Obituary for Professor André - Laurent Parodi



André - Laurent, Marie Parodi was a gifted teacher and researcher, peer and mentor.

Professor Parodi received his veterinarian degree in 1959 from the French veterinary school of Alfort (EnvA) and in 1960, his microbiology and serology degree from Pasteur Institute, Paris. In 1961, he received his doctor in veterinary degree from the University of Sciences, Paris VI. André Parodi was Professor of Histology and Pathology at EnvA (1965 – 1998). Among his many leadership roles were Chair of Histology and Pathology department (1979 – 1998), Dean EnvA (1992-1998), president of the French National Veterinary Medicine Academy (2000) and, one of the few veterinarians, president of the French National Academy of Medicine (2012).

His research was centered on lymphoid tissue pathology and particularly cancers. He became member of the WHO expert group on the classification of animal cancers. He was part of the European Commission of experts for Bovine Leukemia and a member of the scientific board of INRA (French National Institute for Agronomic Research) and CNEVA (National Center for Veterinary and Food Studies, precursor of ANSES (French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety).

Animated by passion and excellence, he created several specialty degrees in Pathology such as the University Diploma of Pathology applied to Toxicology (1986), the French diploma of Veterinary Pathology (1988), paving the road for the French specialty diploma (DESV, 1996). He was instrumental in sending the first young veterinarians to enroll in Veterinary Pathology Residency and obtain American Board certification in the late 1980's.

He was the founder, President and then Honorary President of the French Society of Veterinary Pathological Anatomy (since 1977) as well as Honorary member of the French Society of Toxicology Pathology (2013)

Professor Parodi had an exceptional role in the development of veterinary education and science in the World. He was one of the founding members, president (1999-2001) and then Honorary member of the European College of Veterinary Pathologists. He was an active member of the European Cociety of Veterinary Pathology and President (1988). He was Honorary Member of the American Society of Veterinary Pathology. He was Doctor Honoris causa from University of Cordoba(Spain), Bucarest (Romania) and Liège (Belgium). He built the scientific recognition of veterinarian and,in particular, of veterinary pathologists across Europe and Mediterranean countries which were close to its heart being born in Sidi-Bel-Abes (Algeria) in 1933. He was the Honorary President and founder of the network of the Mediterranean Veterinary Schools (REEV Med).

Professor Parodi was visionary and strongly believed about the role of veterinarian and pathologists in health including public health, more recently referred as "One Earth, One Health". He was a member of the European Commission Scientific Committee for Animal Health and Animal Welfare (DG XXIV) and President of the French Commission for veterinary product registration.

Professor Parodi was also extremely active locally in its home township. He was a founding member of the Development Committee of Val de Marne near Paris and became a member of its executive committee. His action allowed the development of the current National School of Veterinary Medicine (EnvA) in Maison-Alfort. In recent years, he supported the business plan for the creation of the Cité de la gastronomie in Paris-Rungis, a new centre of culture and creativity for gastronomy.

His contribution to Science and Society was nationally recognized with several awards and distinction amongst which Officer of the Legion of Honor, Commandeur of National Order of Academic Palms and Knight of the National Order of Agricultural Merit

He will remain for us a great teacher, a great researcher and a remarkable pathologist who influenced our specialty and, far and foremost, a kind and generous gentleman and hard worker who committed to high quality teaching and support to students and peers. One of his greatest legacy is that his students have taken up leadership roles in many public and private institutions. He enjoyed the successes of the people he mentored. Many of them became close friends.

André passed away suddenly on May 15th, 2022 in Paris, France. Andre will be profoundly missed by his ever-present wife Monique, 2 daughters Anne and Marine as well as their respective husbands Mathieu et Nicolas, 5 Granddaughters Hortense, Sixtine, Olympe, Madeleine and Colombe. We address our friendly thoughts to his family.