing fee for candidates from non-accredited institutions: \$210
  - Score report request fee (additional reports): \$45.
2. Approved actions and reviewed progress in support of the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) and its implementation, including the following:
  - Approved changes to the INBDE retest policy. Candidates must wait a minimum of 90 days between unsuccessful test attempts. After their third failed attempt, candidates must wait one year before they can retest on the INBDE. The JCNDE will review this policy again in 2021.
  - Directed that information be shared with dental school deans and administrators, to help schools prepare students who begin dental school in 2017, 2018 and 2019 regarding which examination they should take, and the appropriate timeline for attempting the INBDE, or the Part I and Part II examination sequence.
  - Directed staff to secure an external consultant to plan and facilitate standard setting activities for the INBDE. Standard setting activities are used to help establish the minimum performance level required to pass a test.
3. Reaffirmed the Joint Commission's commitment to the quality and validity of all National Board Examinations (NBEs) (NBDE Part, NBDE Part II, INBDE, and the NBDHE). This includes review and/or approval of the following:
  - Reviewed examination failure rates for all NBE programs. The JCNDE noted that—subsequent to the implementation of new passing standards for all the NBEs in 2016 and 2017—failure rates continue to remain high for the NBDE Part I, but decreased in 2018 for the NBDE Part I and NBDHE.
  - Individuals submitting images for use on the NBEs are required to forfeit the use of these images in lectures, presentations, social media, and continuing education materials.
  - Directed staff to implement an enhanced NBDHE results report for candidates who fail the examination.
  - Directed staff to evaluate multistage adaptive testing (MST) for the NBDHE. MST involves routing candidates through blocks of test questions based on candidate performance, to more efficiently and effectively identify candidate skill levels. Staff will investigate the feasibility of this approach, considering factors such as the risks, benefits, and costs of implementation.
  - Reappointment of current NBE test constructors, and selection of new test constructors for the 2020 test constructor pool.

- Dental Subject Matter Experts who have completed five (5) years of service in a Dental Test Constructor Pool may reapply and be considered for re-approval into the pool.
  - Dental Hygiene Subject Matter Experts who have completed three (3) years of service in the Dental Hygiene Test Constructor Pool may reapply and be considered for re-approval into the pool.
  - Acceptance of the following which are used to monitor operational activity and report on the quality and performance of National Board Examinations:
    - National Board Dental Examinations Technical Report
    - National Board Dental Hygiene Examination Technical Report
    - Trends in Candidate Performance Report
    - Quality of Recent Examinations Report
    - National Board Examination Guides
4. Pursued efforts in support of the strategic direction of the Joint Commission. This includes the following:
- Supported ADA efforts to pursue best practices in Commission governance, including efforts to reduce conflicts of interest as Commissions pursue their program duties as indicated in the ADA *Bylaws*. A set of corresponding provisions will go before the ADA House of Delegates in September 2019.
  - Reflected on the proposed governance changes and the JCNDE's newly approved (December 2018) Mission and Vision:
    - **Mission:** Protecting public health through valid, reliable and fair assessments of knowledge, skills, and abilities to inform licensure and certification decisions that help ensure safe and effective patient care by qualified oral healthcare team members.
    - **Vision:** The JCNDE is the nation's leading resource for supporting standards of oral healthcare professionals through valid, reliable and fair assessments for licensure and certification.
  - Established a new standing committee of the JCNDE: the Committee on Communications and Stakeholder Engagement. This Committee will undertake activities to help ensure JCNDE communications are strategic, informative, timely, relevant, and considerate of the communication needs of external stakeholders. It will meet on an annual basis and be composed of the following:
    - One (1) Commissioner originally appointed to the JCNDE by AADB
    - One (1) Commissioner originally appointed to the JCNDE by ADA
    - One (1) Commissioner originally appointed to the JCNDE by ADEA
    - One (1) Commissioner originally appointed to the JCNDE by ADHA
    - One (1) Commissioner originally appointed to the JCNDE by ASDA
    - The JCNDE Public Member
    - The JCNDE Chair
    - The JCNDE Vice Chair
  - Directed staff to develop surveys that could be administered to stakeholders to understand the effectiveness of JCNDE communications activities.
  - Approved changing the name of the National Dental Examiners' Advisory Forum (NDEAF) to the State Dental Board Forum (SDBF), to better reflect the target audience.
5. Dr. Cataldo Leone will serve as JCNDE Chair for the 2019-2020 term. The JCNDE also elected Dr. K. "Ragu" Ragunathan to serve as Vice Chair during the aforementioned

term. Their service in these roles will begin in September of 2019, at the conclusion of the ADA House of Delegates meeting.

6. Successfully convened the National Dental Examiners' Advisory Forum (NDEAF) directly before the meeting of the JCNDE. NDEAF included both in-person and remote participants from the dental and dental hygiene communities, with remote participation occurring via conference call.
7. The next annual meetings of the JCNDE will be held on June 23, 2020 and June 23, 2021. The annual State Dental Board Forum (SDBF) will occur on these same two days, directly preceding the meeting of the JCNDE.

Dr. William F. Robinson (AADB), Chair  
Dr. Cataldo W. Leone (ADEA), Vice Chair  
Ms. Joanna Allaire (ADHA)  
Dr. Cheryl D. Haley (ADA)  
Dr. Roy L. Irons (AADB)  
Dr. Jeffrey Kerst (ASDA)  
Dr. Michael E. King (ADA)  
Dr. Frank A. Maggio (AADB)  
Dr. Nader A. Nadershahi (ADEA)  
Dr. K. "Ragu" Ragunathan (ADA)  
Dr. R. Michael 'Mike' Sanders (AADB)  
Dr. Wesley Delaine Thomas (AADB)  
Dr. Leonard P. Weiss (AADB)  
Dr. Douglas Wilson (Public Member)  
Dr. Joseph Zambon (ADEA)

Dr. Linda K. Himmelberger, ADA Board  
Liaison  
Mr. Brandon Rensch, ASDA Student Observer