IN MEMORIAM

Louis Guize

The profession of medicine and, in particular, the field of cardiology, especially arrhythmology, lost a gifted physician, medical educator and researcher on September 6th, 2008 with the death of Louis Guize at the age of 69.

Louis’ career was multifaceted, marked by outstanding service in cardiology. He was a pioneer of French arrhythmology.

Louis became externe des hôpitaux de Paris in 1958. He became interne des hôpitaux de Paris in 1962, working in the departments of Professors Pestel, Meyer, Lenègre, Milliez, Brouet and Soulié. Between 1968 and 1972 Louis was assistant des hôpitaux in Boucicaut Hospital in the prestigious department of Professor Jean Lenègre. He became Professor of Cardiology in 1972, working for 2 years in the department of Professor Jean Di Matteo in Necker–Enfants-Malades, then in Broussais Hospital in the department of Professor Pierre Maurice, and finally in the department of Professor Pierre Ourbak. Louis became Head of the arrhythmia department in 1990. He stayed with his group at Broussais Hospital until 2000, then moved to Georges-Pompidou Hospital. He remained Head of the arrhythmia department until 2005. Between September 2005 and September 2008, he was a consultant in Georges-Pompidou Hospital.

Louis’ career was marked by clinical activities and research in two different fields: arrhythmology and epidemiology. His thesis, presented in 1968, was entitled Contribution à l’étude de la voie de conduction auriculo-ventriculaire. Aspects en microscopie électronique. He was one of the first French researchers to record, around 1971, the endocavitary electrical activity of the His bundle.

Louis was well known in the field of arrhythmology for his research into endocavitary electrophysiology: orthorhythmic stimulator, sinus node function, catheter ablation by radiofrequency (the first case ever performed, in 1986) and cryoablation.

In the field of epidemiology and cardiovascular prevention, Louis carried out research into cardiovascular risk factors. He published many papers based on data from the Investigations préventives et cliniques database. He also published fascinating data on risk factors for sudden death and on the epidemiology of Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome. More recently, he was intrigued by the components of and prognosis for the metabolic syndrome.

Louis was a prolific author and presenter, leading or coauthoring more than 250 original articles, over 70 books or book chapters and almost 500 congress presentations.

Louis was chairman of the Epidemiology Group of the French Society of Cardiology and a very active member of the working group on arrhythmias. He was a member of the national committee of registries and of committees for reimbursement and pharmacovigilance of medicines. He was very active in the French Society and Federation of Cardiology, and was a corresponding member of the National Academy of Medicine since 2003.

Louis’ contribution to arrhythmology and cardiovascular epidemiology is, and will remain, a major one.

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