

PARSA awards to DVTD staff members

By Prof Banie Penzhorn

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This year the annual congress of the Parasitological Society of Southern Africa (PARSA) was held in conjunction with the biennial congress of the Zoological Society of Southern Africa and UP received two awards.

As always, the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases was well represented, with staff members and post-graduate students presenting various papers and posters on their research. Prof Banie Penzhorn, an invited speaker, presented a review: "Why is South African canine babesiosis so virulent? An evolutionary perspective".

We are proud of the awards received by two staff members.

Ms Anne-Mari Bosman's poster, "A *Babesia odocoilei*-like parasite in a Siberian tiger", earned her the award as best veteran poster presenter. Last year she was joint recipient of this award. This research was funded by a National Research Foundation grant to Prof Banie Penzhorn. Credit is also due to Ms Estelle Mayhew, for the great aesthetic appeal of her poster designs.

Kgomotso Sibeko received the Senior W.O. Neitz Medal for her PhD thesis: "Improved molecular diagnostics and characterization of *Theileria parva* isolates from cattle and buffalo in South Africa". This research was funded through an institutional agreement between the Department and the Institute of Tropical Diseases, Antwerp, Belgium.

Well done!