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C. Manelfe, R.N. Bryan and C. Strother

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Georges Salamon

Georges Salamon, one of neuroradiology's pioneers, early thought leaders, and international spokesmen, died on October 10, 2015, at 84 years of age. Born in Montpellier, France, to a Russian father and a Polish mother of Jewish descent, he acutely experienced the traumas of World War II but kept, throughout his life, a unique, optimistic spirit of adventure. Knowing the costs and benefits of the vicissitudes of life, Georges maintained an exceptional open-mindedness and a zest for change and new opportunities.

Receiving his Doctor of Medicine from the Faculty of Aix-Marseille in 1958, he was spurred into specialty training by his teachers, Herman Fischgold, Henri Gastaut, and Robert Naquet, graduating in radiology in 1962 and neurology in 1965. This dual experience in imaging and neuroscience provided the stimulus for Georges to enter the nascent field of neuroradiology and the basis of a prestigious career bridging these disciplines. Posttraining, Georges quickly joined the Hôpital de la Timone in that "considerable town," Marseille, first as assistant professor in 1964 and then as head of the Department of Neuroradiology from 1972 to 1996.

Although broadly curious and an eclectic thinker, Georges' first scientific love was neuroanatomy. Between 1965 and 1970, his students' numerous theses on cerebral vasculature formed the basis of and culminated in the publication of the *Atlas of Arteries of the Human Brain* in 1971 (Sandoz), of *Radiologic Anatomy of the Brain* in collaboration with Y.P. Huang in 1976 (Springer Verlag Berlin), and *Vascularisation et Circulation de L'Encephale* with G. Lazorthes and A. Gill (Masson) that same year. This work became the anatomic bible for a whole generation of neuroradiologists and neurosurgeons. It also served as a basis for the subsequent development of therapeutic angiography and the emergence in France of a new generation of vascular neuroradiologists under the joint stimulus of Georges Salamon and René Djindjian.

The cross-sectional microradiographs of injected brains emanating from the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale U6 laboratory that Georges founded in 1972 fascinated young neuroscientists everywhere. Thus, in the 1970s and 1980s, close collaborations were established between Marseille and the United States, Sweden, and Japan. Stimulated by this research and its early clinical applications, residents, fellows, and full professors traveled to and from Marseille to participate in research projects, perfect their training, and share their angiographic know-how. Such ventures with Georges often held surprises, such as one American visitor who found himself unexpectedly responsible for fresh cadaveric material. Georges' American colleagues listed in the 2006 American Society of Neuroradiology (ASNR) Honorary Member summary reads like a *Who's Who* of the ASNR, including Juan Taveras, Ernest Wood, Sadek Hilal, Gordon Potts, Norm Chase, Irv Kricheff, Norman Leeds, Paul New, Giovanni DiChiro, Hans Newton, Bill Hanafée, and Gabriel Wilson.

Neuroanatomy also underpinned the clinical applications of cross-sectional imaging, x-ray CT, and MR imaging as well as functional PET and MR imaging. In the mid-1990s, Georges



brought together neuroimagers and his old Parisian friend and neurosurgical colleague, Jean Talairach, fostering the subsequent conversion of 1940s analog paper images into the now pervasive digital atlases with Talairach coordinates. The Marseille school remained in the foreground, with his pupil, Charles Raybaud, one of the pioneers of pediatric neuroradiology, succeeding him as head of the Neuroradiology Department at la Timone. Charles Raybaud is now the Chief of Pediatric Neuroradiology at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

Beginning in the 1970s, Georges Salamon encouraged formal national and international professional organizations: He was a founding member and president of the Société Française de Neuroradiologie in 1970 and the European Society of Neuroradiology (ESNR) in 1972. International recognition was the fair return: In 1984, he was appointed Honorary Member of the American College of Radiology; in 1994, the Radiological Society of North America; in 1995, the ESNR; in 2000, the Japanese Society of Radiology; and in 2006, the ASNR.

Although a tireless worker, Georges could have retired to satisfy other passions such as sailing on *Chipie*, his boat on which he invited his many friends, or contemporary art and painting. He was, from 1989 to 1995, President of the Association of the Museums of Marseille. A visit with Georges to La Vieille Charité in Marseille or the Getty Foundation in Los Angeles was a delight.

Instead, in character, at 62 years of age, Georges became engaged in a wonderful new life through a "chance encounter" with Noriko Murayama, then a visiting fellow from Japan. Noriko

Salamon-Murayama has since been his most charming and deeply caring wife for the past 22 years and is now Professor of Neuroradiology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Although always a Frenchman, Georges had long expressed a special fondness for the United States, and this unexpected winter/spring relationship sealed his cross-Atlantic destiny. Together Georges and Noriko settled in the United States. Her interests in academic neuroradiology and his reasoned enthusiasm for the new imaging techniques and expertise in neuroscience led them first to Chicago, where he was Research Professor at Northwestern University with Eric Russell from 1996 to 2002, and then to Los Angeles, where he was a Researcher at UCLA with Dieter Enzmann.

It was Georges' pleasure to return regularly to France to see his family and to participate again in the stimulating, lively annual Val d'Isère Course on "CT, MRI, and Ultrasound," which he had created in the 1970s and of which he was particularly proud. One American speaker vividly remembers being handed a carousel of slides on the sella turcica 30 minutes before the session and being instructed by Georges to present his talk, in French, so he, Georges, could show the speaker's

teenaged daughter the slopes of Val d'Isère. The young lady was, of course, enchanted by Georges and remains so to this day. Such was life around Georges, often unpredictable, but always invigorating.

A marvelous career—passionate researcher, intuitive investigator, galvanizing lecturer, with unbounded *joie de vivre*—that was Georges Salamon. He is survived by his wife Noriko, sisters Marguerite and Yvonne, his brother Roger, his children Christopher, Marie Hélène, and Ivan, and his 8 grandchildren. The ASNR and our sister neuroradiology societies around the world offer our most sincere condolences to his family and friends. Georges, *tu vas nous manquer, mais nous ne t'oublierons pas*: We will miss you, but we will not forget you.

C. Manelfe

University Paul Sabatier
Toulouse, France

R.N. Bryan

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

C. Strother

University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

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