

Obituaries

Prof. Dr Jean-Pierre Guignard

It is with great sadness that we heard that Prof. Guignard passed away on April 14, 2022, aged 82. Jean-Pierre Guignard has been one of the founders of paediatric nephrology in the world, and especially in Switzerland, where he built and led a brilliant paediatric nephrology unit and laboratory as well. He was and will always be considered as one of the father and founder of paediatric nephrology of Switzerland!

Prof. Guignard was born in Lignerolle, “a small village at the foot the Jura Mountains” as he used to describe his hometown. He grew up in Vaud County, and earned his MD and later his PhD from the University of Lausanne.

He then pursued his career in paediatric nephrology abroad, in London (London Hospital Medical College and St Thomas Hospital), in Vancouver (University of British Columbia), in Montreal (McGill University) and in Mexico (Hospital Pediatrico del Seguro Social). During his training, he learned many technics such as hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis and transplantation that he would later introduce in Lausanne, allowing to save many children with terminal renal failure. This is particularly significant, as many children would have died at that time, with no treatment options.

Beside his clinical work, he also led a world-famous experimental laboratory. His main research focus was the pathophysiology of hypoxia-induced acute renal failure, or in other words, vasomotor acute renal failure. Jean-Pierre Guignard was the first to have explained and described the pathophysiology of hypoxia-induced acute renal failure in the newborn, and to have explored how to treat it with various vasoactive drugs. This led to numerous publications in prestigious Journals. As a natural consequence, should we say, his keen interest for applied pharmacology in the newborn led him to found the European society of pediatric pharmacology in 1988, gathering paediatricians and pharmacologists under his leadership.

During his career, he published more than 200 referenced papers, encompassing basic research and clinical case descriptions. His scientific knowledge led him to international fame, culminating in the attribution of the prestigious Ira Greifer prize. Despite this, he would always remain humble, ready to teach residents and nurses in Lausanne Medical School, and inviting many fellows around the world to learn about the pathophysiology of renal diseases in children.

He will be remembered worldwide as a man of heart, sincerity, friendship and knowledge, enthusiastic, clever, and witty. We will miss him. The Swiss Group for Paediatric Nephrology address its sincere condolence to his wife Francoise and his family.

On behalf of the Swiss group of pediatric nephrology

François Cachat