

An international journal dedicated to avian health

# Avian Diseases

Published Quarterly by the American Association of Avian Pathologists

Vol. 66 No. 3 September 2022 Pages 259–370

[www.aaapjournals.info](http://www.aaapjournals.info)



DR. ROBERT JAMES ECKROADE

*About the cover*

**DR. ROBERT JAMES ECKROADE (1937)**

Dr. Robert (Bob) Eckroade was born at the Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C. on June 24, 1937 to Kermit and June Eckroade. Bob spent his school years in Cradock, VA, a small planned community near Portsmouth. In 1955, he matriculated at Virginia Tech. During this period, he married his high school sweetheart, Carlene Burton, which substantially increased his focus and success in his pre-veterinary medicine studies. After 3 years, Bob enrolled at the University of Georgia (1958-1962) to pursue his dream of becoming a small animal veterinarian. During this period, Don Davis introduced Bob to poultry science, which ultimately led to a career in poultry medicine after receiving his MS and PhD degrees in Pathology and Veterinary Science from the University of Wisconsin in 1971. Afterwards, he joined the University of Delaware working on infectious bursal disease with Walt Staples. In 1975, Bob joined the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine where he remained until his retirement in 2003.

Dr. Eckroade's love for teaching resulted in a quality teaching program in poultry medicine for University of Pennsylvania veterinary students and the establishment of a residency program in poultry medicine. In addition, Bob also established a quality poultry diagnostic laboratory. He was instrumental in developing a highly efficient control program for *Salmonella enteritidis*, which became the basis for the national program.

Dr. Eckroade served the AAAP as secretary-treasurer and business manager of Avian Diseases from 1982 until 2003. During this time, he implemented many important changes related to rapid shifts in communication techniques: e.g., transitioning from using individual metal plates with the mailing label information to modern e-mail communications. Perhaps the most consequential change Bob made was the establishment of the AAAP Foundation serving as the charitable arm of the AAAP. In conclusion, Bob had a major impact on the development of the AAAP as we know it today. Thank you Dr. Eckroade for your long-time service to the AAAP. We thank Sherri Eckroade Trossbach for the photo and Bob Eckroade and Bill, his son, for adding important information to the text.

Submitted by Kimberly Sprout and K.A. Schat