

In memory of Didier Mouginot 1963 - 2012

We are very saddened to announce the tragic death of our colleague Didier Mouginot, professor of Psychiatry & Neuroscience at Université Laval, on June 23rd. He was hit by a car while cycling near Quebec city. He is survived by his wife, Laurence Alexandre. Didier was an exceptional person, known for his humor, his passion for science and his love of life, making his departure even more dramatic. We were fortunate and privileged to know him as a colleague, as a collaborator and also as a friend.

Didier obtained his doctorate under the direction of the late Paul Feltz in Strasbourg after which he carried out postdoctoral studies first with Beat Gahwiler in Zurich and then with Quentin Pittman in Calgary. He was then recruited by Université Laval. Didier was recognized for his research on the neurobiology of salt, studying the neural mechanisms of sodium appetite and vasopressin secretion.

Didier was a versatile scholar who excelled in each of his duties; researcher, teacher and administrator.



His accomplishments as a researcher are original and creative and reflect a sustained commitment to conduct the best possible research. He was a leader in his field due to the excellent quality of his research. This excellence was obtained by the continued expansion of his expertise and of his field of study through the acquisition of new advanced technologies to achieve a greater level of depth in his research. He was also a great collaborator who openly shared his knowledge and expertise.

Professor Mouginot taught with passion and originality the complex concepts of neurophysiology. He was one of those teachers who spare neither time nor energy to transmit their knowledge and passion for science. This enthusiasm was communicated to all students of the Neurobiology Program and not only to those under his direct supervision. His teaching abilities and his availability have been

highlighted repeatedly by students who also appreciated his dedication and valuable advice.

As the administrator of the graduate program, Mouginot, pushed upwards the level of excellence of the graduate Neuroscience training program at Université Laval. He was very involved in program management, and had done remarkable work to improve the quality of training in Neuroscience and the relationship between research students and their supervisors. Didier was profoundly fair; he was an excellent program director in addition to being a valued colleague and an accomplished researcher.

Didier will be missed tremendously, and leaves an immeasurable void in our community. He was a major force for Université Laval, where there was immeasurable benefit from having high-caliber scientists like Didier, who also have the ability to teach science with passion, thereby communicating their thirst for knowledge to students of all levels. He will be missed by all neuroscientists who had the chance to know this remarkable man.

Guy Drolet, Ph.D.

Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry and Neuroscience
Université Laval

Quentin Pittman, Ph. D. FRSC

Professor, Dept. of Physiology & Pharmacology
University of Calgary

Establishment of the Didier Mouginot Fund to support students

Didier Mouginot was strongly involved in the direction of the Neurobiology program at Université Laval and cared deeply for the well-being of students in the program. The Faculty of Medicine, at the demand of Dr. Mouginot's wife and colleague, created the "Fonds Didier Mouginot" in his memory. You can therefore show your sympathy by making a donation to this fund, which will be used to finance a scholarship program to support graduate students.

You can donate online on the website of the Fondation de l'Université Laval at the following address: http://www.ful.ulaval.ca/faire_un_don/don_en_ligne/, where you can choose, from the list, the FRE-Fonds Didier-Mouginot (4475). You can also donate using a donation form available at the funeral parlor. We thank you for your generosity.