

PROFESSOR COURTNEY MARTIN (“TUBBY”) VEARY

A giant in the field of Veterinary Science, the father of Meat Hygiene and a leader in Veterinary Science passed away in June 2021 after a long illness. Tubby Veary is no more, but his legacy lingers on... Without him Meat Science in South Africa would never have progressed to where it is. He improved abattoir grading and initiated a system of inspection. His actions made him a leader in the promotion of livestock welfare, specifically at abattoirs, which were previously absolutely hellish. His collection of photographs of meat inspection are a significant part of the history of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Faculty.

As a schoolboy at St Johns College, Johannesburg, where he matriculated in 1956 and did post-matric in 1957, Tubby was very active in sport and won full colours. At Tukkie, together with Dave Russel, he played for the 1st hockey team in five intervarsity tournaments. Hockey remained his sport for most of his life and he was still playing goalie in his sixties. After qualifying he joined Harlequin Club's Old Croconians. Until 2005, he represented the Northern Transvaal Masters hockey at the National Masters' Hockey tournaments. Tubby thrived on people contact and was a people's person. In addition to being an excellent sportsman, he applied these skills within our profession in terms of commitment and leadership. He was a team player at all times and never stepped back from any challenge.

Tubby Veary qualified with a BVSc in 1963 and married Annette soon after. They had two children – a son Ian and daughter Elspeth – sadly, Elspeth died of cancer approximately three years ago. After being supported by a wonderful lady for about 20 years, he remarried. His second wife Ena has been his true comfort and protector during his sad decline in health. Ena dealt with some of the hardest times in his life. We salute this giant in our profession and thank Ena for her dedication to our colleague and his family.

Early in 1964, he joined a small Animal practice belonging to Dr Wally Leibenguth (Jhb) and spent several years in this practice before moving to Amos and Clow in Durban. There he registered with the Jockey Club of South Africa as a race course veterinarian at Greyville and Clairwood Park race-courses. In 1969, Annette suffered a stroke. Tubby made a career change that would allow him to assist in caring for her. He left private practice and joined the Durban Corporation, where he became the Principle Veterinary Meat Hygiene Officer at Durban Abattoir. When the new abattoir was built at Cato Ridge, he was the main person responsible for establishing this new abattoir. There were significant problems for more than six months - requiring him and co-workers to spend substantial amounts of time until late at night to fulfil the daily requirement. During this time he obtained a Diploma in Veterinary Public Health at the University of Pretoria in 1978. In 1982, he transferred to the Transvaal Regional Office as Regional Director, Meat Hygiene, Transvaal.

Three years later, in 1985, he was made Associate Professor Department of Veterinary Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Science, at the Onderstepoort Campus of the University of Pretoria. Later, in 1991, he obtained his MMed Vet (Hyg) degree and was promoted to Professor and Acting Head: Department of Veterinary Public Health. His dissertation was titled *“The Effect of Three Slaughter Methods and*

Ambient Temperature on the pH and Temperatures in Springbok (Antidorcas marsupialis) Meat". In 1995, he became Full Professor and Head of the Department of Animal and Community Health and was recognized as a specialist in Veterinary Public Health. After the amalgamation with the Medunsa Veterinary Faculty in 1999, he became subject co-ordinator and head of Section Veterinary Public Health in the Department of Paraclinical Sciences at Onderstepoort.

In 1998 Tubby Veary became the Red Meat Abattoir Association representative on the South African Red Meat Research and Development Trust. Over time he had devoted himself to developing standards and appropriate legislation for meat hygiene and meat safety. He developed a specialist expert base but also developed practical work at abattoirs, as well as writing all the VPH lecture notes for undergraduate veterinary students at Onderstepoort. Tubby Veary was considered a research leader in the field of Meat Hygiene and his publications have been extensively cited. His research grading on Research Gate was extremely high and he was linked with many scientists globally. Between 1993 and 2002 he was on the Editorial Advisory Board of the International Journal Preventive Veterinary Medicine (an international journal on research and development in veterinary epidemiology, animal disease prevention and control, and animal health economics).

In addition he made considerable contributions in wildlife farming and harvesting for exports. During his time with the Red Meat Abattoir Association, a major achievement was the introduction of Hazard Analysis Critical Control points (HACCP); abattoir grading and inspection. It was Tubby who first stood up for focusing on livestock welfare as part of meat hygiene and food safety at Red Meat, Game and Poultry abattoirs. His dedication and incredible attention to detail facilitated the formulation and rewriting of Meat Hygiene Legislation in South Africa, which enabled us to export internationally and contributed to the National Economy in South Africa. From 1989, he was the South African Representative of the World Association of Food Hygienists.

Tubby Veary was also very committed to the Veterinary Profession. Made a Life Member of the South African Veterinary Association Federal Council, Tubby was involved in the SA Veterinary Foundation and the SA Veterinary Council, where he served four terms. He was President of SAVA from 1984 to 1986 but had fulfilled numerous positions as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Natal branch, Pretoria branch, member of Wits branch, was Chairman of the Education Committee and the Constitution Committee. In 1987 he was awarded the Boswell award,; elected as Honorary Life Vice-President in 1988; and obtained the Silver Medal in 199 . Between 1989 to 1997, he was the SAVA representative on the Community Health Association of Southern Africa (CHASA) General Council. Tubby was a popular person in any forum for example the Whirling Wheels Paraplegic Club, Rotary Club, Umhlanga Rocks Town Council and Ratepayers Association.

May his soul rest in peace after his labour of love.

M2554MIC