CANDIDATE PREPARATION INFORMATION

2019 ACVIM ONCOLOGY SPECIALTY EXAMINATION

The information below is provided to help you prepare for the Specialty Examination in Oncology in June 2019. Included in this document is general information regarding:

- Examination structure, schedule (date, time, and location), and scoring
- Use of foreign language (translational) dictionaries
- Examination Preparation (question distribution and suggested reading list)

STRUCTURE OF THE EXAMINATION

The Oncology Specialty Examination consists of two major sections:

1. **Basic Science** - 150 standard multiple-choice questions that will cover aspects of basic science relevant to oncology.
2. **Applied Clinical** - 270 multiple-choice questions that will cover aspects of applied science relevant to oncology. Some questions in both parts may consist of multi-testing points, but all questions have only one correct answer.
   - **Part A/Multiple Choice** - will consist of 150 multiple-choice questions.
   - **Part B/Clinical Decision Making** - will consist of 120 multiple-choice questions. Questions in the second part will be arranged in groups of 1-5 that center on an important cancer type or treatment modality. Answers to each of the questions can stand alone and do not necessitate correctly answering the previous or following question.

SCHEDULE OF THE EXAMINATION

Cell phones, PDAs, cameras, or any other electronic devices will not be allowed in the examination rooms. If you do bring them in, they must be turned off and placed at designated location away from the exam tables, as directed by the College staff and/or examination proctors. Such storage will be done at your own risk.

There are two mandatory requirements in place for candidates sitting any ACVIM Examinations:

1. All candidates must show a picture ID when signing-in at the exam.
2. All candidates must show proof of payment in the form of an ACVIM receipt when signing-in at the exam. (If you have lost or misplaced your receipt, please visit your candidate dashboard, click the transaction history link then reprint the applicable receipt (paid invoice))
*Please be in the exam room 15 minutes prior to the start of the exam. All room assignments are subject to change.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>SECTION</th>
<th>ROOM/LOCATION</th>
<th>TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, June 2, 2019</td>
<td>Oncology: Applied Clinical: Part A/ Multiple Choice</td>
<td>Sheraton Grand Phoenix Phoenix, AZ Room: TBD</td>
<td>8:00 am - 12:00 pm (4 hours duration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oncology: Applied Clinical: Part B/Clinical Decision Making</td>
<td>Sheraton Grand Phoenix Phoenix, AZ Room: TBD</td>
<td>1:00 pm - 5:00 pm (4 hours duration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, June 3, 2019</td>
<td>Oncology: Basic Science/ Multiple Choice</td>
<td>Sheraton Grand Phoenix Phoenix, AZ Room: TBD</td>
<td>8:00 am - 12:00 pm (4 hours in duration)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any answers indicated in test booklet will NOT be accepted in lieu of a completed scan sheet.

**NOTE:** Due to the nature of this examination, each section will be administered at the posted time and place ONLY. The examination administrators will do everything possible to ensure that a candidate is taking the correct section(s) of the exam, but ultimately it is the candidate’s responsibility to report to the appropriate session(s) to take this examination. No make-up examinations or examinations at other sites will be considered.

**EXAMINATION SCORING:**
Candidates must pass both sections (Basic Science & Applied Clinical) of the Oncology Specialty Examination. The Applied Clinical section, parts A & B, will be graded together as a single section. If a candidate fails the Applied Clinical section, they must retake both parts A & B during a subsequent examination. Pass points are determined based on the minimal level of competence as determined by ACVIM Rating Committee, not on the basis of the curve of the candidates’ performance.

**USE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE (TRANSLATIONAL) DICTIONARIES:**
Candidates with English as a second language are permitted to use a foreign language (translational) dictionary during the examination provided that they request this by filling out the dictionary request form at the time that they submit their exam registration documents (February 1). They will then be contacted by the ACVIM staff to arrange for an appropriate dictionary to be purchased for use in the examination on their behalf. The dictionary will be made available for them to use during the examination in June, and must be returned to the examination proctors at the conclusion of each test subsection. Candidates must refrain from writing in these dictionaries; hand-written notes may be considered grounds for dismissal from the remaining sections of the examination as evidence of cheating.

**MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTION TOPIC DISTRIBUTION (APPROXIMATE)**
Percentage ranges of items across the major content domains. Every effort will be made to ensure the following percentages remain accurate; however, due to item performance, some slight fluctuation may be necessary in the final scoring of the exam.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Science:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cancer Biology and Genetics</td>
<td>35-37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumor Immunology</td>
<td>9-11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carcinogenesis</td>
<td>7-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemotherapy (Basic)</td>
<td>20-23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiation Therapy (Basic)</td>
<td>5-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological and Targeted Therapies</td>
<td>9-11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Therapies</td>
<td>1-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
<td>1-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer Imaging</td>
<td>2-4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathology and Laboratory Medicine</td>
<td>1-3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applied Clinical:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part A:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumor Type: Biologic Behaviors, Diagnoses, Treatments, Prognoses</td>
<td>56-58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Animal/Equine Cancers</td>
<td>1-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exotic Animal Cancers</td>
<td>0-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraneoplastic Syndromes</td>
<td>3-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical Oncology</td>
<td>2-4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemotherapy (Applied)</td>
<td>12-14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiation Therapy (Applied)</td>
<td>3-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Therapies/Supportive Care</td>
<td>1-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathology and Laboratory Medicine</td>
<td>7-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Trials and Statistics</td>
<td>3-5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Decision Making:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part B:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrenal</td>
<td>1-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anal Sac ACA</td>
<td>2-4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone tumor</td>
<td>3-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac</td>
<td>1-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemotherapy</td>
<td>0-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNS</td>
<td>3-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exotic</td>
<td>1-3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All questions included on the examination are referenced from one or more items included on this list. The reference list is divided into categories to help make the list more manageable and to help you prioritize your study time. Please be aware, though, that the categories do not represent the proportionate use of the references when we wrote the examination.

We have included a short list of supplemental articles that the committee feels each candidate should read. The articles listed separately were suggested by oncologists throughout the college, and represent either older articles containing important information that is still relevant but not covered adequately in the more recent literature or textbooks, or seminal articles published in journals not included on the reading list. If you do not have access to one or more of the articles on the list, please contact the committee chair directly so that a copy may be provided to you while honoring copyright law.
EXAMINATION PREPARATION
The examination committee has the prerogative to change the examination to any degree that is appropriate, from no changes to a complete replacement of the examination. In a typical year the examination will change by no more than 30%.

Suggested Reading List
Group 1 Textbooks:
The following texts are essential to provide a detailed knowledge base in oncology.


Group 2 Textbooks:
The following texts may have more detail and different perspectives on important oncologic topics, or contain specialized information that is not available elsewhere and may be complementary to Group 1.

Ogilvie & Moore: Feline Oncology. (2001)

Literature:
Candidates are expected to have a good working knowledge of veterinary oncology literature. Publications containing material not yet available in textbooks are especially important. Each journal listed below should be reviewed for relevant articles from 2008 until November, 2018. Both print and online journal versions should be reviewed (including early view):

- Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine
- Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association
- American Journal of Veterinary Research
- Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery
- Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association
- Veterinary Clinical Pathology
- Journal of Comparative Pathology
Candidates are responsible for relevant articles published in non-veterinary journals and review articles discussing major concepts in cancer biology and general therapeutic strategies. This list is not exhaustive.

- Nature
- Cell
- Science
- Cancer
- New England Journal of Medicine
- Clinical Cancer Research
- Nature Reviews: Cancer
- Cancer Research
- Cancer Chemotherapy and Pharmacology
- PLoS Journals
- BMC (Biomed Central) Journals
  - Genomics
  - Cancer
  - Genetics
  - Molecular Cancer
- Cancer Immunology/Immunotherapy
- Clinical and Experimental Metastasis
- Oncogene
- Mammalian Genome
- Cancer Gene Therapy

**Supplemental reading list**


2019 ONCOLOGY SPECIALTY EXAM COMMITTEE

If you have further questions after reviewing this letter, you may contact any of the examination committee members via email for further clarification; this ensures an appropriate record can be maintained.

Oncology Specialty Examination Committee members:
Dr. Brian Flesner, University of Missouri – Chair (flesnerb@missouri.edu)
Dr. Mary Lynn Higginbotham, Kansas State University – Co-Chair (mhigginb@vet.k-state.edu)
Dr. Kimberly Wirth, Wisconsin Veterinary Referral Center (kwirthdvm@gmail.com)
Dr. Angela McCleary-Wheeler, University of Missouri (mcclearywheeler@missouri.edu)
Dr. Claire Cannon, University of Melbourne (claire.cannon@unimelb.edu.au)
Dr. Antonella Borgatti, University of Minnesota (borgatti@umn.edu)

Study hard and best of luck! See you in June!