

VAN DRIMMELEN, GOVERT CORNELIS (27 September, 1911, Zeerust, South Africa – 17 July 2003, Pretoria, South Africa). *Veterinarian; Bacteriologist*. Son of Pieter and Maria (née Garstmann) van Drimmelen. Married Johanna Maria Gutter; couple had 3 sons and 2 daughters; at the time of Govert's death he had 15 grandchildren; his wife Hanna (Johanna) died in 1988.

EDUCATION : University of Pretoria, 1933: BVSc; University of Pretoria, 1947: DVSc (Thesis on artificial insemination of poultry).

CAREER : 1934 – 1946, state veterinarian stationed in various places such as Umtata, Carolina, and Bloemfontein in South Africa; 1946 – 1966, research veterinarian at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute; 1950 – 1958, Lecturer in Bacteriology at Onderstepoort Faculty of Veterinary Science; 1958 – 1966, Associate Professor in Bacteriological and Fungal Diseases at the Onderstepoort Faculty of Veterinary Science; 1966 – 1972, Agricultural Attaché at the South African Embassy in Washington DC; 1972 – 1975, Special Advisor on Diagnostic Services to Division of Veterinary Services, South Africa.

CONTRIBUTIONS : Research on diseases caused by bacteria, especially brucellosis in cattle; developed an improved Strain 19 vaccine against brucellosis; 1952, appointed by World Health Organisation as their representative for brucellosis for Countries South of the Sahara; 1964, invited as Visiting Professor in Tropical Diseases by the Veterinary Faculty of the Free University of West Berlin.

HOMAGES AND DISTINCTIONS : Awarded the following: 1965, South Africa Medal (Gold) by South African Association for the Advancement of Science; 1968, Medal for Pathological Excellence by Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, USA; 1969, Senior Captain Scott Medal by South African Biological Society; 1993, Laudeum Award by South African Association for the Advancement of Science.

WRITINGS : Author or co-author of ± 40 scientific publications – no published reference available. Examples: The oxidase and catalase activity of strains of *Brucella*. *Journal of the South African veterinary medical Association* (1967) 38, 185-187; The presence of *Brucella melitensis* infection in sheep in the Transvaal. *Bulletin de l'Office International des Épizooties* (1965) 64, 745-756; Preliminary findings with the use of *Brucella melitensis* strain Rev. I as a vaccine against brucellosis in cattle. *Bulletin de l'Office International des Épizooties* (1964) 62, 987-995; The use of fluorescent antibody in the diagnosis of *Brucella ovigenitalum* infection in sheep semen smears. *Journal of the South African veterinary medical Association* (1963) 34, 265-271; The use of adjuvant with live *Brucella* vaccine. *Journal of the South African veterinary medical Association* (1962) 33, 151-159.

HOBBIES: Especially ornithology – member of Pretoria Bird Club for many years; also dendrology, geology, astronomy and anthropology.

REFERENCES/OBITUARIES: Obituary (in Afrikaans), VETNEWS, December 2003, p 30-31.

R D BIGALKE