



From the desk of the Dean

As is the case with any other year, the year 2001 has had its ups and its downs. This year has been one characterised by a certain amount of pressure on the veterinary profession, and specifically on the Veterinary Faculty.

Changing times and particularly the constraints of limited resources that are available to fund what is internationally the most expensive programme offered by universities, have had their effects. The most important of these are, no doubt, the changes to the curriculum and the many and varied arguments pertaining to the number of CI personnel to which the Faculty has the right in terms of the funding formulae of Government and the University.

Both of these matters will have profound effects on the Faculty and on the activities that can be sustained by the different departments and the disciplines that underpin the training and research programmes of the Faculty.

Senate and the University Council approved the 3+4 curriculum and its academic content earlier this year. The joint interim committee of the Council for Higher Education (CHE) and the South African Veterinary Council (for registration purposes) have also approved the new curriculum. The CHE has forwarded the approved curriculum to the National Department of Education for funding. The new curriculum has thus been approved by all the formal structures required to do so, and the Faculty can now proceed with plans to implement the new curriculum in 2003. I have no doubt that, in spite of the misgivings of some colleagues, the new curriculum will have a number of distinct advantages over the

current 1+5 model. It will ensure a markedly increased income for the University that can be utilised to reduce the current deficit in the funding of veterinary training. It should increase the flow of basic science postgraduate students registering in the Faculty. Furthermore it will increase the exposure of new veterinary students to molecular biology, biotechnology and to agricultural sciences. I believe that the new curriculum is an improvement on the current 1+5 curriculum and that it should increase the quality and standard of the training of veterinarians. It also has the advantage of having increased the number of entry and exit levels - a matter that has been the topic of debate for many years.

The other matter that has been settled recently is the number of CI posts that has been approved for the Faculty. Based on current activities and the increase in student intake, it has been agreed that a sufficient amount of money would be allocated to the Faculty to maintain its CI staff complement at 100 academic members (not 100 FTEs). I am personally very pleased about this since it is very close to the number of staff members required by the individual departments to sustain their training and research programmes. Finalising this matter, which was most likely one of the major causes of uncertainty by members of staff, should aid to bring a sense of stability into the Faculty. It is also important since the numbers of C2 and C3 posts that are dependent on the number and activities of the CI personnel, can now be finalised. I trust that this too will help to settle a period of prolonged instability and allow us to pursue, without interruption, the primary objectives of the Faculty.

The good performance by the undergraduate students in the veterinary and nursing programmes, the successes of our postgraduate students and those that successfully completed foreign specialisation examinations, auger well for the future. With the aid of the strategic plan to stimulate research and postgraduate programmes in the Faculty, I am looking forward to increasing outputs by Faculty members and a markedly improved state of mind that will allow us to conduct our affairs at the level of excellence of which we are capable.

To each one of you I wish to extend a word of thanks and appreciation for your contribution to the successes achieved in the Faculty during the course of the year. A merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year to you and your loved ones. Enjoy the break and travel safely to wherever you may go. I am looking forward to seeing you in the New Year - we have lots to do for veterinary science in South Africa.

