

## In memoriam

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## In Memoriam

### François Josso (1927-1981)

Dr. François Josso, Professor of Haematology at the University of Paris, died on September 2nd at the age of 54. This tragic loss is felt not only by his family and friends, but also by his collaborators and colleagues. We shall remember him with respect as one of the most original researchers in the field of blood coagulation.

He had a keen intellect and an independent mind, and combined these qualities with a wise judgement and a congenial personality. Those of us who were privileged to discuss scientific matters with him will remember the quiet and almost shy way he would make suggestions that shed new light on problems and evidenced his great ability to recognize the essential features in every question.

By the use of simple procedures, François Josso often obtained results in coagulation research that were ahead of his time, as, for example, the immunological demonstration of the presence of abnormal prothrombin in the plasma of patients treated with oral anticoagulants, the discovery of the relationship between the intrinsic and extrinsic coagulation systems and his work on the equilibrium between pro-coagulant and anticoagulant plasma factors.

The relevance of many of these early contributions, crucial to our understanding of coagulation, was not appreciated at the time. Often, their significance became apparent only later, when his findings had been 'rediscovered' by others. His good nature and unselfishness caused him to smile in such situations.

Those who knew him in his daily work were conscious that this amiable man worked extremely hard, not only in research but also in his clinical and teaching duties. His collaborators and friends acutely feel the loss caused by his untimely death but can only imagine what it means to his family. His bravery during his fatal illness will give us courage and help us to accept his death.



Le docteur François Josso, professeur d'hématologie à l'Université de Paris-V est mort le 2 septembre 1981 à l'âge de 54 ans. Cette perte cruelle sera ressentie non seulement par sa famille et ses amis mais également par ses collaborateurs et ses collègues qui regretteront en lui un homme équilibré, la sagesse de son jugement, les discussions amicales et parfois si profondes qu'ils avaient avec lui.

Avec des moyens simples, François Josso a fait très tôt des découvertes qui, à présent, sont reconnues comme essentielles pour la compréhension du mécanisme de la coagulation, notamment la découverte des relations entre les systèmes intrinsèque et extrinsèque, la mise en évidence de la prothrombine anormale lors des traitements anticoagulants oraux et ses recherches sur l'équilibre entre les forces antagonistes coagulantes et inhibitrices lors de la coagulation normale et pathologique. Plusieurs de ses découvertes précoces furent «redécouvertes» plus tard par d'autres chercheurs. Son humour bienveillant et son désintéressement si rares le faisaient sourire de telles situations.

Ceux qui le connaissaient savaient bien que cet homme apparemment si calme travaillait sans relâche, partageant son temps entre la recherche, la clinique et l'enseignement.

François Josso laisse un vide parmi les chercheurs dans le domaine de l'hémostase et de la thrombose. Il laisse un vide encore plus grand parmi ses amis et dans sa famille. Cet adieu est douloureux, mais grande aussi est la chance d'avoir connu cet homme dont la sagesse et le courage face à sa maladie nous aident à accepter la mort.

*Coen Hemker, Suzette Béguin*