

Professor Jon van Heerden, M.B., Ch.B. was Professor of Surgery, Vice Chair for Education in the Department of Surgery, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston and Emeritus Professor of Surgery at the Mayo Medical School

He graduated from University of Cape Town Medical School, Cape Town, and did his residency at Groote Schuur Hospital and Victoria Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa and later at Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota.

As a surgical resident at the Mayo Clinic he was strongly influenced by the thyroid and parathyroid surgery of Edward Judd and Marden Black and by the pioneering pancreatic and adrenal surgery of Bill Remine, Dew Ferris and Jim Priestley and this mentorship continued even when he joined the Mayo staff as a consultant in General Surgery in 1973. Over the subsequent 32 years at Mayo clinic he forged his role of an international leader in general and endocrine surgery both in surgical education and academia.

Jon van Heerden had a prodigious practice of over 28,000 operations primarily in endocrine surgery but his surgical reputation extended to all aspects of general surgery. International visitors from 5 continents visited his practice and he shared his surgical experience generously. He published more than 443 peer-reviewed articles, three surgical textbooks, 64 book chapters, dozens of editorials and 15 videos. His academic efforts focused mostly on endocrine material, but he also has legendary papers on simple things that made a difference across the globe, such as when to remove a nasogastric tube, indications and technique of portal venous decompression, and when and how to institute life-saving measures in patients with neck hematomas. His research prowess was acknowledged by the Oliver Cope Meritorious Achievement Award from the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons in 2004, one of only four such awards given over almost 30 years.

In addition to being president of the IAES he was president of the Mayo Fellows Association, of the Western Surgical Association, the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons, the Minnesota Surgical Society, Priestley Society, an Honorary fellow of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. More than 350 Mayo surgical trainees rotated with Dr. van Heerden, and dozens of fellows from across the world have spent

time under his tutelage. Fittingly, an award named after Jon van Heerden is presented to the outstanding clinical resident in general surgery who renders the most meticulous patient care.