



In Memoriam

Dr. Yves Durandy, February 20, 1947–October 6, 2016



With great sorrow, we write this memoriam for Dr. Yves Durandy. We lost Yves Durandy on October 6, 2016 in Paris, France.

Yves was a very special person. We think he could be compared to a crystal reflecting white light into beautiful and different colors. Behind his quiet and shy demeanor, a treasure of knowledge was hidden. Yves had not only contributed to the evolution of congenital heart disease management in both cardiopulmonary bypass and intensive care unit but also he made every single procedure as simple as possible to get to the fast track in any situation. At his clinical center or during humanitarian missions all over the world, he was always able to do a great job and share his knowledge, a true “savoir-faire,” with the medical and paramedical staff. He was the MacGyver of pumps, able to recycle an old circuit into the most efficient and cheapest cardiopulmonary bypass. Meeting new teams and new people, sharing best practices, and talking for hours about technical issues was his fuel to innovate, go further, and learn new techniques.

He was always looking for continuous improvement.

His shyness hid a sincere kindness toward patients and an extremely strong engagement to defend good working conditions for his team. Yves's efforts were entirely directed to the well-being of his patients as well as the quality of the medical care and he paid extra attention to their morale. We remembered when he himself prepared a special breakfast for a patient waiting for a heart transplant, every single day up to the surgery. That dish of grilled tomatoes and fried eggs was all the patient was ready to eat. Yves paid the same attention to his team, his dear nurses. He transmitted his skills, his abilities, and his kindness to them. His department was a reflection of his own personality: efficient, performant, and cool! His shyness also hid a strong intellectual and moral honesty. His greatest fight was against the authority, when the well-being and the care of the patient were not given the highest priority.

Yves not only participated in 11 out of the past 12 International Conferences on Pediatric Mechanical Circulatory Support Systems and Cardiopulmonary Perfusion, but also he had significant scientific contributions to this international event at all levels including as an invited lecturer, moderator, as well as a conference co-organizer. In particular, Yves was an expert on blood products in pediatric cardiac surgery (1,2), minimizing systemic inflammation during cardiopulmonary bypass in the pediatric population (3), non-occlusive, inexpensive pediatric pulsatile roller pump for cardiopulmonary bypass, extracorporeal life support, and left/right ventricular assist systems (4,5), pre- and postoperative magnetic resonance imaging in neonatal arterial switch operation using warm perfusion (6), and near infrared spectroscopy during pediatric cardiac surgery (7). Because of his multidisciplinary expertise, we needed his help to review many manuscripts on pediatric cardiac surgery and perfusion for *Artificial Organs*.

In addition to his membership to many scientific societies, Yves was one of the founding members for

the *International Society for Pediatric Mechanical Cardiopulmonary Support* and he served as a board member since 2010. His scientific contributions will be greatly missed by the Society members.

Yves was a refined man, whose vast culture went well beyond medicine. He loved talking about gastronomy, oenology, literature, and history. And obviously, he loved sharing the great passion he had for sailing. Yves was a very special person because he always felt free. Free to explore new paths in medicine, and free also to enjoy life day after day.

We express our sincere condolences to Yves's family (his two sons, François-Xavier and Axel, and his long-term partner Eliane), friends, and colleagues for their great loss. We have lost a dedicated physician, a researcher, and a great friend who will be always remembered with wonderful memories around the globe.

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