

**Dr. Robert McLearn**  
**2015 Distinguished Service Award Nomination**

**The ACVR's first Examination Director**

ACVR Board Certification Examination Reform

*Preliminary Exam*

Revised Objectives, replaced prior 6-section exam objectives with more numerous and better defined categories.

Examination format went to multiple-choice.

Transitioned from a 2-day, 6-section examination to an all inclusive 3-part, 1-day examination.

Engaged the services of a professional testing service

Used industry accepted criteria for writing and evaluating test questions

Entered existing test questions into data bank, establishing a repository of test questions

Developed a benchmark, criterion-based test allowing solid and defensible examination statistics.

Incorporated the use of a psychometrician for analysis of examination results.

*Certifying Examination*

Developed standardized grading format, grading sheet.

Transitioned from view box and film examination to computer-based exam.

Tested image viewer software vs. PowerPoint format.

**ACVR Treasurer**

Modernized ACVR bookkeeping practices and reporting

Oversaw, managed, implemented new practices during phenomenal financial growth of the ACVR

Addressed ACVR tax-exempt status through work with IRS, tax lawyers, accountants.

Recognized conflict of interest with then-established ACVR Treasurer practices, resulting in newly established procedures and oversight for the Treasurer position

Accountant position added as part of office reform.

**ACVR Treasurer and Webmaster**

Synergistic relationship with Dr. Tom Nyland. Together, these 2 have worked tirelessly on every aspect of the computer-side of our College.

August 9, 2015

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Dr. Wm. Tod Drost, ACVR Executive Director  
Dr. Elizabeth Watson, ACVR President  
777 E. Park Drive  
PO Box 8820  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8820

Re: Distinguished Service Award, Dr. Rob McLear

Dear Dr. Drost, Dr. Watson, and ACVR Executive Council:

It is with great pride that I nominate Dr. Robert McLear for the American College of Veterinary Radiology Distinguished Service Award. Dr. McLear's achievements and service to the ACVR over the past decade define the spirit of this award.

Rob has been actively involved in ACVR administration from the very beginning of his Diplomate years, itself a remarkable note. Rob stepped up to become our Treasurer, a position he held for 10 years. During this time, he completely transformed the position into the modern age of efficiency. Everyone in Council immediately recognized his vision and understanding of bookkeeping efficiency; no longer did we have page upon page of data to digest. Rob's reports were simple but effective. Rob recognized and proactively addressed the importance of our tax-exempt status, establishing relationships with tax accountants and lawyers. During his tenure, our College has grown from "fear of bankruptcy" to a financially solid College (some can recall the worries of available cash when organizing our annual scientific meeting sites and the worry about money-losing conferences!). It was through Rob's diligence that it was recognized that some operations within the position were in conflict with sound bookkeeping and controller practices. The result is the ACVR has now established a more robust system of financial management, with Dr. Ron Burk as Treasurer and Accountant Jeanette Donahue.

The ACVR has been fortunate to have solid and dedicated leadership in the Treasurer position since our inception. While not to diminish the contribution of prior Treasurers, Dr. McLear's leadership has taken us to an entirely different level of operation and financial security.

To me personally, Dr. McLear's contribution to the ACVR Board Certification Examination is his most notable accomplishment. Dr. McLear was the first Examination Director, and along with Dr. Ian Robertson, the exam was transformed to a much more consistent and defensible standard. The Preliminary Examination Objectives were revised and categorized. The Preliminary Examination was placed under the operation of ExamDesign, a huge undertaking, but an essential one, allowing new standards of question development, assessment, and examination presentation. The Preliminary Examination was transformed from a multi-format multi-section examination to a multiple choice single section exercise. Most

importantly, statistical analysis was now possible, with a benchmark standard established that allowed phenomenal consistency in examination results from year to year. Yes, the ACVR had entered the era of utilizing psychometric analysis.

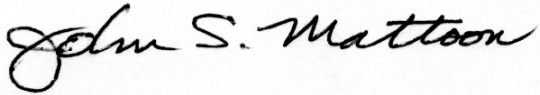
The Certification Examination also underwent extensive refinement. Objectives were simplified, standard grading sheets were developed. The examination became computer-based, view boxes and film now a relic of the past. Experimentation with workstation viewers vs. PowerPoint administration took place, as did open verbal assessment format and multiple-choice styles of examination. All of these events have phenomenal importance as the Examination undergoes further refinement to an entirely computer-based process.

Another aspect of Rob's contribution that I would like recognized is his work with our website and everything to do with the ACVR's transition to an electronic era, in tandem with Dr. Tom Nyland, ACVR Webmaster. Rob and Tom have worked seamlessly over the past decade and have been responsible for nearly every aspect of the computer side of ACVR business. What a team!

In short summary, Dr. McLear hit the ground running as an ACVR Diplomate. His contributions to the ACVR are clearly a level beyond anyone's expectations. Rob has been a delight to work with, always showing a clear-headed and sensible thought process in the many facets of his ACVR involvement. Always contributory and only occasionally controversial, his ability to digest topics and issues, develop sound reasoning, and articulate meaningful discussion was truly remarkable. He was a stalwart among Councilors. I know how much he has helped me over the years and I recognize that is only a small part of his contributory service to the ACVR. His "retirement" from ACVR administration will be missed by all.

It with great pleasure and honor that I nominate Dr. Robert McLear for the 2015 ACVR Distinguished Service Award.

Most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John S. Mattoon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly prominent.