Prof Niek Kriek,
Dean

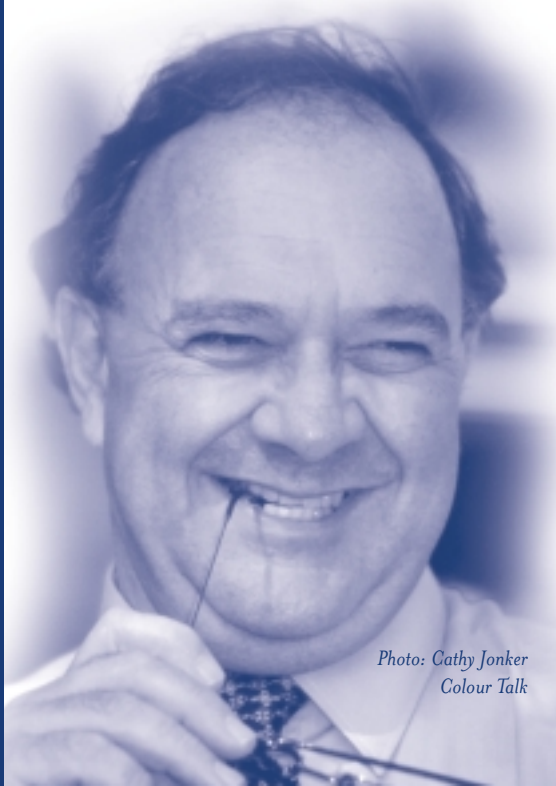


Photo: Cathy Jonker
Colour Talk

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Communication

Change is a fact of life. The art of coping with change lies in the active (pro-active?) management of the process. Communication must surely lie at the heart of this process – setting out the pros and cons, the why and the wherefore. Over and above the spoken and published written word, modern technology has provided us with a legion of possible ways by which we can make contact on a one-to-one basis and with large groups. Communication has never been easier. In an instant, messages and information can fly across cyber space bringing continents together at the push of a button.

While electronic communication has become the order of the day, somehow the printed word still remains as secure as it was when William Caxton set his printing press in motion. A reference that is tangible and can be taken to hand has something personal about it. It continues to hold a mystique, an allure and a comfort that no screen can give.

With *OPNews* we hope to achieve just that. Through the printed word we aim to create a

channel whereby we can communicate with each other within the Faculty as well as with colleagues across the globe. It is a means to convey our achievements in academia and research; to make known new products; to highlight that uniqueness which makes *OP* very special amongst international veterinary faculties; to brand our “corporate” identity in an indelible fashion.

Through *OPNews* we hope to inform and enlighten, to create an awareness of the many activities that go on everyday on our campus: to provide a focus; to provoke discussion and provide a platform for you to tell us what you think and why you think what you think.

To be vibrant and remain vital, *OPNews* needs your input by way of material as well as constructive critique. We look forward to receiving your contributions and to your ongoing support. With this we hope to make *OPNews* a publication which will portray the talents and excellence of our multi-faceted Faculty and become a publication with which we all feel proud to be associated.

RIC

Spotlight on perso

Recognition of academic achievement and status both locally and internationally in one way or another is an important barometer of the standing of a teaching institution. This year colleagues have achieved in a host of ways and our Faculty felicitates with those colleagues who have been successful and congratulates them on their successes.

Drs Johan Schoeman, Tanya Schoeman and Bert Mohr (Companion Animal Clinical Studies) became diplomates of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ECVIM) after successfully passing the ECVIM examinations earlier this year. Johan Schoeman completed a hat trick of academic achievements by also obtaining his MMedVet (Med) (Small Animals) and the Diploma in Small Animal Medicine awarded by the Royal College Veterinary Surgeons in London.

Dr Emily Lane (Paraclinical Sciences) successfully completed the examination of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) in September this year. She was one of the 25% of candidates who sat the examination to pass. To date, all the South African veterinary pathologists who have written the ACVP examinations have been successful and have become diplomates of the ACVP.

Recognition of teaching excellence is a pinnacle of an academic career. Prof Tubby Veary (Paraclinical Sciences) was nominated by the student body as this year’s winner of the prestigious Pfizer Lecture of the Year Award.

The lecturing prowess of two young colleagues also received international recognition. Dr Bert Mohr (Companion Animal Clinical Studies) was the recipient of the best paper by a resident at the recent American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine congress. The paper he delivered was based on his research for his masters degree on parvovirus infection in dogs. Dr Wenke Wagner (Companion Animal Clinical Studies) received the award for the best resident speaker at the European College of Veterinary Radiologists congress. She was also the recipient of the Dean’s award for the best scientific paper (co-authored by Prof R Kirberger) delivered on Faculty Day 2001.

During the 5th International Sheep Congress earlier this year in Stellenbosch, the book *Sheep and Goat Diseases*, by Prof Gareth Bath (Production Animal Studies) and Dr Jan de Wet was released. This edition is an update of the book *Kleinveesiektes* by the same authors which was released two years ago. Both the English and Afrikaans books have a comprehensive text and full-colour photographs

A library in your office

The Service Unit Veterinary Science of the Academic Information Service (AIS) has been introducing various electronic products for its clients during 2001.

