

## **Jean-Marie André, Pioneer in Quantum Chemistry for Polymer, 1944 -2023**

IAQMS member Jean-Marie André died in Bouge, Belgium, on January 3, 2023. Jean-Marie was born in Charleroi, Belgium, on March 31, 1944. Having obtained his PhD from the Université Catholique de Louvain in 1968, he went to the United States for postdoc research with Dr. Enrico Clementi at IBM San Jose. In 1971, Jean-Marie joined the University of Namur as a faculty member, establishing his research group in Theoretical Chemistry and Application. He became an emeritus professor in 2009 and has been a guest professor at Tsinghua University in Beijing since then.

Jean-Marie is best known for his pioneering work on quantum chemistry for polymers. He is the principal author for the computational packages POLYMOL, PLH, and VEH and has developed computational methods for nonlinear optical coefficients both from electronic and vibrational contributions for molecular and polymeric materials. For his scientific contributions, Jean-Maire received the prestigious “Prix Francqui” presented by King Baudouin of Belgium in 1991, the highest scientific distinction in Belgium. He was an elected member of the Royal Academy of Belgium and Academia Europaea and an Honorary Fellow of the Chinese Chemical Society. As a member of the International Academy of Quantum Molecular Science in Menton, he maintained a strong link to Menton, where he gave highly appreciated public lectures on science to high school students and visitors. Jean-Marie was indeed known for his pedagogical skills and kindness.

Jean-Marie had a life-long passion for classical music — he played the piano and contributed to the Belgian music magazine “Crescendo”. He has given a public lecture on French composer Olivier Messiaen and written a book on classical Chinese music, “Fleuve Jaune, papillons amoureux et musique classique de la Chine du XXe siècle”, published by the Royal Academy of Belgium in 2015. He was a member of the administration council of l’Institut de Musique et Pédagogie of Namur.

Jean-Marie André is survived by his beloved wife Marie-Claude, a classmate from middle school to PhD study, his four children and thirteen grandchildren.

Zhigang Shuai