

In Memoriam

Dr Jan Hendrik du Preez



Ek wil graag van hierdie geleentheid gebruik maak om 'n huldeblyk aan Dr Jan Hendrik du Preez te bring vir sy buitengewone bydraes tot die veld van veteriniere wetenskap, veral in die areas van volksgesondheid, soönoses en die suiwelindustrie.

Dr Jan het nie net met passie en trots Afrikaans omhels nie, hy het ook 'n onverskrokke toewyding aan wetenskaplike navorsing nagestreef. Met trots kan ek verwys na sy indrukwekkende prestasies. Dr Jan het 'n MMedVet(Hyg)-graad verwerf en geregistreer as 'n Veteriniere Spesialis Volksgesondheid, met belangrike navorsing bydraes soos "Die Aard en Betekenis van Anaërobe Bakterieë in die Melkkoei-uier". In 1972 registreer hy as lid van die "Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons" in Groot-Brittanje.

Hy het verwerf nie net een nie maar twee nagraadse diplomas en sy studies word bekroon met 'n Doktorsgraad in Veeartsenykunde (DVSc) in 1985, en later,

in 1994, 'n PhD in Veeartsenykunde. Sy ondersoek na die troika-impak op Suid-Afrika se melkbedryf, insluitend ensoötiese beesleukose, hittestres, en mastitis, het nie net die wetenskap bevorder nie, maar het ook 'n uiterse relevante implikasie vir die suiwelbedryf se ekonomie. Die wyse waarop hy die impak van klimaatsverandering en hitte op melkbeeste beskryf het, het 'n duidelike en insiggewende prentjie geskep van die uitdagings wat die bedryf in die gesig staar.

Dr Jan se loopbaan is 'n indrukwekkende een, met 'n wye verskeidenheid van ervarings, insluitend sy betrokkenheid as senior lektor en professor aan die Universiteit van Pretoria, direkteur van die Melkprodusente Organisasie van Suid-Afrika, en besturende direkteur van die Instituut van Suiweltegnologie. Met meer as 53 wetenskaplike en 600 semi-wetenskaplike artikels, asook 17 boeke op sy naam, is dit duidelik dat hy nie net 'n kenner op sy vakgebied is nie, maar ook 'n vurige voorstander vir die deel van kennis en inligting met die gemeenskap. Dr Jan se navorsing op soönoses, uiergesondheid, en die uitkenning van beessiektes het die pad gebaan vir verdere begrip en bestuur van hierdie kwessies. Sy impak is nie beperk tot akademiese prestasies en publikasies nie, maar ook op die gemeenskap deur die stigting van die eerste private Instituut vir Suiweltegnologie (IST) in Afrika. Hy het opleiding, inligting, en kursusse aangebied aan 'n groot aantal melkboere en plaaswerkers, en dit het ongetwyfeld 'n betekenisvolle bydrae gelewer tot die sukses van die bedryf. Dr Jan het nie net 'n impak op die wetenskap gemaak nie, maar hy het ook die emosionele welstand van boere aangespreek deur die fokus op volhoubare landbou en welsynskepping in sy boeke.

Dr. Jan du Preez, jy het nie net 'n voetspoor in die veld van veteriniere wetenskap gelaat nie, maar jy het ook 'n belangrike bydrae gelewer tot die groei en volhoubaarheid van die suiwelbedryf in Suid-Afrika. Jou toewyding en deernis is merkbaar, en ons is dankbaar vir die impak wat jy in ons lewens gemaak het.

'n Paar van jou sê goed wat ek nooit sal vergeet nie is:

- 'Soms is die golwe hoog en soms is die golwe laag, ons is nie bang nie'
- 'As jy nie verander nie sal niks om jou verander nie'
- Hoe meer jy leer hoe meer besef jy hoe min weet jy'

Met waardering,

Adel Spies

Afford me this opportunity to honour Dr Jan Hendrik du Preez for the extraordinary contributions he made to science, particularly in the areas of community health, zoonoses and the dairy industry.

