

**DE BOOM, HENRI PIETER ALBERT** (October 16, 1914, Pretoria – August 30, 1998, Pretoria, South Africa). *Veterinarian; Anatomy; Embryology; Teratology*. Son of Hendricus Petrus de Boom and Carolina Martina (née Lotz) de Boom. Married Susara Alettha van Rooyen Alberts, 1940.

**EDUCATION** : Onderstepoort Faculty of Veterinary Science, 1936 : BVSc, and Cornell University, 1954 : postgraduate studies in embryology, histochemistry, neuro-anatomy and endocrinology as Harkness Fund bursar.

**CAREER** : 1937, research assistant in Pathology at Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute; 1940, part-time lecturer in comparative anatomy and embryology at Onderstepoort Faculty of Veterinary Science; 1955 – 1974, Professor and Head of Department of Anatomy in the same Faculty; 1961 – 1962 and 1975 – 1976, visiting Professor of Anatomy at Cornell University; 1968 – 1970, acting head of department and Professor of Anatomy at University of Lorenzo Marques; 1979 – 1980, lecturer in human anatomy and embryology at Medical University of Southern Africa (Medunsa); 1981, temporary assistant to Dean of Faculty of Veterinary Science, Medunsa; 1982 – 1985, part-time head of Department of Anatomy at same Faculty; between 1959 and 1980, served as editor of Journal of the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) for 11 years; 1963 – 1973, Faculty representative on South African Veterinary Council; 1976 – 1978, South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) representative on South African Veterinary Council; 1953, President of South African Biology Society; 1962 – 1987, Academy member of South African Academy for Science and Art; 1965, President of Section E of South African Association for the Advancement of Science; 1973, President of the Anatomical Association of Southern Africa; member of World Association of Veterinary Anatomists and New York Academy of Sciences.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** : Eminent teacher in subjects of veterinary anatomy and embryology at various institutions, especially Onderstepoort Faculty of Veterinary Science (34 years), for almost five decades; modernised methodologies for teaching anatomy and embryology at same Faculty; developed technique for identification of hair of wild ruminants for forensic purposes; built up extensive collection of teratological specimens for Onderstepoort Faculty of Veterinary Science; participated as expert anatomist, histologist and embryologist in a variety of research and diagnostic projects, many unpublished; student mentor *par excellence*.

**HOMAGES AND DISTINCTIONS** : 1977, elected Life Honorary Vice President of SAVA; 1978, elected Life Honorary Member of Anatomical Association of Southern Africa; 1980, awarded Certificate of Merit of South African Association for the Advancement of Science; 1982, awarded Gold Medal of the SAVA; 1985, on invitation, delivered second Theiler Memorial Lecture; 1986, received DVSc (*honoris causa*) from the University of Pretoria for exceptional teaching skills.

**WRITINGS** : Author or co-author of more than 25 publications. Among them the following : C Jackson and HPA de Boom, 1951. A contribution to the cytology of the spleen. The Romanovsky-stained bovine spleen smear. *Onderstepoort Journal of*

*Veterinary Research*, Vol 25, 79 – 142; HPA de Boom and JMM Brown, 1968.  
Advances in geeldikkop (*tribulosis ovis*) research : 9. The epizootiology of enzootic icterus. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association*, Vol 37, 241 – 244; HPA de Boom and JMM Brown, 1968. Advances in geeldikkop (*tribulosis ovis*) research: 10. The symptomatology and gross pathology of enzootic icterus. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association*, Vol 39, 21 – 24.

**REFERENCES :** Who's who in Veterinary Science and Medicine, Crown Biographic Publications 1987 / 1988 and 1991 / 1992; Malie Smuts, 1998. Obituary, Henri Pieter Albert de Boom : 16 October 1914 – 30 August 1998.

**A J SNIJDERS**