



## Preface

## Dr. Sylvain Miachon (1967–2009)



This special issue of Catalysis Today is dedicated to Dr. Sylvain Miachon who passed away on 21st January, 2009. ICCMR9 was Sylvain's idea and he launched it in December 2007 during ICCMR8 in Kolkata. Unfortunately, Sylvain, our colleague and dear friend, gave up the ghost on 21st January 2009 after a courageous battle with cancer at the age of 41 years, leaving behind his lovely wife, Sylvie and their 10-year-old twins, Maé and Tellio.

Born in Lyon in 1967, Sylvain lived in a variety of countries during his youth, which likely gave him his love for intercultural friendship. After his studies at secondary school, he entered the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Lille in 1991, where he earned his chemical engineering degree. He also spent a year in Scotland, where he obtained a Master of Philosophy in polymer chemistry. In 1995, he received his Ph.D. in chemistry at the French Nuclear Agency (University of Grenoble – France) with a thesis entitled “Development of an internal hydration polymer electrolyte hydrogen/oxygen fuel cell.”

In 1998, Sylvain joined CNRS as a permanent staff at the Institut de Recherches sur la Catalyse et l'Environnement de Lyon. From then on, Sylvain worked actively in the fields of membrane science and catalysis. He earned an international reputation for his

studies in catalytic membrane contactors for gas/liquid reactions, zeolite membrane synthesis and, more recently, in the novel field of nanoliquids.

During his short but intense scientific career, Sylvain co-authored more than 50 peer-reviewed papers and was awarded 7 patents. He acted as invited lecturer for several international conferences. He also established various international collaboration programmes, from South Africa to Norway and from USA to Japan and China covering fundamental or applied subjects. He was always accessible for mentoring as well as encouraged discussions from his students. These attributes made him a well-liked tutor and respected researcher.

Sylvain was an enthusiastic, quick-thinking scientist, who was widely appreciated for his open-mindedness, his kindness and his dedication to others. He will be greatly missed by his students, his colleagues and friends, especially those at the Institut de Recherches sur la Catalyse et l'Environnement de Lyon.

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