

Maurice Tubiana 1920-2013



The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) mourns the passing, on 24 September 2013, of the famous French cancer researcher Professor Maurice Tubiana, at the age of 93.

A world-renowned oncologist and member of the French Academies of Sciences and Medicine, Professor Tubiana was a distinguished member of the IARC Scientific Council from 1976 to 1981 and France's representative on the IARC Governing Council almost continuously from 1989 to 1998, serving as vice-chair of the Governing Council in 1993.

Professor Tubiana headed the department of radiotherapy at the Institute Gustave Roussy in Villejuif, near Paris, before becoming the fifth director of this leading cancer research and treatment centre, which he headed from 1982 to 1988.

He was also a consultant for the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1995, and he chaired the scientific committee of IAEA and the committee of cancer experts of the European Union from 1986 to 1994.

A medical doctor, biologist, and expert in radiobiology, Professor Tubiana played a critical role in the development of modern radiotherapy and radioprotection.

Professor Tubiana was a leader in cancer therapy. His numerous contributions to the field of cancer research include radiotherapy of lymphomas and thyroid carcinomas as well as the application of nuclear medicine to radiobiology.

As a former member of the IARC Scientific Council, Professor Tubiana was highly appreciated for his contributions to IARC and for both his professional and personal qualities. Throughout his career he demonstrated his passion for medicine and science, and he will also be warmly remembered for his keen interest in literature and art, and his great intellectual curiosity.

We convey our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the family and relatives of Professor Tubiana.