

Tribute

In Memory of Catherine Pasquier: A Beloved Spirit

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CATHERINE PASQUIER, scientist at CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) in the laboratory Unit U479 of INSERM (Institut National de Santé et de la Recherche Médicale) located at University-Paris VII-Xavier Bichat, died in November of 2002 at the age of 63 in Paris, France after a long battle against breast cancer. Married to Dr. Gérard Pasquier, a renowned cardiologist in Paris, he was for her a companion and a collaborator as they worked on many aspects of reactive oxygen species and cardiovascular disease. Together, they have two children Hervé and Bruno. Catherine was one of the active executive editors of this journal.

While working in many laboratory and industry as a research assistant, Catherine developed her love for science. She graduated from the University Paris VI where she also completed her Ph.D. thesis in 1979 in the laboratory of INSERM U5 directed by Professor Debarre. This same year, she obtained her appointment at CNRS as a researcher in the Department of Life Science. In 1984 she joined the laboratory of Professor Jacques Hakim at University Paris VII-Xavier Bichat where she worked on the reactive oxygen species area and taught this new field to students. In 1986 this laboratory became INSERM Unit U294. Twelve years later in 1998 the laboratory was renamed as U479. Catherine led the group working on reactive oxygen species during these years. In 1993, she obtained the Research Director degree (HDR), the highest French degree in science, from the University of Paris V. Catherine was one of the leading scientists in the field studying free radical attacks on proteins using the pulse radiolysis techniques in collaboration with Dr. C. Ferradini of the University of Paris V. More recently, she focussed on the study of redox signaling as it relates to neutrophil adhesion to endothelial cells (*Blood*. 1994 May 1;83(9):2669–2677).

In addition to her scientific works, Catherine organized several major conferences in France on reactive oxygen



Presidential speech by Dr. Catherine Pasquier XI SFRR International Conference, July 2002, Paris.

species, the last one was the XIth meeting of the Society for Free Radical Research (SFRR) International in July of 2002 (see photo). She was also president of the SFRR-Europe and -France, and a member of numerous scientific societies. Also indicative of her leadership and stature in the profession, she served on the editorial boards of numerous journals of the field, in addition to being very active in committees locally, nationally, and internationally. Catherine Pasquier played a key role in the foundation of *Antioxidants & Redox Signaling* and in developing the field of redox biology.

Catherine was more than a friend and colleague to people all over the world who knew her. She was an example of humanity and kindness, a rigorous scientist and an enthusiastic educator. During her last few months, her courage and optimism was a lesson to all of us, as she successfully organized and presided over the XIth SFRR International conference in Paris (see photo). Her sufferings clearly took a back seat and she rose to the occasion and stunned the international community with her gracious performance.

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