DAVID (DAVE) ARTHUR HAIG (20 March 1913, Johannesburg, South Africa – 21 February 1987, St John the Baptist Churchyard, Whitchurch Hill, South Oxfordshire District, Oxfordshire, England, UK). *Veterinarian; virologist; microbiologist*. Parents' names could not be traced. Married Patricia Kathleen – marriage date and maiden name unknown.

EDUCATION: Veterinary Faculty, Onderstepoort, University of Pretoria, 1936:
BVSc Veterinary Faculty, Onderstepoort, University of Pretoria, 1953: DVSc;
MRCVS – Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, 19 May 1960.

CAREER: 1937 – 1945, Allerton Veterinary Laboratory, Pietermaritzburg, Natal (now Kwazulu-Natal) as state veterinarian;
1945 – 1959, Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute as researcher in virology;
1959 – 1961, Kabete Veterinary Laboratory, Kenya;
1961 – 1967, Agricultural Research Council, Field Station, Compton, Berkshire, England, UK as first head of its Virology Department;
1967 – 1977, Head of Bacteriology Department, Institute for Animal Health, Compton Laboratory, Berkshire, England, UK.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Haig developed a safe and effective vaccine against canine distemper which became the gold standard throughout the world and is still manufactured in major vaccine factories today.

He was the first Onderstepoort scientist to use cell culture technology for the cultivation of bluetongue virus in lamb kidney cells (1956). This led to the development of a sophisticated quantitative neutralisation test for bluetongue. Haig was a co-worker in the research showing that tetracyclines were effective therapeutic agents for heartwater in ruminants. Another milestone was added to his impressive career when he succeeded in growing the virus responsible for lumpy skin disease in embryonated eggs. The route to vaccine development had been breached.

While at the Veterinary Laboratory, Kabete, Kenya in 1960, he and two co-workers isolated the Thogoto virus (ArboCat Virus ID 477) from *Rhipicephalus* (*Boophilus*) and *Rhipicephalus* spp ticks collected from sentinel cattle in the Thogoto Forest near Nairobi, Kenya.

At Compton he did innovative research on scrapie of which the aetiological agent is related to the human Kuru and Creutzfeld-Jacob diseases and belongs to a new class of infectious agents called prions. This research culminated in a publication in *Nature*.

HOMAGES AND DISTINCTIONS: Awarded an OBE **(**Officer of the Order of the British Empire).

WRITINGS: Total number of scientific publications unknown; 28 references traced by a literature survey.
Komarov, A. & Haig, D.A., 1952. A disease similar to bluetongue in cattle and sheep in Israel. *Refuah Veterinath*. 8, 96-100.
Haig, D.A., 1955. Tick-borne rickettsiosis in South Africa. *Advances in Veterinary Science and Comparative Medicine.* 2, 307-325.
Haig, D.A., 1956. Canine distemper-immunization with avianized virus. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research*. 17**,** 19-53.
Haig, D.A., McKercher, D.G. & Alexander, R.A.. 1956. The cytopathogenic action of bluetongue virus on tissue cultures and its application to the detection of antibodies in the serum of sheep. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research*. 27, 171-177.
Haig, D.A., Woodall, J.P. & Danskin, D., 1965. Thogoto Virus: a hitherto undescribed agent isolated from ticks in Kenya. *Journal of General Microbiology*. 38, 389-394.
Haig, D.A. & Pattison, I.H.l., 1967. In-vitro growth of pieces of brain from scrapie-affected

mice. *Journal of Pathology and Bacteriology*. 93, 724–727.
Haig, D.A. & Clarke, M.C., 1968. The effect of β-propiolactone on the scrapie agent. *Journal of General Virology.* 3, 281-283.
Haig, D.A. & Clarke, M.C., 1971. Multiplication of the scrapie agent. *Nature*. 234(5324), 106-107.

REFERENCES/OBITUARIES:
1. Bigalke, R.D., 2010. Veterinary education in South Africa: the classes of 1936 and1937. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association*. 81, 2-7.
2. Posthumus, P.J. *Past veterinarians in South Africa*. 10th Edition. Undated and unpublished collection of summarised *curricula vitae* of deceased veterinarians. Archives of the South African National Veterinary Museum.
3. Times of London, 5 March 1987
4. Veterinary Record, 14 March 1987.

H.E. Heyne
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