John S. Mattoon, DVM, Dipl. ACVR  
ACVR Examination Director

August 11, 2015

**TO:** Dr. Wm. Tod Drost, Executive Director, Dr. Elizabeth Watson, ACVR President and ACVR Executive Council

**FROM:** Dr. Tom Nyland, ACVR Webmaster/Secretary

**RE:** ACVR Distinguished Service Award nomination for Dr. Rob McLearn.

I am very pleased to provide a letter of support for the nomination of Dr. Rob McLearn for the ACVR Distinguished Service Award. In my opinion, no one is more deserving of this award than Dr. McLearn. Dr. John Mattoon has eloquently detailed Dr. McLearn's many accomplishments in his nomination letter; therefore, although it will be difficult, I will try to keep my comments to one page!

Rob became a Diplomate in 2000 and took over as ACVR Treasurer in 2002. He served as Treasurer for 12 years until he stepped down in 2014. During his outstanding service as Treasurer, he computerized all aspects of the bookkeeping and investment activities and put the ACVR on unprecedented financial footing. This allowed the ACVR to support the many administrative, grant, website, and meeting functions we have today.

While serving as Treasurer, Rob also served for several years as Radiology Examination Director. In this newly created position, he oversaw transition of all phases of the Preliminary and Certifying Examinations into the modern computer age. Defensible standards were developed for the objectives, question design and analysis. The Preliminary and Certifying Examinations now truly measure a candidate's knowledge with justifiable methods.

In addition to his many duties as Treasurer and Examination Director, Rob became the Assistant Webmaster shortly after becoming a Diplomate in 2002. In 2005, we moved the server from UC Davis to Rob's house where our website was hosted until 2012. He supervised server maintenance as well as performed a number of important duties as Assistant Webmaster. I remember Rob working his magic to keep our website online through several power outages. I asked him if he was using a bicycle generator to keep us operational! One of Rob's outstanding accomplishments during this period was to help integrate a Filemaker Pro database with our website. This allowed us to develop an online Directory and other record keeping activities such as contact information, dues, residency dates/institutions, certification dates and meeting attendance that were available centrally using a web interface.

In 2012 our new website was built and Rob has continued his Assistant Webmaster duties by overseeing our mailing lists (listserve), surveys and votes via SurveyMonkey, DICOM server, and the ACVR File Share capability. These are technically difficult jobs that Rob seemingly performs with ease. Rob has also helped integrate the financial aspects of the Treasurer duties with the website. This includes using 123Signup for dues collection and meeting registration and PayPal for payment of job listings, mail labels, Diplomate brochures, and Nuclear Medicine textbook orders.

As you can see, Rob has worn many "hats" simultaneously in his service to the ACVR during his short 13 years as a Diplomate. His contributions and value to the ACVR are truly understated in this brief letter. I enthusiastically and unequivocally support Dr. Rob McLearn's nomination for the ACVR Distinguished Service Award!

Department of Molecular Biomedical Sciences  
1060 William Moore Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
919.513.6453 (departmental faculty)  
919.513.6454  
919.513.6220 (departmental office)  
919.513.6465 (fax)

August 11, 2015

ACVR Executive Director  
ACVR President  
777 E. Park Drive  
PO Box 8820  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8820

Dear Drs. Drost and Watson, and ACVR Executive Council,

Re: Distinguished Service Award nomination.

I have much pleasure in supporting the nomination of Dr. Robert McLearn for the American College of Veterinary Radiology, Distinguished Service Award.

Rob became actively involved in ACVR administration soon after becoming a diplomate, taking on the role of treasurer in 2002, a position he held for 10 years. During this time, significant changes were made to streamline finances and improve administrative efficiency. I was a member of the executive council when Rob started his tenure as treasurer and it was immediately apparent that he had a sound grasp of the important issues facing council, and not just those pertaining to finance. Rob made significant improvements to the college's accounting systems and investment strategies and recognized the importance of maintaining our tax-exempt status, ensuring our annual returns complied with all IRS requirements. Additionally, he ensured the processes put in place were transparent and in accordance with sound, modern accounting principles. Currently, the ACVR has robust financial management systems and is in an exceptionally strong position financially. This is due, at least in part, to the insight, systems and important checks and balances, instigated by Rob.

In addition to his contributions as treasurer, Rob made enormous contributions to modernizing the ACVR examination process and in 2008, became the first examination director. I worked closely with Rob in my role on the exam committee and as assistant chair and co-chair during that time. The initial impetus was to make the preliminary exam a consistent and defensible standard. The exam objectives were completely revised and categorized and the exam converted to multiple choice. The schedule of the exam was changed and the preliminary examination was placed under the operation of ExamDesign. This allowed new standards of question development, examination presentation and importantly, question and exam performance analysis. Later, the preliminary examination was transformed from a multi-format multi-section examination to a multiple choice single section presentation. These changes have resulted in an exam with high reliability and consistency.

The Certification Examination also underwent extensive refinement. Objectives were simplified and standard grading sheets were developed. The examination is now presented via computer rather than light boxes and, given the grading scheme, is somewhat more defensible than in the past.

Behind the scenes, Rob worked tirelessly with Tom Nyland to enhance our presence on the web and to improve online resources for diplomates and trainees. The enormous effort to enhance and maintain the college website goes largely unnoticed by diplomates.

Rob has contributed significantly to the ACVR and his efforts clearly exceed reasonable expectations for service. Rob has been a pleasure to work with, always bringing sound reasoning and thoughtful comment to any discussion. He provided leadership at a vital point in the evolution of the college, creating critical administrative infrastructure that is better able to support our rapidly growing membership, now and in the future.

It with great pleasure and honor that I support the nomination of Dr. Robert McLear for the 2015 ACVR Distinguished Service Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Robertson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ian Robertson  
Clinical Professor, Dept Molecular Biomedical Sciences  
Radiology Service Chief, NC State Veterinary Hospital  
1052 William Moore Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27607

919 513 6335  
ian\_robertson@ncsu.edu