

SAVA AWARDS

2023 AWARDS



SAVA CITATION 2023

The SAVA may bestow a citation upon one or more persons, including non-veterinarians, in recognition of specific achievements and/or meritorious contributions to the veterinary profession or the SAVA. More than one citation may be bestowed per year.

DR ROSEMARY PETER



Since graduating BVSc in 1982 at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Faculty, Dr Rosemary Peter has distinguished herself as a prominent parasitologist, with special expertise in the assessment of ectoparasiticides. She has been employed in various capacities by small, medium and large international veterinary pharmaceutical companies and has been an advisor to many Sub-Saharan countries and elsewhere. The high regard in which she is held is demonstrated by the large number of international collaborations in which she has been involved and the research funding that she has helped to establish. This research was done even though she was not employed primarily as a researcher but rather as a product developer.

Rose has contributed to both local and international conferences. She has been appointed by the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Association of South Africa as a representative of the Pharmaceutical Industry on the Veterinary Products Policy Committee of the Medicines Control Council.

Internationally, her standing is confirmed by her inclusion in a worldwide panel of 7-9 experts who produced the authoritative series of guidelines for assessing the efficacy of products used to control the ectoparasites of animals, mainly ruminants. These 5 Guidelines, issued under the authority of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP), cover ticks, fleas, flies (nuisance and myiasis), mites and lice. Her international standing is further demonstrated by Dr Peter being on the editorial review board of the highly rated journal, *Parasitology*, and being invited to present a Plenary paper at the WAAVP Congress in 2005.

Dr Peter has served a term as President of the Parasitological Association of South Africa and contributes to the MCC as Chair of the Antibiotic Resistance Working Group, as well as being appointed Extraordinary Lecturer at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort.

For her consistent and meritorious contributions to the veterinary profession in her fields of expertise, Dr Rosemary Peter is a deserving recipient of a SAVA Citation for 2023.

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DR MORNÉ DE LA REY



After graduating BVSc in 1994, Dr Morné de la Rey joined his father Ronnie as an embryo transfer expert in the firm Embryo Plus and then became CEO in 1998 and has subsequently been recognized internationally for his expertise in the field of assisted reproduction in domestic ruminants and wildlife.

Morné has consistently pushed the boundaries of his field of expertise and his entrepreneurial role is shown by the number of firsts worldwide or in Africa: embryo sexing, embryo splitting, embryo foal, cloned calf, Sable antelope embryo calf, African buffalo calf by embryo transfer, In Vitro Fertilisation, morulas from White Rhinos, harvesting the genetics of the last Northern White Rhino bull before euthanasia.

He has played many prominent roles in the International Embryo Technology Society and the South African Veterinary Semen and Embryo Group and is authorised in Canada to export bovine embryos. Additionally, he was elected as patron and advisor to the East African Embryo Transfer Association and elected Conservation Fellow of the San Diego Zoo International. His services to 15 countries outside South Africa include all continents except Australia.

Over 200 veterinarians from 19 countries have benefitted from his training courses on semen, Artificial Insemination, embryos, in vitro fertilization and related skills. As appointed Extraordinary Professor at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, he assists with teaching in Production Animals and Wildlife and is frequently in demand as a speaker at conferences both nationally and internationally, as well as appearing on many television programs relating to his work and expertise, both locally and elsewhere.

Based on his ground-breaking and sustained meritorious contributions to Veterinary Science and the profession, Dr Morné de la Rey is a fitting and deserving recipient of a SAVA Citation in 2023.



Dr Gerber with Prof Bath and Dr Ziyanda Majokweni



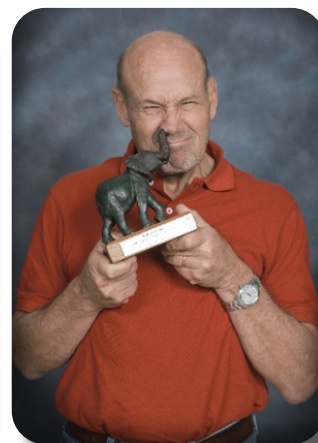
Dr Tom Spencer receiving the SAVA citation on behalf of Dr de la Rey together with Dr Ziyanda Majokweni and Prof Gareth Bath

BOSWELL AWARD 2023

Awarded to any member of the SAVA for eminent service rendered to the profession through the SAVA. The award may be bestowed upon more than one person in a particular year.

