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VERSCHIEDENES

Ciba-Geigy Prize for Research in Animal Health

The 1987 Ciba-Geigy Prize for Research in Animal Health was awarded at a ceremony in Basle on February 3rd, 1988, to *Glyndwr Alan Vale, M. A., Ph. D.*, of the Zimbabwe Government's Department of Veterinary Services, for his pioneering research on the tsetse fly, the vector of trypanosomiasis (Sleeping Sickness in man and Nagana in domestic animals). The ceremony was attended by the Permanent Secretary of Lands and Agriculture of Zimbabwe, the Ambassador of Zimbabwe to the United Nations in Geneva, and representatives of the Swiss Federal and Cantonal authorities, the universities and industry.

In his laudatio, *Prof. Bernd Hörning* of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Berne emphasized that the prizewinner had succeeded in identifying the mechanism of olfactory attraction of tsetse flies to their host animals. This enabled Dr. Vale to develop odour-baited traps and targets that have proved outstandingly successful in practice. The jury had to evaluate 68 entries, of consistently high quality, from 20 countries in all five continents, underlining the significance of the award. The Prize, now presented for the second time, is worth 50 000 Swiss Francs.

Prof. Leo Jenni of the Swiss Tropical Institute in Basle outlined the economic importance of the tsetse fly, which infests an area of 12 million square kilometers (4.6 million square miles) in 38 countries of tropical Africa. Approximately 50 million people, 140 million head of cattle and an equal number of sheep and goats live in the tsetse-infested area and are therefore at risk of Sleeping Sickness and Nagana, respectively. The latter causes annual losses in livestock estimated at 7.5 billion US\$ — a costly problem to African agriculture. With his "attract and kill" method, using odourbaited fly-traps impregnated with insecticide, Dr. Vale has pointed a new way towards eradi-

cation of the flies. His technique is cheaper than any other tried so far, and is safer for the operators and the environment due to the fact that only minimal amounts of insecticide are needed. Furthermore, it has a great potential for permanent application in the field. Dr. Vale described his research conducted during the last twenty years, and the key experiments which led to the development of refined methods of tsetse fly control.

Dr. Rudolf Schneiter, member of the Executive Committee of CIBA-GEIGY Limited, stressed the importance of Dr. Vale's work in the context of the social and economic development of Africa, and reviewed the activities of the CIBA-GEIGY Group of Companies in the countries of the Third World.

Dr. Heimo Brunetti, Head of CIBA-GEIGY's Animal Health Subdivision, emphasized that CIBA-GEIGY regards the Prize as an expression of its commitment to animal health and as a tool to encourage and reward outstanding research work in this field.

Entries for the 1989 Prize will be invited by advertisements in scientific journals later this year.



Dr. Glyndwr A. Vale, Prizewinner (right), and Dr. Heimo Brunetti, Head Animal Health Subdivision (left)