



Obituary notice

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Pierre Cornelis on December 2nd 2023. Born on November 4, 1949, in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pierre dedicated his life to the study of microbial organisms, particularly *Pseudomonas*, and iron homeostasis in this bacterium. He leaves behind an impressive legacy that has shaped the landscape of microbiological research.

Pierre commenced his academic journey by completing a doctoral thesis on the "Comparison between isoaccepting tRNA species from healthy and tumor tissues in tobacco" at the Catholic University of Louvain. He then embarked on a postdoctoral stay at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel. His interest in siderophores began in 1985 while working at the Institute of Cellular Pathology (ICP-UCL) in Brussels. Subsequently, he spent the majority of his career at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. His notable contributions include research on iron homeostasis and cell-cell communication in *Pseudomonas*, gene regulation by environmental signals, as well as the characterization of outer membrane lipoproteins from *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Burkholderia multivorans*.

As a professor at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pierre shared his extensive knowledge with students in microbiology and biology, leaving a positive impact on the education of numerous generations.

Beyond his academic achievements, Pierre was a dedicated editor, assuming prominent roles such as Editor-in-chief of Microbiology Open, Editor for the journal Pathogens and Disease, and Associate Editor for Biometals. He also served on the editorial boards of other journals, including Environmental Microbiology and PloS One. His influence in the field of scientific editing was a testament to his ongoing dedication to the research in microbiology.

Additionally, he held the positions of president of the International Biometals Society (IBS) from 2014 to 2018. He organized the 8th International Biometals Symposium held in Brussels, Belgium in 2012. Pierre was also Ambassador of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) for Belgium.

Throughout his career, Pierre wielded significant influence as a professor, researcher, and editor. His devoted passion for research has left an indelible mark on the field of microbiology and siderophores, and his contributions to the field of metals in biology will remain a source of inspiration for future generations. We will greatly miss his kind presence, humility, simplicity, freedom of thought and spirit, and humor, but his scientific legacy will endure.

Isabelle Schalk and Isabelle Michaud-Soret