DR DAVID GERBER

Dr David Gerber became a member of the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) in 2000, since which time he has served the



Association and profession consistently and with distinction in many capacities, and as an active member of several SAVA Groups has made many contributions that have benefitted these organisations.

These include interactions and negotiations with many authorities in South Africa like SAHPRA, MCC, WRSA, SAVC and DALRRD, that have led to satisfactory outcomes and can be ascribed to Dr Gerber's unique blend of negotiating skills and his knowledge and appreciation of all the aspects of a given issue requiring resolution.

His drive, energy and enthusiasm in assisting the SAVA and its branches resulted in him being co-opted as a Member of the Board of Directors of the SAVA in 2017, where he has continued to make valuable contributions to the profession.

Of particular note has been his involvement in the SAVA team that in the Constitutional Court successfully challenged a Parliamentary Law of the Department of Health that would have prevented

veterinarians from dispensing drugs, since the profession was not consulted and did not fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, he was part of the team that successfully lobbied for veterinarians being placed in the list of essential service providers, allowing them to continue rendering professional services. He also organized sponsorship of a public relations campaign to improve public perception of veterinary services.

Antimicrobial Resistance is a major concern worldwide, and Dr Gerber has played a key role in South Africa especially in the Poultry Industry in promoting responsible use of antibiotics through long-term surveillance and targeted compounded treatments.

As a highly regarded contributor to the veterinary profession through the SAVA and its Groups, Dr David Gerber is a very deserving recipient of the Boswell Award for 2023.

GOLD MEDAL 2023

Awarded to any person, in recognition of outstanding and sustained scientific achievement, with a major impact in the field of veterinary science in South Africa. The medal will only be awarded once to a particular person, and there will be one award per year. The award requires a very comprehensive curriculum vitae and motivation.

DR ROY BENGIS



Trophy
sponsored
by



Dr Begis with Dr Ziyanda Mayokweni, Prof Gareth Bath and Dr Ginelle Viviers sponsor of the Virbac Trophy

Dr Roy Bengis qualified at the Onderstepoort Faculty in 1971 and proceeded to the USA where he obtained MSc and PhD degrees. On his return in 1978, he was appointed as state veterinarian in the Kruger National Park where he was stationed until retirement from government service in 2011. Roy dedicated his career to many aspects of wildlife research that have useful practical applications, and he has extensive knowledge of wildlife diseases and the chemical capture of wild animals. He has 106 scientific publications to his credit of which close to 50 are in refereed journals and he is the senior author of more than 20 of the latter. His scientific productivity is therefore very impressive. Some selected achievements include Dr Bengis showing that elephants were not infected with FMD when exposed to natural infection from infected cattle in adjacent pens. Elephants could therefore subsequently be translocated FMD-free to other parks and conservancies, thereby not only relieving their population pressure in the KNP but also facilitating their conservation. He developed standard operating procedures for the management and husbandry of captive juvenile elephants, and captive buffaloes and the humane euthanasia of wildlife during lethal population management exercises or for dealing with problem animals.

The survival of KNP genotype buffaloes was threatened by a significant outbreak of bovine TB (first diagnosed by Bengis) and two anthrax outbreaks. Dr Bengis co-designed a protocol to breed 'disease-free' buffalo calves from FMD- and theileriosis-infected parent stock and disease-free calves were translocated to other national parks and private wildlife ranches.

Dr Bengis' awards include the President's Award of the SAVA, the Sir Arnold Theiler Memorial Medal and the Gold Medal of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Roy Bengis has had a 49-year career as an internationally recognised, very eminent veterinary wildlife scientist and is a most worthy recipient of the SAVA Gold Medal for 2023.