The *Library in your Office* was launched on the AIS home page for easy, one-click linking to relevant databases for the Faculty.

The E-theses project will be actively implemented next year so that all theses from that date examined at this Faculty will be available electronically worldwide. Dr Marius Hornsveld is our very first e-thesis author and is paving the way for multimedia thesis production.

Our library newsletter, *Infomania*, also became a first when Antoinette Lourens created the electronic version on our website. We are very

proud to be the first to produce an electronic web newsletter in the entire Academic Information Service.

Another first for the Academic Information Service is our web product, *African goats*. Compiled by Ms Amelia Breytenbach with input from Prof Donkin, this is a unique e-source, with links to relevant web sites, e-mail addresses of experts in the field (nationally and internationally), and also full text versions of articles where possible.

Ms Antoinette Lourens was once again involved with making Goat-Web, as it is known for short, available electronically.

Erica van der Westhuizen
www.ais.up.ac.za/vet/vetindex.htm

nnel achievements

of clinical cases and pathology and are an invaluable aid to both students and clinicians.

Another academic textbook to see the light of day this year was the book *Small Animal Radiological Differential Diagnosis*, co-authored by Prof Rob Kirberger (Companion Animal Clinical Studies) together with Drs Ruth Dennis from the Animal Health Trust, Newmarket, UK, Robert H Wrigley from Colorado State University and Frances J Barr from the University of Bristol.

The Parasitological Society of Southern Africa awarded the prestigious Elsdon-Dew Medal to Prof Tammi Krecek (Veterinary Tropical

Diseases) for her signal contribution to Parasitology in Africa.

Three colleagues received long service awards at a Faculty function recently. Profs Henk Bertschinger (Wildlife Unit), Dirk Lourens (Production Animal Studies) and Nic van der Merwe (Anatomy and Physiology) were all appropriately rewarded by Mr Ben Alberts, Chairman of the University Council, for their 25 years of excellent and loyal service to the Faculty in teaching and research.

From left to right: Dr D Odendaal (Pfizer), Prof C M Veary (winner of the Pfizer Lecturer of the Year Award), Prof NPJ Kriek (Dean) and Ms Hayley Render (OPVSC Chairperson)



NEHAWU News

The publication of a newsletter by the Faculty is a welcomed initiative. It will provide a forum through which sections and departments can make their successes and achievements known and will also serve to motivate departments that have underperformed.

Within the context of its strategic plans, UP is facing the challenge of transformation. While taking into account the pressure of international and national competitiveness, part of the challenge will be for all the parties involved to work together to promote the development of staff through the institution of relevant training programmes aimed at capacity building.

At NEHAWU we believe that the poor of the world depend on agricultural development in rural communities and that we ought to meet such a demand. The challenge that we all face in transforming the higher education sector at UP and more especially this Faculty, involves amongst others: the taking in of more students from designated groups; the expanding of community service especially to designated groups; and the direction of the marketing of this Faculty (and UP in general) at African schools so that potential students should clearly know what is required of them to be admitted into this Faculty. The co-operation of management with NEHAWU is appreciated. Following intensive negotiations the old recognition agreement entered into between UP and NEHAWU in 1992, which allowed NEHAWU to bargain for C3 workers only, has now been amended and signed (signed this year - 2001) so as to bring it in line with the new labour law. Every fulltime employee of this University, irrespective of his/her colour, profession, category levels etc. can now choose to join NEHAWU should they so wish.

It is important that we recognise the need to transform and that we support the process in a constructive manner. Through joining our hands together (co-operation and partnership) we will achieve the mission and objectives of this Faculty.

We are happy that overseas students come to South Africa to study at this new Faculty.

Good Luck to all staff. We wish you a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Amandla Awethu!

Mammodu Komande (Abram)
Nehawu Representative

New service at the OVAH

The Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH) is pleased to be able to offer behavioural consultations as a service to the public and referring veterinarians. Referrals to the clinic are welcomed and anyone wishing to refer a case may contact Dr Helen Zulch at the Department of Companion Animal Clinical Studies at (012) 529-8472.

