

NEITZ, WILHELM OTTO DANIEL MARTIN : (November 17, 1906, Potgietersrus, South Africa – August 18, 1979, Pretoria, South Africa *Veterinarian; Protozoology; Virology*. Son of Johannes Heinrich Christian Wilhelm Neitz and Magdalena Bertha Elwine (née Meyer) Neitz. Unmarried.

EDUCATION : Pretoria University, Faculty of Veterinary Science, 1929, BVSc and 1945, DVSc.

CAREER : 1930 – 1971, research veterinarian at Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute; 1948 – 1957, part time professor of protozoology and virology, Veterinary Faculty of University of Pretoria; 1958 – 1968, part time professor of protozoology at same faculty; 1972 – 1979, visiting professor, Universidade Federale do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; 1944 – President of South African Biological Society; 1956, Expert Panel on Tick-borne Diseases, FAO/OIE; 1968, convener of discussion on ovine and caprine rickettsial diseases at OIE meeting, Paris; 1962 – 1969, editor of Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research; 1960's, visiting professor at Free University, West Berlin, Germany.

CONTRIBUTIONS : As research officer at Onderstepoort, identified plurality of bluetongue strains, thus explaining immunological failures and forming scientific basis of current polyvalent live vaccine. Whilst investigating various forms of tick toxicoses, discovered that enigmatic disease of calves known as sweating sickness is caused by bite of Hyalomma truncatum ticks. Internationally recognised as research expert on theileriosis, inter alia on account of the identification and description of Theileria parva lawencei the cause of “buffalo disease” / “corridor disease”, and pioneering studies on theileriosis in antelopes. Discovered first chemotherapeutic cure for heartwater (cowdriosis) of ruminants in form of sulphonamides, the first use of this drug against rickettsial infections of animals and humans; subsequently developed infection and cure method of immunisation against heartwater. Discovered that development of macroschizonts of Theileria parva parva is suppressed by tetracyclines which led to infection and cure method of immunisation against T p parva and T p lawencei by other researchers.

HOMAGES AND DISTINCTIONS : Awarded the following: 1954, Senior Captain Scott Medal of South African Biological Society; 1957, “Havenga-prys vir Geneeskunde” of “Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns”; 1963, Dr Vet. Med. honoris causa by Tierärztliche Hochschule, Hannover, Germany; 1970, South Africa Medal for 1970 of South African Association for the Advancement of Science; 1971, Gold Medal of South African Veterinary Association; 1975, Elsdon-Dew Medal of Parasitological Society of Southern Africa.

WRITINGS : Author or co-author of 133 scientific publications up to 1971 – no published reference available; Die Wirkung von Uleron auf das Herzwasser (*Rickettsia ruminantium*) der Schafe. *Berliner und Münchner tierärztliche Wochenschrift* (1939), 134 – 140; Aureomycin in *Theileria parva* infection. *Nature, London* (1943) 171, 34; Immunological studies on bluetongue in sheep. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary*

Science and Animal Industry (1948), 22, 93 – 136; *Hyalomma transiens* Schulze : A vector of sweating sickness. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association* (1954) 25, 19 – 20; Corridor disease : A fatal form of bovine theileriosis encountered in Zululand, *Bulletin of Epizootic Diseases of Africa* (1955) 3, 121 – 123; A consolidation of our knowledge of the transmission of tick-borne diseases. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research* (1956) 27, 115 – 163; Theileriosis, Gonderiosis and Cytauxzoonosis : A review. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research* (1957) 27, 275 – 430; A check list and host list of the zoonoses occurring in mammals and birds in South and South West Africa. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research* (1965) 32, 189 – 374.

REFERENCES / OBITUARIES : R. D. Bigalke, 1980. In Memoriam : Prof Dr W. O. Neitz. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association*, 51, 125 - 126.

R D BIGALKE