

It is with great sorrow we received the sad news that our esteemed and dear colleague Gérard Maugin passed away on September 22nd 2016 in his 72nd year.



Gérard Maugin was educated in Paris (Mechanical Engineer, 1966; Aeronautical Engineer, 1968, M.Sc. in Mathematics, 1968) and in Princeton USA (MA, 1969; PhD, 1971) and he was granted his Doctorat d'Etat es Science Mathématique in Paris 6 in 1975. He was Director of Research at the "Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique" (Physical Science for Engineering). He was a motive power in the group on Continuum Mechanics at the University of Paris 6 in the environment of Paul Germain. He became head of the "Laboratoire de Modélisation en Mécanique", a large research unit devoted to all aspects of theoretical fluid and solid mechanics. Then he created (2006) the "Institut Jean Le Rond d'Alembert" that gathered to theoretical and experimental studies in Mechanics, Acoustics and Energetics including original fields as musical acoustics.

Gérard Maugin is an internationally recognized specialist in continuum mechanics and wave propagation. His scientific interests span nonlinear effects in mechanics, physics and biology, especially, solitons, fracture, coupled electro-magneto-mechanical effects, media with microstructure and smart materials. He described himself as a French mechanical-aeronautical engineer with an American education and a strong interest in mathematical physics.

He has lectured on all continents, published about 350 refereed papers in international revues, contributed to some 200 proceeding of international conferences and he was the author or co-author of twelve monographs or textbooks. He was much active in the editing committee of international journals. He dutifully sat for nine years on the national selection committee for admission and promotion of professional researchers at CNRS.

He was honoured by several medals and prizes among them : a CNRS medal in 1977, a Prize of Mechanical from French Academy of Sciences in 1982, the Max Plank Research award for 2001, the SES Eringen Medal from the Society of Engineering Science, USA (2003) and lastly the International Gili Agostinelli Prize for pure and applied mechanics, mathematics applied to the physical, natural engineering from the Academy of Sciences of Torino (2016). He has received honorary doctoral degrees from different countries, e.g., the Lomonosov State University in Moscow, the Technical University of Darmstadt, and the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki. He was a foreign member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, and a member of several professional societies (ASME, SIAM, APS, ...). He was involved in international and European projects.

More recently, his scientific interests went to the history of science and epistemology, with a specific interest in Gabrio Piola, Pierre Duhem, Gustav von Helmholtz, and the Cosserat brothers, not to forget his dear d'Alembert. He published books on this subject.

He has established long-time fruitful and friendly co-operation with scientists from the world over. He has mentored a number of young researchers as PhD or Pos-doc students. Some of them have still in mind his strong personality as well as his kind attention, availability, encouraging his younger colleagues offering a friendly service on which they can rely. He had the skill to convey his no-limit enthusiasm for his scientific knowledge.