

Michel Sauzade (1930 – 1998) Editor in chief

About eighteen months ago, my colleague Michel Sauzade and I decided to join our efforts into a common goal: the launching of a new journal *The European Physical Journal: Applied Physics*. The announcement was made jointly around mid 1997 in *Journal de Physique III* and in *Microscopy, Microanalysis, Microstructures*, both journals merging to form the new title. In January 1998, the first issue of the new journal came out and the present issue is the last one of this first year of publication. You will understand my sadness to sign this first anniversary editorial alone: our friend Michel passed away on 26th October 1998, after a brief and dramatic illness.

This scientific editorial endeavour was one of his last challenges, but he was not a neophyte at all in this field. Indeed, he had previously acted as the editor in chief for *Journal de Physique Appliquée* for ten years. The launching of *EPJ AP* had been very quickly stimulated during the year 1997, in the context of the general agreement between the German and the French physicists communities, and practically between *Éditions de Physique* and *Springer Verlag*, to establish *The European Physical Journal* as a journal of high scientific level, distributed world-wide and covering all fields of physics. In continuation of a long and rich career in electronics and its applications, Michel Sauzade, who had just retired from his position of Professor of Electronics at the Université, Paris-Sud in Orsay, was the ideal person, enthusiastic and competent for creating the Applied Physics section within the great family of the *The European Physical Journal*. And I can testify that he devoted a huge amount of energy to the production of the first issues. price.

During all his scientific activity, at the Institut d'Électronique Fondamentale in Orsay, Michel Sauzade worked on the physics, the instrumentation and the applications of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR). In the sixties, back from a period at MIT in Cambridge, USA, he mastered the implementation and use of superconducting magnets and built the first NMR instrument working above 400 MHz. Twenty years later, after a time of important teaching duties at the University and administrative responsibilities as the director of the Institute, he became fully involved in the development of NMR imaging techniques for medical diagnosis. This was a long struggle, both to maintain a presence of the French instrumentation industry on the market and to spread the technique into the hospital world. A struggle with failures outside his field of action, when it became obvious that French companies could not be competitive on the international market; but also with great successes with the creation of the U2R2M research unit covering all aspects of Magnetic Resonance Imaging from methods and instrumentation to medical use. One of his last papers was dealing with NMR imaging of bone articulation pathologies. This research unit will happily survive his early leave and no doubt that it will continue to honour his name as the French pioneer in this field.

On behalf of the Editorial Board of *The European Physical Journal: Applied Physics*, I wish to express our great sorrow for the sudden loss of a colleague with high competence and also of a friend with a deep sense of humanity.

Christian Colliex
Editor in chief