



Willie Ungerer Memorial Prize Policy

1. Purpose

The Willie Ungerer Memorial Prize is a prestigious accolade awarded by SASVEPM in recognition of outstanding contributions to veterinary epidemiology in the Southern African region. Named in honour of Dr. Willie Ungerer – a founding figure of SASVEPM and a passionate champion of veterinary epidemiology both locally and globally – the prize celebrates his enduring legacy and commitment to advancing the field.

2. Background

Dr. Willie Ungerer served as SASVEPM's first Vice President and second President and remained an active member of the Executive Committee for six years. His contributions extended beyond his formal roles, notably through his leadership at the South African National Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform, where he championed SASVEPM's mission by supporting conference sponsorships and participation. His international recognition includes serving as Secretary of the International Symposium for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE) 2009 Organising Committee, where he proudly represented SASVEPM on the global stage. Furthermore, he was a member of the SADC Epidemiology and Informatics sub-committee, the Inter-Governmental Technical Committee for Agriculture's Veterinary Working Group (ITCA-VWG) and the chair of the ITCA-VWG's Veterinary Epidemiology Working Group.

3. Award Objective

The prize recognises SASVEPM members who have demonstrated outstanding epidemiological expertise, leadership, and impact in the Southern African veterinary preventive medicine field, emulating Dr. Willie Ungerer's legacy.

4. Eligibility Criteria

4.1. Nominees must have:

- 4.1.1. Made significant contributions to the field of veterinary epidemiology, which includes animal health, disease control and/or veterinary public health.
- 4.1.2. Contributed to training and mentorship in epidemiology.



4.1.3. Exemplified the leadership, collaboration values, capacity building, and legacy of Dr. Willie Ungerer.

5. Nomination Process

- 5.1. Nominators and nominees must be SASVEPM members.
- 5.2. Each nomination must include a motivation consisting of a maximum of 500 words outlining the nominee's contributions and impact.
- 5.3. Nominations must be submitted by the specified deadline.
- 5.4. The award recipient will be announced by the SASVEPM Executive Committee at the annual SASVEPM Congress awards ceremony.

6. Selection Process

- 6.1. The SASVEPM Executive Committee will review all nominations.
- 6.2. The SASVEPM Executive Committee reserves the right to appoint a panel to assess candidates based on merit, alignment with the award's purpose and criteria, and the significance of their contributions.

7. Award Presentation

- 7.1. The award will be presented during the annual SASVEPM Congress awards ceremony.
- 7.2. The recipient will receive a commemorative plaque, certificate and a reasonable (as judged by the Executive Committee) monetary award if funding allows and may be invited to deliver a speech at the award ceremony.
- 7.3. To support the recipient's participation, SASVEPM will cover the cost of travel, one night of accommodation, and a ticket to the ceremony where the award will be formally presented.

8. Frequency

The award is presented annually, subject to the identification of a suitable candidate.

9. Policy review

This policy will be reviewed every three years, and amendments require 51% AGM vote.