

**Dr Gideon Brückner**

# OIE Gold medal award goes to one of our own

**The Gold Medal of the OIE is a mark of international recognition awarded to persons who have distinguished themselves by their outstanding services in the field of veterinary science and by their outstanding contribution to the technological and scientific development of activities relating to the objectives of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).**



Dr Gideon Brückner receives the Gold medal of the OIE for the year 2020. Only one Gold medal is awarded each year. Indeed, the highest international honour for any veterinarian, and this time it is proudly a South African vet and SAVA member. Due to the Covid pandemic, the ceremony was postponed, and Dr Brückner could only be presented with his medal in May this year.

Dr Brückner's significant achievements include his role in the control of Foot and mouth disease (FMD). He was involved in several campaigns to control outbreaks of FMD, notably in his native country of South Africa, to rid the incidental incursion of FMDV serotype O and incursions of the disease from neighbouring countries.

However, he considered his role in the elimination of FMD in South America as one of his most significant achievements. Here, he was instrumental in introducing the concept of a high surveillance zone in the countries of MERCOSUR that eventually resulted in freedom from disease for these countries and Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

***'Dr Brückner's efforts have been recognised in South Africa with a President's Award and a Medal by the South African Veterinary Association.'***

*Dr Botlhe M. Modisane, Delegate of South Africa*



Dr Brückner is not unfamiliar with receiving awards from the OIE. In 2015, he was one of the five winners of the OIE photo competition with the theme "Animal Health: beyond the cliché". The photo Dr Brückner is titled "Ensuring safe exports". In the same year, Dr Roy Bengis also received the Gold medal award from the OIE.

*As a profession, the veterinary community and SAVA, in particular, would like to congratulate Dr Brückner on this outstanding achievement.*