

CURRICULUM VITAE

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DR. DW VERWOERD

Dr. Verwoerd qualified as a veterinarian in 1955 at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Faculty, obtained a DSc, in Biochemistry in 1963 and a DVSc in 1969, both from the University of Pretoria. Since 1956 he was attached to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute as researcher with intervals of 3 years as Alexander von Humboldt research fellow in Germany, from 1960 to 1963 and as Elaenor Roosevelt fellow in the US from 1972 to 1973. In 1964 he founded a Molecular Biology division at the OVI, the first of its kind in South Africa. He pioneered molecular studies on viruses, first concentrating on the economically important bluetongue virus and later on the virus causing jaagsiekte, as a model for cancer-causing viruses. In 1985 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the South African Veterinary Association and in 1987 the Havenga Prize of the S.A. Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns for his research achievements. In 1988 he became the tenth Director of the OVI and served in this capacity until his retirement in 1998. He was President of the South African Microbiological Society from 1981 to 1982, served on the Advisory Board of the Virology Division of the International Union of Microbiological Societies, on the editorial boards of various scientific journals and on the National Committees for Microbiology, Biochemistry and Biotechnology. From 1993 to 1998 he was chairman of the OIE Regional Collaborating Centre for Africa and received the Meritorious Award of the OIE in 1998.