

## Welcome to the NCVEI Update!

*This is the first in an ongoing series of reports that will appear bimonthly in the JAVMA and AAHA's TRENDS magazine.*

Few events emerge that have the opportunity to profoundly impact our work and our lives. One such event was the 1999 release of the 12-month KPMG LLP study, "The Current and Future Market for Veterinarians and Veterinary Medical Services in the United States" (also known as the *Megastudy*). This 750+ page document has become the catalyst for what should prove to be nothing short of a revolution in the veterinary profession and related animal health industries. *Are you ready?*

### First Things First:

#### What the Megastudy Is ... and Is Not

The study's comprehensive look at the economic health and long-term future of veterinary medicine discloses compelling evidence for change. It confirmed many of the critical economic issues we believed existed and raised new issues that we had not iden-

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### NCVEI MISSION STATEMENT:

To improve the economic base of the veterinary profession, ensuring that the delivery of veterinary care and service meets the needs of society.

tified. It also brings to light unique growth opportunities for the profession, along with challenges that must be addressed. We consider the results of the study to be a firm "Call to Action" and the impetus for all aspects of the profession to engage in meaningful dialog that will lead to the best strategies for addressing the issues and opportunities.

The study is *not* the be-all, end-all, final word for the future of the profession. Its findings have, however, sparked new questions and identified (or, in some cases, confirmed) many critical issues that warrant further exploration.

### NCVEI Comes to Life: Moving Forward

Given the work that lies ahead, the boards of the original commissioners of the study, AVMA, AAHA, and AAVMC, have established an independent not-for-profit corporation, the National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues (NCVEI) to spearhead the mission of improving the economic base of the profession. With your help, the NCVEI will research, develop, and implement effective strategies to help ensure the future relevance, responsiveness, and economic health of our profession.

Input is sought from all areas of the profession to ensure the success of the commission's work. The NCVEI will work closely with all key consti-

ties to further sort through and explore the issues. In addition, we will form advisory panels and task forces to address specific issues and provide future direction. Forums will take place at national veterinary meetings to provide an avenue for member input throughout the various stages of the commission's work.

### Every Member Can Make a Difference

You have a vested interest in the work of the NCVEI; it is only through your input, observation, and concern that the commission will help drive positive change. We strongly urge all veterinarians to become familiar with the report's findings by reading one of versions of the study (print and CD-ROM versions are available now and an abridged print version will be available soon.) Then, please take the time to share your comments by contacting members of the board or Dr. Janet Donlin, NCVEI Interim Chief Executive Officer, at 800/248-2862, ext. 283; e-mail: [jdonlin@avma.org](mailto:jdonlin@avma.org).

### Keeping You Informed

Articles in both *JAVMA* and *TRENDS magazine* will keep members involved in the commission's activities over its projected five-year lifetime. Reports on subjects relating to current economic issues will also be published in an effort to broaden everyone's understanding of the challenges and opportunities we face. We look for your input and your support as we tackle the issues impacting our future with determination and purpose.

*Look for the article "Is there an Oversupply of Veterinarians?" in the next NCVEI Update which will appear in the June 1 issue of JAVMA and the June/July issue of AAHA's TRENDS magazine.*