

## Obituary



### Jacques Gielen, 1940–2004

On 22 January 2004, Jacques Gielen, Professor at Liege University and Head of the Medical Chemistry Unit at Liege University Hospital died from pulmonary embolism while fighting cancer of the kidney.

Jacques, who was born in Waremme (Belgium) in 1940, entered the University of Namur where he obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Pharmacy two years later. He continued his education at Liege University, gained a Masters Degree in Pharmacy in 1963 and a PhD in Experimental Biomedical Sciences in 1970 after presentation of a thesis on the properties of cholesterol-7 $\alpha$ -hydroxylase. From 1970–73, Jacques was a post-doctoral researcher at the NIH (Bethesda, USA) and worked in collaboration with Dan Nebert on the regulation of Aryl Hydrocarbon Hydroxylase and then with Phil Leder on the molecular regula-

tion of globin expression. Jacques came back from the US in 1973 and began developing a research unit in molecular pharmacology and toxicology and then rapidly assumed many important responsibilities in the Medical Chemistry Unit of the University Hospital, mainly in applying molecular biology tools to medical diagnosis. He was also instrumental in the creation of the inter-faculty research center in molecular and cellular therapy and had important teaching duties in the school of Pharmacy of Liege University. Jacques also served on numerous committees in Belgium and Europe.

Jacques Gielen's outstanding contribution has been in the understanding of the regulation of enzymes involved in drug metabolism. He matched his passion for science and teaching with his enjoyment of fine foods, Bordeaux

wines and single malt whiskeys. I will remember with gladness and sadness the times we spent together discussing how genes are regulated and how signals are perceived by cells while enjoying foods and wines. With his keen mind, broad background, and willingness to listen and to help out, Jacques was the perfect person with whom to discuss results and manuscripts. He was a master in evaluating manuscripts submitted to our Journal and in choosing the most appropriate experts to review them. I will miss his sense of humour, his scrupulous sense of fair play, his insights, and the contribution he

would surely have continued to make to Biochemical Pharmacology.

Jacques leaves behind his wife Marie-Paule, his daughters Isabelle, Emilie, and Laure-Anne and grandson Emile. Our thoughts are also with them.

Jacques Piette

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