At present consultations will take place at Onderstepoort by appointment only. Clinicians requiring assistance with a behavioural problem in patients may discuss such a case telephonically with Dr Zulch should distance preclude an owner attending the clinic in person.

Clinic functioning:

Appointments will be scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday mornings between 08:00 and 13:00.

In the case of an emergency such as extreme aggression, appointments may be scheduled out of these hours.

For referral cases and in line with hospital policy, the client's private veterinarian is required to contact the clinic for an appointment for the client.

When referring, please supply any relevant history, including results of recent haematology, serum chemistry, urinalysis, etc, even if they are normal, as these baseline values may be required when medications are prescribed.

Behavioural problems in species other than canines and felines must be discussed with Dr Zulch before referral. If possible these will be accommodated.



International links

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Faculty of Veterinary Science at OP and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Utrecht University (UU) in the Netherlands has thus far proven to be a resounding success. Following the formal signing of the agreement in January 2000, the deans supported by colleagues from both faculties put together a detailed work plan which has been rigorously managed through the offices of each respective Dean assisted by a coordinator in each Faculty. Over the past year and a half, contact between the two faculties has expanded and strengthened.

At the outset it was agreed that the ultimate success of the programme would lie in the establishment of a mutual understanding and trust between colleagues in the various departments. It was important that both Faculties should familiarise themselves as to their management, departmental organisation, curricula, research programmes and the functioning of their academic hospitals.

To this end an active exchange of academic personnel has taken place from the basic, paraclinical and clinical departments. Furthermore, during mid-2000 Prof Frans Jongejan was appointed as an extra-ordinary professor in the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases at OP for a period of three years. In January 2001 Prof Koos Coetzer was appointed as professor (part-time) in the

Department of Tropical Veterinary Medicine at UU for a five-year period. Student exchanges at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels form an integral part of the programme. Drs Songabe and Ndudane are currently pursuing their masters programmes at UU on Delta Fellowships granted by the Netherlands.

Our departments of Veterinary Tropical Diseases and Anatomy and Physiology have set up collaborative research projects with their counterparts at UU. In September 2000 eleven members of our Faculty and the OVI presented papers at the 11th Annual Symposium on Tropical Animal Health and Production held at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at UU.

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at UU is rated as one of the top five veterinary faculties in the world. A reflection of the high regard that Utrecht University has for our Faculty can perhaps be measured by the fact that two high ranking delegations have seen fit to visit us. Earlier this year the Rector Magnificus of UU, Prof Harry Voorma, paid us a visit and just recently five members of the UU Board of Directors spent a morning at OP for discussions and the viewing of our campus. The stage is certainly set for the continued and expanded collaboration between two strong and mutually compatible institutions. The links that OP has established with the other

From left to right: (seated) Prof H Voorma (Rector Magnificus), Prof NPJ Kriek (Dean), Dr N Manganyi (Advisor to Principal) • (Standing) Profs H Groenewald, P Stadler, G Rautenbach, Dr B Shoonman (UU International Relations), Profs JAW Coetzer and RI Coubrough



: a success story



Veterinary Faculties in the SADC region and the close ties that UU has with Maputo and Harare will undoubtedly be to the overall long-term advantage of the subregion as well. The partnership also opens up EU funding channels which will greatly benefit capacity building programmes and the funding of research.

For more information regarding the MoU and the possible links that can be set up, please contact the MoU Co-ordinator OP, Prof RI Coubrough.

Prof E Gruys (UU, Netherlands) discussing a project with a postgraduate student



Building communities from the grass roots

A five-day course "Building Communities from the Grassroots" was presented during October 2001 at the Dynamic Conference Venue and Lodge.

This course is as a result of collaboration between the Community Development Academy, Universities of Missouri and the Faculties of Veterinary Science, Humanities and Education of the University of Pretoria, Medicos, and the Medical University of Southern Africa. Profs Tammi Kreck and Colin Stewart were the presenters from this Faculty. This was the fifth time this course has been presented in South Africa with over 270 persons having attended since 1998.

