



Obituary

Dear Colleagues,

François Grosclaude, passed away on Wednesday 3, October 2012 at the age of 79. He was a pioneer of modern Animal Genetics in France and remained passionately devoted to research in Animal Sciences throughout his long and fruitful career with INRA he began in 1959. As a researcher in Biochemical and Molecular Genetics he conducted generic studies on blood groups and milk proteins which laid the foundations to practical developments on parentage control, biodiversity, and on milk technology. His scientific and human leadership made the INRA laboratory “Génétique Biochimique et des Groupes Sanguins” he headed for many years into a world class research unit.

Promoted as the Head of the INRA Animal Genetics Division, he kept very much in touch with ongoing international research, and was at the origin of the expansion of the Division towards modern Molecular Genetics and Genomics. He was instrumental in the development of large European research programs on structural and functional Genomics in Farm Animals. Involved with the International Society of Animal Genetics (ISAG) since the early ages of the European Society for Animal Blood Group Research (ESABR), he was the Secretary of the society from 1978 to 1982; he chaired the scientific committee of the 25th ISAG Conference held in France (Tours) in 1996. At that occasion, he was elected as honorary member of the Society.

At the same period, as Scientific Director of all Animal divisions of INRA, his concern for the application of research to farm animal industry and his devotion to academic research were put to good use in defining animal research priorities like genomes, development, behavior and environment. Most significantly, his foresight helped INRA react quickly and efficiently during the European “mad cow disease” crisis.

Very early, he had the conviction that Genomics would bring about new tools for selection, and he promoted the creation of Labogena, a laboratory for genetic analyses at the interface between research and animal breeding organizations. He was President of Labogena from 1994 to 2000.

A pioneer, visionary and leader scientist, François Grosclaude will be remembered by all his friends and colleagues as a charismatic personality, and a man with special ability to empathize and communicate.

Denis Milan & Animal Genetics division's colleagues