



Newsletter No. 53

Justin Teissié (1947–2020)

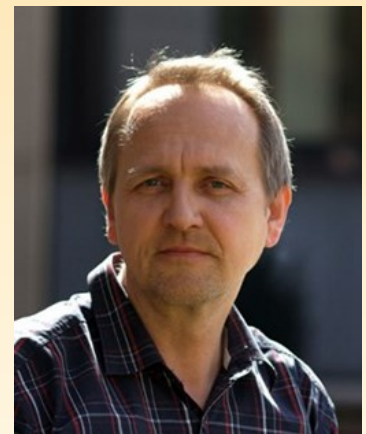
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Justin Teissié (1947–2020)

Justin Teissié, a biophysicist, engineer of the Ecole Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie Industrielles in 1970, PhD in Macromolecular Chemistry from the University of Paris VI, Doctor of State in Biophysics from the University of Toulouse III in 1979. After his post-doctorate in the United States at the Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine in the laboratory of Prof. T.Y. Tsong, he created and developed his research team in Toulouse and was a pioneer and leader in electroporation and its applications in biotechnology and biomedicine. He was a devoted scientist and remained such even after his retirement.

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Justin Teissié has dedicated his life to the study of biological membranes and the fundamental processes leading to membrane permeabilisation, and has played a major role in the development of its applications in the medical field for electrochemotherapy and in industry for sterilization. He has been equally aware of the need and importance of developing fundamental knowledge and understanding of cell membrane electropermeabilisation, as well as of developing and promoting use of electroporation in medicine and biotechnology. While being a researcher at the CNRS, he has constantly paid great attention to the training of young people, trainees, doctoral, and post-doctoral students of his team, in various Masters of the University, or through numerous schools for international researchers. He was one of the founding faculty members and still an active faculty member of the Electroporation Based Technologies and Treatments Postgraduate Course and International Scientific Workshop in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He has been actively involved also as teacher and programme committee member of the PEF School.

We can only mention here a few of the many responsibilities he had held and honours he had received: team leader from 1985 to 2010, President of the Scientific Council of the Doctoral School of Life Sciences of the Université Paul Sabatier from 1993 to 2011, head of the "Biomembranes" then "Structural Biology and Biophysics" departments of the IPBS from 2006 to 2010, winner of the Prize for Medical Applications of Electricity awarded by the Institut Electricité Santé in 1995, CNRS honorary medallist in 2013 and laureate of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) in 2017. He became an Honorary Senator of the University of Ljubljana in 2015, and was Emeritus Research Director since 2012. Although retired, he never ceased to be an extremely involved and active researcher; Justin Teissié lived until his last days by and for Science.

His passing creates an immense void in our community. His power of work, his integrity and scientific rigor, but also his humour, his great generosity, and his availability were exemplary. He was always posing questions, continuously reminding us that our knowledge is still incomplete, and even though we sometimes had an impression that we have done something completely new and complete, the literature search revealed Justin had at least addressed that specific question before. We, his students, colleagues, and friends, will never forget him, and will keep him in our memories. We will remember how invigorating scientific discussions with him were, and how he was capable of influencing our future choices with a simple question.

Forthcoming events

Electroporation-Based Technologies and Treatments

Ljubljana, November 15 – 21, 2020

<http://2020.ebtt.org>

8th European Medical and Biological Engineering Conference – EMBEC 2020

Portorož, November 29 – December 3, 2020

<http://embec2020.org/>

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*Justin Teissié during a vivid
discussion at the 1st World
Congress on electroporation in
Portorož, Slovenia, 2015.*

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