The emphasis of this course was to discuss the paradigm shifts which are currently taking place and to look at their influence on how development should occur and how communities should be led. Fast-changing technologies, global competition, a diverse work force and changing structures of how things are done, has driven this.

The use of participatory methods with a focus on action is important for sustainable development. People need to be involved in meaningful ways if successful development is to occur.

The challenge is to bring to communities development processes that build their communities, and allow community members to be involved in decisions that affect their future. They need to learn to use their own assets and thus leverage other resources and pursue their own interests with local initiatives.

Contact person:
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Fax: (012) 529-8312
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CE is alive and well



During September 2001 the Department of Production Animal Studies presented a two-day Continued Veterinary Education (CVD) course on "The Evaluation of Adult Dairy Cow Nutrition", which was attended by 14 veterinarians. This course was the first to be offered in South Africa where the Wits CPD office recorded points (24) for each participant that successfully completed the course. Prof Dirk Lourens, Prof G Rautenbach and Dr W Schultheiss were the course presenters.

The first day of the course consisted of case studies presented at the Faculty while on the second day the participants visited a nearby farm where the current feeding system and nutrient intake was evaluated. Following the resounding success of this inaugural course, a "follow-up" course is in the pipeline.

During August 2001, the Section of Reproduction presented their sixth course on Bovine Reproduction. Fourteen veterinarians took part in the course that included lectures, demonstrations and participation in laboratory work. To date, 95 vets have attended the course.

Apart from presenting their regular courses in "The Veterinary Laboratory Diagnostic Series" and "African Epizootic Diseases", the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases presented a new course in Molecular Biology. The course, entitled "Molecular Biology and Recombinant-DNA Technology", was presented by Professor Estelle Venter and Ms Anne-Mari Bosman from 8 to 19 October 2001. Ten participants from Tanzania, Botswana, and Mozambique as well as colleagues from our Faculty registered for the course.

Alumni news

Dr Jeanne Lofstedt (née de Wet), Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC), University of Prince Edward Island, was recently named Outstanding Woman Veterinarian of the Year 2001 at the American Veterinary Medical Association meeting. This award is given by the Association for Women Veterinarians (AWV) which serves women veterinarians in the USA and Canada.

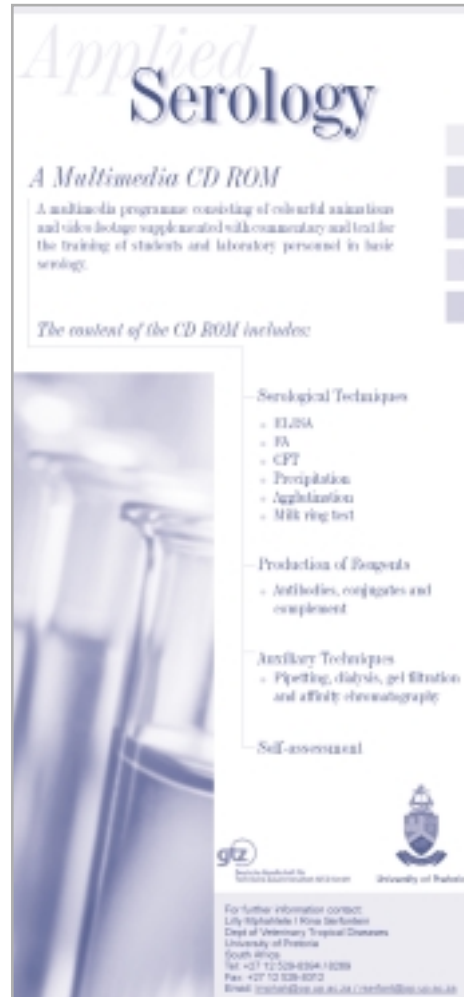
The Outstanding Woman of the Year award recognises the special effort and achievement of a woman veterinarian in any area of veterinary medicine and is open to any female graduate of an accredited veterinary school.

In her current role at the Atlantic Veterinary College, Dr Lofstedt is the first woman to be the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the College and is one of the few holding such a position in the world. As current vice-president of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, she is in line to become the second woman in its history to act as president of the Association.

