

Dear colleagues,

With great sadness we just had to learn that our dear colleague, fellow scientist and friend **Prof. Dr. Gerard Siest** has passed away.

Not only was Prof. Gerard Siest an untiring pacemaker of Clinical Chemistry and a restless protagonist to promote and sharpen the scientific profile of our profession.

For many years, his presence on scientific and general conferences was like an institution to us, and you could always be sure to find him around somewhere. Whether talking to colleagues in private conversation or participating in lively floor discussions, he was at his best when sharing his enthusiasm for new projects and his visions for the advancement of scientific Laboratory Medicine. Gerard certainly had an impressive talent to get people interested in his ideas, and often - in good humor - he directly had a job from them.

During his brilliant professional career, Prof. Siest was always willing to take the baton to promote academic and scientific affairs. He served in the university Nancy both as dean of his faculty as well as vice president. He was president of IFCC (1991-1996), and his presidential term is still regarded seminal for the strategic positioning of IFCC for the 21st century, particularly in bringing regional societies together. Many of his activities have become "brands" like the Santorini conferences that he organized with Dr. Sophie Siest for so many years. We continue to be grateful for his excellent 12-year period as Editor-in-Chief of CCLM that resulted in a steep incline in visibility and impact of one of our core scientific journal. Similarly successfully, he did so for a number of other journals related to his prime research interests. Although long retired, he took to such time-consuming and strenuous tasks, because he clearly saw and emphasized the importance of strengthening publication organs capable to give laboratory sciences the appropriate forum and visibility.

His enthusiasm and efficiency in "getting the job done" was greatly appreciated as is reflected by the fact that he was elected board member in a number of scientific societies, where he served until now. It is therefore not surprising that he received numerous awards for his valuable contributions.

His last "pet project" was the foundation of the European Society for Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Therapy, a task he took on with his usual vigour. Within few years, he had built ESPT into a real success story and, as president of ESPT, continued to promote it together with many young and talented colleagues to a major platform for modern diagnostic science and health care.

On behalf of the European Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine and all its members, the Executive Board of EFLM wants to express the sincerest condolences to Prof. Siest's wife and our colleague Dr. Sophie Siest, his children and family for the tragic loss experienced.

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Michael Neumaier (on behalf of the EFLM Executive Board)

Vice President EFLM