

Pierre Loiseau (1926 – 2004)

Professor Pierre Loiseau, died suddenly on March 29, 2004 leaving a world of family, friends and colleagues at a loss. Pierre was an outstanding clinical neurologist and renowned epileptologist. He was also an unrivalled teacher and an innovative clinical investigator in the field of the treatment of the epilepsies as well as a pioneer in the epidemiology of the epilepsies.

Pierre was born on October 27, 1926, in Toulouse, France where his father was Professor of English at the University of Toulouse. He and his family moved to Rennes and finally Bordeaux where he began his medical studies in 1945. After finishing his medical training, he ran the EEG laboratory at the University hospital with Professor Faure and also worked with his mentors Professors Bergouignan and Delmas-Marsalet. He was appointed Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry in 1961 at the University of Bordeaux where he served as chief of the neurology clinic for twenty five years until he retired in 1995. As a teacher, he was known for his meticulous preparation as well as his respect for and understanding of his students. At the patient's bedside, his comments were always thoughtful, kind and sometimes delivered with a mischievous smile or wink.

Pierre made many extensive, lasting contributions to the field of epilepsy. Although never called the "Loiseau syndrome" benign rolandic epilepsy, perhaps the single best recognized epilepsy syndrome, was largely iden-

tified and described by him. Much of our current understanding of many of the epilepsies that begin during childhood and adolescence has relied upon his extensive clinical research into these disorders. Pierre also recognized the need for scientific rigor in clinical research and pioneered the use of statistical and epidemiological approaches to the epilepsies. Through his clinical work, teaching, and research, he did much to assure that epileptology became recognized as its own discipline within neurology in France and worldwide.

Many will remember Pierre Loiseau for his participation in the numerous international meetings to which he was so frequently invited. His non-presupposing manner and his insightful and good-humored contributions at those meetings were always instructive and often just a little entertaining. Pierre also served as Vice President of the ILAE, President of the ILAE French chapter, and president of the French Neurology Society. A prolific author, he left us with over 500 publications which we will always have to read and study and learn from.

Pierre was endowed with a profound intelligence and an appreciation of the virtues of being simple and discrete. He eschewed honors at the same time he pushed himself and urged others to attain excellence. Although he had many who admired him, he preferred friendship to flattery. He now rests in Arsac, in Medoc, the magnificent wine country near Bordeaux, which he loved so much. Pierre is survived



by his wife, his two sons and their families as well as by countless friends and colleagues who will always remember him as a great teacher and a friend who understood and savored the true joys of life. Although saddened by his loss, we find ourselves grateful to have had the good fortune to have known Pierre, learned from him, and with him enjoyed many a good conversation accompanied by a pipe or a cigar and a fine glass of wine.

Pierre Jallon
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Professor Pierre Loiseau, a distinguished member of our Advisory Board and a good friend to many of us, left us unexpectedly. We will always miss his unique style and constructive collaboration. The Editor-in-Chief and the Boards present their condolences to his family.