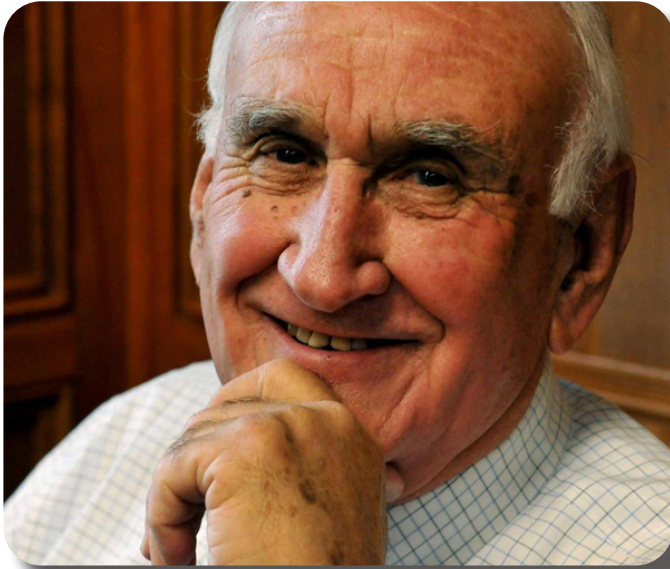


In Memoriam

William Louis Jenkins

29 January 1937 – 26 November 2025



William L Jenkins, or Bill as he was known to his contemporaries, was born in Johannesburg, matriculated from Parktown Boys High School in 1953, and completed the BVSc degree at Onderstepoort, University of Pretoria in 1958 as the Theiler Student of that year.

This was followed by employment as an assistant in mixed private practice in Krugersdorp (1959-1961) and in Pietermaritzburg (1962), and then at the Veterinary Faculty as Lecturer (1963) and Senior Lecturer from 1964 to 1966 in the Department of Medicine.

He married Margaret Mary in 1961, and they had 4 children: Sharon, Gwynn, Anthea and Warren. In 1968, Bill was awarded the MMedVet degree in Pharmacology and Toxicology by the University of Pretoria.

He was a graduate assistant in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at the University of Missouri (1966-1967), followed by a Research Associate post from 1968 to 1969, and had a PhD degree in Pharmacology conferred on him by the University of Missouri in 1970.

Bill returned to South Africa and was appointed Senior Lecturer in the Department of Medicine (1969-1971), and then Professor and Head of the Department of Physiology, Pharmacology and Toxicology (1971-1975) at the Onderstepoort Faculty, before becoming a Visiting Professor at Texas A&M from 1975 to 1976.

He was appointed Professor and Head of the Department of Physiology, Pharmacology and Toxicology at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, from 1976 to 1978, and then Professor in the Department of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology at Texas A&M University from 1978 to 1988.

A series of administrative appointments at the Louisiana State University followed. He was Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine 1988-1993, Interim Vice-Chancellor and Provost 1993-1994, Vice-Chancellor and Provost 1994-1996, Chancellor 1996-1999, and President of the LSU system from 1999 to 2007.

Bill Jenkins was also active in several veterinary associations like SAVA and AVMA, as well as veterinary pharmaceutical, physiological and toxicological colleges, academies and associations in America and internationally.

He was widely recognised for his many contributions, including an honorary DVSc from the University of Pretoria in 2000. In his academic career, he promoted or assisted a long list of candidates for MSc, MMedVet, PhD and DVSc postgraduate degrees.

Bill served on numerous Boards, Committees and other entities in a very wide range of subjects and was frequently invited to be the Guest or Keynote speaker on a variety of topics at many conferences and meetings.

He was the author or co-author of about 60 scientific articles, dealing mainly with pharmacology or physiology. A list of over 200 scientific papers or addresses was delivered over a career spanning nearly 65 years.

When time allowed, Bill enjoyed watching wildlife, playing golf, gardening and reading.

He will be remembered and respected for his very extensive achievements and contributions, and his compassionate, perceptive and encouraging ways of assisting people to overcome problems and achieve their objectives. An excellent academic, teacher and administrator, he was one of the finest veterinarians to graduate from the University of Pretoria.

This tribute is based on many contributions and sources – a detailed CV is available on the University of Pretoria's repository, UPSpace.

Gareth Bath