It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Bernard Jégou, on the eve of his 70th birthday. Bernard was a passionate, committed, curious and innovative researcher with an exceptional international career. After Doctorates from France and Australia, he continued his training in Norway and in the US. He was recruited as a lecturer in Rennes, France in 1991 and quickly became Research Director. He set up a large research team there, focussed on the development of ground breaking methods to understand underlying mechanisms of cellular function in reproductive tissues. In 2012, he initiated the creation of the Research Institute for Environmental and Occupational Health (Irset), which he directed until 2019 in parallel with his research direction at the French School of Public Health (EHESP). Author of more than 250 research articles, he was invited to present his research at meetings across the world, including at the Society for the Study of Reproduction, the American Society of Andrology, and the North American Testis Workshop. Bernard conducted innovative research on reproductive biology and on endocrine disruptors, and received strong national and international recognition. In addition to his role in the dissemination of knowledge through numerous conferences and books, his contributions to the highest academic bodies, e.g., President of the Scientific Council of France’s National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm), have had a major impact. Bernard was a humanist, charismatic, empathetic, deeply loyal and truly human, and a strong supporter of the next generations of scientists. He will be sorely missed, not only by his family, colleagues, and friends, but by the entire scientific community.