Dr Jan not only embraced the Afrikaans language with passion but was also vigorously dedicated to scientific research. I can proudly refer to his many academic achievements. He graduated from Onderstepoort as a Veterinarian in 1971 and continued to acquire the MmedVet(Hyg) in 1981 after which he registered as a Veterinary Community Health Specialist with his important research contribution "The Nature and Significance of Anaerobic Bacteria in the Cow Udder". He proceeded to achieve not one but two post-graduate diplomas and his

studies were awarded with a Doctorate in Veterinary Science and later, in 1994 a PhD in Veterinary Ethology. Dr Jan's scrutiny of the heat stress, mastitis and bovine enzootic leukosis troika's impact on the dairy industry of South Africa not only furthered science but had a very positive effect on the dairy industry's economy. How he described the impact of climate change and heat created a clear picture of the challenges in store for the industry.

Dr Jan was involved as a senior lecturer and professor at the University of Pretoria, He was the Director of the Milk Production Organisation of South Africa and well as the Managing Director of the Institute of Dairy Technology. His research and practical knowledge in Zoonoses, udder health and the identification of diseases in cows lead the way to a better understanding and management of these issues. With more than 53 scientific articles, 600 semi-scientific articles and 17 books that flowed from his pen, it is clear that he not only had great knowledge in his field of expertise but he also had a

passion for sharing the knowledge with the greater community. His impact was not limited to academic achievements or publications but also the community by founding the first private Institute for Dairy Technology in Africa. He presented training and courses to a large number of farmers and farm staff which undoubtedly led to the betterment of the industry. Through his books, he also offered emotional support to farmers by focusing on sustainable agriculture and the creation of wealth.

Dr Jan du Preez, you not only left a big footprint in Veterinary Medicine but also contributed greatly to the growth and sustainability of the Dairy Industry in South Africa.

Your dedication and compassion will be missed dearly and we as grateful for your impact on our lives.

(Translated from the Eulogy by Adél Spiés)

Dr James Hill



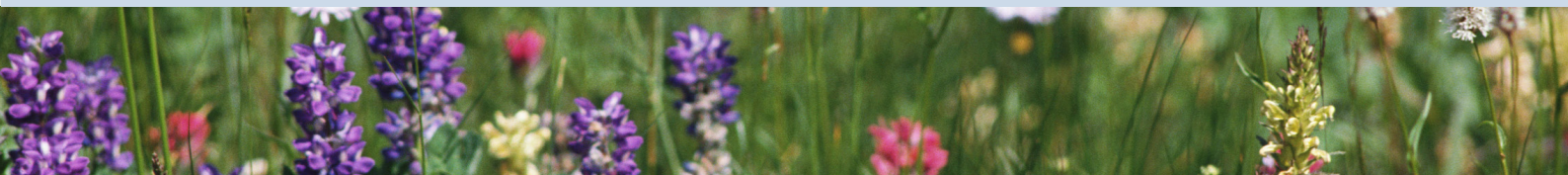
Team VDX is absolutely devastated at the news of the death of James Hill, who passed away peacefully in his sleep this morning at 4 am, Thursday 15th February 2024, surrounded by his much-beloved family and animals.

What a warrior of life James was, he fought so hard for so long and achieved so much. Despite facing significant physical challenges following his rugby injury as a young newly qualified veterinarian, he carved out an incredible career as a Specialist Veterinary Clinical Pathologist, serving our beloved profession at the highest level for over 20 years with passion, integrity, and professionalism of the highest order. James never bore a grudge about his circumstances and carried out his professional and personal life with such positivity and enthusiasm, that he enriched the lives of so many of us in such positive ways. Anyone lucky enough to share the life of this truly remarkable guy will forever be awe-inspired by what he brought to the table of humanity.

James, you were a Mountain of a Man in so many more ways than one and have left an everlasting legacy as one of the finest to have ever graced these shores.

Rest in Peace Buddy – Planet Earth is a poorer place today.

From Team VDX – Forever honoured to have served with you James



We honour and remember the contributions made by our colleague who recently passed away.

SAVA Members:

Dr David Peter Johnson: 18/10/1957 – 15/12/2023

We honour his contribution to our profession and society in general and pray that his family and loved ones will find the strength to carry them through these times of bereavement.