

## BIOGRAPHY: DR. B.C.JANSEN

Name : Jansen, Berend Cornelis (Ben)

Date and place of birth : 12 August 1921, Middelburg (Cape), South Africa.

Date and place of death : 13 July 1987, PRETORIA, South Africa.

### Main Functions :

Bacteriologist/Researcher  
Director of the Veterinary Research Institute, Onderstepoort  
Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort  
Chief Director of Veterinary Services and Animal Husbandry

### Parents :

Father : Berend Cornelis Jansen, watchmaker and jeweler  
Mother : Guurtje Zwart

### Spouse :

1. Marie Joyce de Jong                      2. Ellen Magdalene O'Brian

### Year of marriage :

1948    1983

### Number of children

4 (3 sons, 1 daughter)                      none

### Education :

Matriculation: High School Cradock, 1939  
BVSc. (cum laude), University of Pretoria, 1944  
DVSc. (cum laude), University of Pretoria, 1960  
DSc. Potchefstroom University, 1966  
PhD. University of Stellenbosch, 1971

### Career :

1945-1949 : Private practice, Johannesburg  
1949-1960 : Researcher, Bacteriology Division, VRI, Onderstepoort  
1961-1968 : Director, Veterinary Research Institute (VRI), Onderstepoort  
1968-1978 : Chief Director, Department of Agriculture, responsible for Veterinary Services and Animal Husbandry.  
1963-1973 : Professor of Infectious Diseases and Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria  
1978-1987 : Chief Researcher of the South African Woolboard at the VRI  
In 1976 he was appointed as honorary professor and in 1980 in the new chair for Small Stock Diseases

1961-1987 : Chairman of the Veterinary Council of South Africa. This is the statutory body controlling the veterinary profession in S.A.

1975-1978 : Vice-President of the World Veterinary Association

1961-1978 : Councilor of the S.A. Veterinary Association

During this period he also served on the executive committee of the Medical Research Council, the Committee for Biological Sciences of the Atomic Energy Corporation and the Scientific Advisory Council of the Prime Minister.

#### Contributions :

Dr. Jansen was a dedicated researcher specializing in the field of animal diseases caused by micro-organisms of the *Clostridium* group such as botulism, enterotoxaemia, blackquarter and tetanus. His research on the antigenic reactions of the toxins produced by these organisms and the taxonomic as well as immunological implications thereof attracted worldwide attention. The application of this knowledge to the development of effective vaccines to control these diseases was his most important contribution to veterinary science. His outstanding ability as leader and administrator is illustrated by his early appointment as Director of the VRI, followed by his promotion to the senior post of Chief Director in the Department of Agriculture. In this position his important contribution was recognized by his promotion to a personal scale equivalent to that of the head of the Department.

During his long academic career as Dean of the Veterinary Faculty he was highly regarded both as teacher and as administrator and for his ability to inspire his students. His scientific standing is also reflected by his active participation in a wide variety of scientific organizations and committees and by the numerous awards he received.

#### Homages and distinctions :

1956 : Nuffield Fellowship for Research in Biological Sciences

1975 : Havenga Prize, S.A.Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns

1980 : Gold Medal of the Medical Research Council

1983 : Gold Medal of the S.A.Veterinary Society

1986 : Gold Medal of the S.A. Society for Microbiology

Gold Medal of the Claude Harris Leon and Percy Fox Foundation

1987 : Golden Ram award of the S.A.Wool Board

Honorary Doctorate, Potchefstroom University for CHE

#### Publications :

No list has been published of his 43 scientific publications but the majority can be found in the PubMed and WinSPIRS databases. Representative papers reflecting his interest in Clostridia and infertility in rams are the following:

Jansen,B.C., Knoetze,P.C.and Visser,F., The antibody response of cattle to Clostridium botulinum types C and D toxoids. Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research, 43 : 165-173 (1976).

Jansen B.C., The epidemiology of bacterial infection of the genitalia in rams.  
Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research.50 : 275-282 (1983)

References

SAVA Award (in Afrikaans): Journal of the South African Veterinary  
Association , March 1984, p47-48.

Obituary: ( in Afrikaans) : Journal of the South African Veterinary  
Association, December 1987, p245-246.