Dr Lofstedt qualified from the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria in 1975 and was the recipient of both the Theiler Medal and Pathology prize. She went on to receive her Postgraduate Diploma and MSc in Pathology at the University of Saskatchewan and Iowa State University respectively. She is also a board-certified internist of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

Our Faculty is proud to see Dr Lofstedt receive this prestigious award and to be recognised as a leader among women veterinarians and in the profession as a whole.

Teaching innovation and new teaching materials



In addition to the traditional presentation of their courses at the Faculty, two colleagues are now making use of telematic teaching to present courses. Prof Fred Reyers now also presents all his honours courses in Clinical Pathology telematically on the web. Prof Koos van den Berg has completed a module on Equine Skin Diseases on the website of the UP virtual campus.

Two new teaching CDs have recently been added to those already available from the Departments of Veterinary Tropical Diseases, Companion Animal Clinical Studies and the Section of Pathology. Under the capable leadership of Dr Jannie Crafford and Prof Moritz van Vuuren (Veterinary Tropical Diseases) a CD on Applied Serology was recently launched. This is a multimedia programme consisting of photographs, graphs, colour animations, sound and video footage supplemented with commentary and text for the training of students and laboratory personnel in basic serology including serological techniques, production of reagents and auxiliary techniques.

Prof Reyers (Companion Animal Clinical Studies) has produced a CD on Cytology which sets out the principles of diagnostic cytology. The CD is a self-help teaching facility for cytology aimed at postgraduate students at the honours level.

The Onderstepoort

When the international veterinary community thinks of veterinary science and related matters in South Africa, they immediately think "Onderstepoort", without really realising that Onderstepoort as a geographic region is home to the Faculty of Veterinary Science, the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute and its Exotic Diseases Division and Onderstepoort Biological Products. In the minds of the international community Onderstepoort reflects an excellence in veterinary matters and portrays an image of expertise, reliability and dependability in teaching and research.

Certainly Sir Arnold Theiler and those eminent scientists he gathered around him provided the solid foundation upon which the international community came to base their image of Onderstepoort. It gave Onderstepoort a charisma, an



An historic occasion at the Faculty: taking of the veterinary oath

Academic history will be made in December this year at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, when the graduating Class of 2001 takes the Veterinary Oath for the first time. The ceremony will be a formal occasion, attended by the Dean, academic and support personnel from the Faculty, the President of the South African Veterinary Council, the President of the South African Veterinary Association and other dignitaries. The oath that the new graduates will take is set out in the column to the right:



Arnold Theiler Building

Badge

aura, which fortuitously still remains to this day and from which we all benefit.

From the very early days of our Faculty, the OP emblem, depicted alongside, has proudly served to portray our corporate identity. Following a lecture by Sir Arnold Theiler in 1923 in which he expounded on the tools required by the veterinary profession in those early days, John Dixon, one of Sir Arnold's early students captured the thoughts of the master in the badge he designed for the Faculty. In simple black and white he sketched a shield in the centre of which he placed an open book (of knowledge). A percussion hammer lay across one page and a corkscrew crossed the other. The corkscrew would remove the stoppers of the vaccine bottles that would help to tame the ravages of the infectious diseases rampant at that time. The ham-

mer would be used for percussion on the pleximeter that he placed at the base of the book, reflecting the clinical skills required by veterinarians in the making of a diagnosis.

Above the shield he placed the name of Theiler's beloved "Onderstepoort" and beneath it the words *Experto Credo*: Believe (trust) in the expert.

Thus the badge of the Faculty was brought into being. An emblem which has proudly symbolised what OP has stood for since the days of Sir Arnold Theiler: the creation and transfer of knowledge and the conducting of sound basic research aimed at the control of diseases which could materially affect livestock production.

(Source of information: *The Origin of the Onderstepoort Emblem* HPA de Boom).

Declaration:

I herewith solemnly declare that I will:

- practise my profession with honesty and integrity;
- maintain and uphold high professional and scientific standards;
- treat my patients to the best of my knowledge and ability and never intentionally cause them harm;
- use my professional knowledge, skills and resources to protect and promote the health and welfare of animals and humans;
- continue to improve my professional knowledge, and
- strive to further the status and image of the veterinary profession.

