

Dr Koos Coetzer



The University of Pretoria (UP) has conferred the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Science (honoris causa) on Emeritus Professor Jacobus Andries Wynand (Koos) Coetzer. He receives this for his national and international scientific, teaching and learning contributions to the field of infectious and parasitic diseases of livestock and wildlife and his significant contribution to creating online tools that support education in his field of study. Prof Coetzer, who grew up in (formerly Lydenburg), obtained his BVSc degree in 1973 and attained specialist

status in veterinary pathology by obtaining his M Med Vet (Path) degree in 1982. His scientific and academic career spanned almost 50 years at the Onderstepoort complex. During this time, Prof Coetzer occupied various senior positions at UP, including Head of the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases (1994 to 2011) and Deputy Dean of Research, Postgraduate Studies and Internationalisation (2011 to 2014). Between 2001 and 2014, he was a part-time visiting professor in Tropical Veterinary Medicine at Utrecht University, Netherlands. Since his retirement in 2014, he has been an emeritus professor at UP's Faculty of Veterinary Science.

Prof Coetzer has a significant national and, particularly, international profile. He is one of the world's foremost authorities in infectious diseases in livestock and wildlife. In recognition of his high-quality research on infectious and parasitic diseases, in 1982, Prof Coetzer received the South African Veterinary Association's (SAVA) research award for outstanding research published in scientific journals. In 1997, he received a SAVA gold medal in recognition of his exceptional scientific achievements and promotion of veterinary science. His research interests covered a wide range of diseases and plant poisonings and mycotoxicoses of livestock, including Rift Valley fever, Wesselsbron disease, lumpy skin disease, bovine theileriosis, geeldikkop and other hepatogenous photosensitivity conditions.

Heartfelt congratulations from SAVA and the Vetnews team to Prof Coetzer on this prestigious accolade.