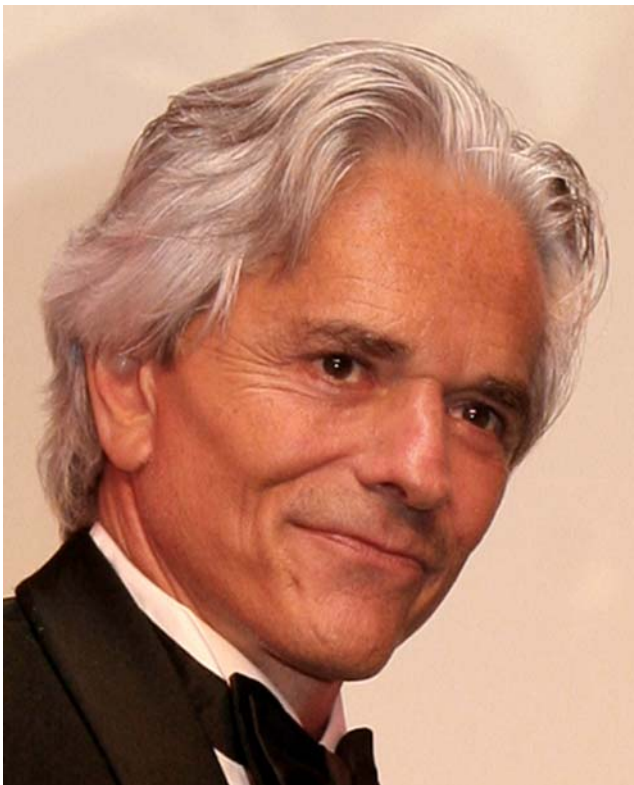


In memoriam: Pierre Delmas



It is with considerable sadness that I write of the untimely passing of my Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Osteoporosis International*, Professor Pierre D. Delmas. Pierre was known and loved by many—clinicians, academicians, administrators, and patients alike. The contributions that Pierre made to the field are legion and cannot be fully recounted here. Pierre was Professor of Medicine at the University in Lyon, where he also headed an INSERM research unit. But perhaps Pierre's major achievement and gift to the field is the International Osteoporosis Foundation, which has become the major global organization in the field for clinicians,

scientists and patients. Pierre founded the organization out of the European Foundation for Osteoporosis and steered its growth as its President, until ill health forced him to retire earlier this year. In addition, Pierre made major contributions to almost every aspect of metabolic bone disease, and especially to osteoporosis. Pierre's work helped us understand the pathogenesis of the disease, its risk factors and its treatment. He used almost every tool available to him from biochemistry through bone densitometry to histomorphometry in an attempt to first understand the disease and then educate others at all levels, ultimately with the goal of improving the management of the disease worldwide. A special issue of *Osteoporosis International* dedicated to both Pierre's memory and his achievements will be published shortly, outlining some of Pierre's many contributions to our field.

In addition to his seminal collection of work, Pierre will be remembered by many of his colleagues around the world for his intelligence, lucidity of thought, insightfulness, enthusiasm, and perhaps most of all for his biting wit. He was an entertaining and forceful orator and an excellent educator, much sought after as a speaker at international, national, and local meetings. Pierre gave of his time generously, and tried to fulfill as many invitations as possible, while at the same time maintaining his lab clinics and most of all his commitment to his family.

Pierre is survived by his wife, Debra, and his two children, Gauthier and Olivia. I am sure they will have the sympathy of all who read this journal—and indeed all in the field and the many more who were touched by Pierre's work and sheer will. His global legacy, the very daunting force of his personality and his organizational vision shall long be missed throughout our field.

Bob Lindsay
Editor-in-Chief, *Osteoporosis International*

Pierre D. Delmas, Professor of Medicine and Rheumatology at the University of Lyon, France, died at the age of 58 years on the 23rd of July 2008. He is survived by his wife Debra and his two children Gauthier and Olivia.

Pierre qualified in Medicine at the Claude Bernard University in Lyon in 1975 and embarked upon a clinical academic career thereafter. He trained in clinical research at Lyon with Professor Pierre J. Meunier and thereafter completed a 2-year formative period of research training in the departments of endocrinology and biochemistry at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota from 1981 to 1982. This seminal period of his research training led to a long and fruitful collaboration with Professor B. Lawrence Riggs, in the years that were to follow. On completion of his PhD in 1984, again through the Claude Bernard University of Lyon, Pierre joined the staff of the INSERM Research Unit 403 “Pathophysiology of Osteoporosis”, at the Edouard Herriot Hospital, Lyon, France, and became the Director of this unit in 1992. His research group has been world leading in the development of novel markers of bone, cartilage and synovium metabolism, including osteocalcin and pyridinoline crosslinks, which have been shown to be useful in the clinical investigation of metabolic bone disorders and arthritis. Pierre also directed basic and clinical research programmes in metabolic bone diseases, with a special interest in osteoporosis and osteoarthritis. His research led to the authorship of more than 400 articles, reviews and chapters in a variety of international scientific journals and text books.

His breadth of experience, coupled with unique personal leadership qualities, equipped Pierre for a leading role as the “medical face” of osteoporosis worldwide. After overseeing the successful merger of the European Foundation for Osteoporosis and the International Federation of Skeletal Disease in 1994, he was elected as the Inaugural President of the International Osteoporosis Foundation, and

remained so until very recently. Through his leadership of the Foundation, his contribution to the union of clinical research with patient care and health policy, and the resulting benefits to all osteoporosis sufferers, cannot be overstated. Indeed, his integrated research skills in clinical science, epidemiology, biochemistry, bioengineering, and health technology permitted wonderful leadership through a halcyon era in osteoporosis research within which the risk of future fracture could be delineated with substantial confidence, and a variety of interventions could be effectively applied to reduce this. Pierre Delmas also contributed to the field through his editorship of *Osteoporosis International* and service on a host of editorial boards including the *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research*, *Bone*, and *Calcified Tissue International*. He was awarded the André Lichtwitz prize in 1985 and the Frederick Bartter Award of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research in 2004. He has been President of the World Congress on Osteoporosis on four occasions (Chicago 2000; Lisbon 2002; Rio de Janeiro 2004; and Toronto 2006).

Whilst his academic contributions will continue to be honoured, Pierre will also remain in our memories as a special friend. He was able to communicate the passion of his science to senior investigators and young researchers alike, permitting him to mentor a host of future leaders in the field. He was always available to give wise counsel, and his tact and diplomacy permitted rapprochement and union of a variety of osteoporosis initiatives worldwide. His cruel and premature departure leaves a sense of emptiness that will be shared by all among his field, friends and family.

Cyrus Cooper, Bess Dawson-Hughes, René Rizzoli, Judy Stenmark and John A. Kanis
on behalf of the International Osteoporosis Foundation.