Anthrax in animals and humans

Anthrax is a systemic disease of domestic and wild mammals, including humans, caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. Birds (except ostriches), reptiles and amphibians do not contract the disease. This bacterium is found in its highly resistant but inactive, spore form in dry and acid soils virtually worldwide, including parts of South Africa.

Animals are usually infected by eating food or drinking water contaminated with anthrax spores. After sufficient spores have been ingested, they germinate to form the vegetative bacterial cells which then multiply prolifically producing toxins that result in the disease.

Unvaccinated domestic and wild ruminants are highly susceptible to disease and usually die without showing any signs of illness. Horses often have signs of colic and develop fluid-like swellings along the ventral surface of the body. If untreated, they usually die within a few days. Affected carnivores and omnivores (e.g. pigs) have a marked swelling at the site of entry of the spores, which is usually in the mouth and pharynx. Some of these animals may recover even if not treated. Humans are also much more resistant to anthrax infection and need to be exposed to high numbers of spores before they become ill. Dependent on the route of infection, humans may develop lesions in the skin (the most common), the mouth and pharynx, the intestines and respiratory tract.

This disease is controlled by the destruction of infected animal carcasses and contaminated material, and by vaccination. Antibiotics such as penicillin, tetracycline and fluoroquinolone derivatives are effective in treating early or less severe disease.

Dr J Picard

Research highlights

Research partnerships using the skills and opportunities afforded by mutually compatible and strong institutions often provide the key to the acquisition of research funding from international agencies which would not be available to single institutions.

A collaborative research application in Environmental Toxicology and Zoonotic Diseases submitted to the Norwegian Universities' Committee for Development Research and Education (NUFU) which was successful, is case in point. An amount of 8.5 million Norwegian Krone was awarded. This is a collaborative programme between our Department of Paraclinical Sciences, the Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania, the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, the University of Zimbabwe, Makerere University in Kenya, and the University of Zambia. Apart from the value of the research per se, the spin off in terms of capacity building of research expertise in the region will be enormous.

An innovative cooperative project on the development of a "BIO-CHIP" for the Molecular Diagnosis of Pathogens in Wildlife in South Africa between the Datascan Group BV, Maarsen, Netherlands, the Division of Parasitology and Tropical Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Utrecht and the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, was set up earlier this year. This programme aims

to develop molecular diagnostic kits for the simultaneous detection of tick-borne pathogens, combined with those causing tuberculosis and is based on micro-array technology. A further aim of the project is to develop a molecular diagnostic kit for tick-borne pathogens, (such as *Theileria*, *Babesia*, *Cowdria* and *Anaplasma* spp.) based on macro-array technology.

Mr Ard Nijhoff of Utrecht University, spent six months in the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases working on the molecular characterization and identification of haemo-protozoa. One of the sidelines of his visit was the identification of a previously unknown piroplasm from black rhinos.

Babesia leo, from lions in the Kruger National Park, has now formally been named and described, based on molecular characterisation, in a paper in the prestigious *Journal of Parasitology*, published in the USA. This is the result of a collaborative project between Prof Banie Penzhorn (Veterinary Tropical Diseases) and Dr Pat Conrad, University of California-Davis.

Research status rating by the National Research Foundation (NRF) is a measure of our research standing both within the national and international research arena. The Faculty takes note with pride that Prof Gerry Swan (Paraclinical Sciences) has recently been rated as a C-grade researcher within the health science category by the NRF.

Just in case • Emergency numbers

• Security Services (main campus)	6911	420-2310
• Flying Squad	6022	10111
• Police Pretoria North	6005	353-5666
• Ambulance: - Rosslyn	6003	541-3421/6
- Pretoria	6002	326-0111
• Fire Brigade (Wonderboom)	6024	543-0335
• Emergency Medical Help: OP		
- Dr Kenneth Joubert		529-8137 Pager: 137
- Dr Lynette Bester		529-8136 Pager: 136
- Tygerberg Poison Centre	6179	

In the case of an emergency just dial the four digit number given above