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***In memoriam* Jean-Luc Fauchère (1941–2003)**



The death of Jean-Luc Fauchère on May 30, after a long and brave battle against cancer, was a tragic blow for his wife and his four children, as well as for so many of us. Jean-Luc was a talented and very creative peptide chemist. Soon after his PhD in physical chemistry at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) in 1970, he began his research at the Department of Molecular Biology and Biophysics at the ETH in Zürich. After a period of careful peptide synthetic work, he focused his interest on the relationships between peptide structure and their physicochemical and mainly biological properties. His physicochemical background turned out to be an excellent starting point for what became known as 'quantitative structure–activity relationships' (QSAR). Indeed, one of his sabbaticals was spent with two founding fathers of QSAR, Corvin Hansch and Albert Leo at Pomona College in Claremont (CA, USA). Very soon, he became a recognized player in this field. In 1984, he moved his group within the ETH to a newly established Department of Biotechnology where he found not only excellent conditions and support

for his work but also many friends, among them the department chairman Prof. Klaus Mosbach. The same year, he was appointed Adjunct Professor of Biophysical Chemistry at the University of Fribourg. During this period, Jean-Luc published many QSAR studies on various peptide classes, as well as an impressive dataset of QSAR descriptors which have added significantly to our biophysical understanding of these compounds. His international recognition and fame grew rapidly as a result of his contributions, and in 1988 he was the Chairman of a memorable European QSAR Meeting held in Interlaken (Switzerland). During his career, he published more than 180 papers and was the supervisor of 23 PhD students. His manifold teaching activities can also be stressed, be it at the ETH or in Fribourg. He was also an active member of numerous scientific societies such as the Swiss Chemical Society, the French Society of Medicinal Chemistry, the American Peptide Society, the European Neuropeptide Club, and the QSAR and Modelling Society. In 1989, he was called as Chemistry Division Director at the Institut de Recherches Servier in

the Paris area. Within this company, he created and developed a highly successful research group focused on therapeutic peptides and peptidomimetics. His contributions were both methodological, with the pioneering of automated synthetic technologies in combinatorial and parallel modes, and medicinal, with the discovery, patenting and publication of numerous active compounds in a number of therapeutic areas such as melatonin receptor ligands, MMP inhibitors, and neuropeptide Y receptor ligands. Jean-Luc impressed all his friends and colleagues with his integrity, dedication to careful and original science, communication skills, friendly humor, and engaging personality. We mourn his death, but we cherish his memory and example.

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