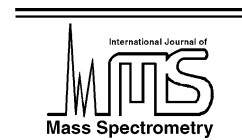




ELSEVIER

International Journal of Mass Spectrometry 217 (2002) xv



www.elsevier.com/locate/ijms

## A Tribute to Pierre Longevialle

Pierre Longevialle was a pioneering mass spectrometrists who uniquely combined unusual research capabilities with the highest personal standards of integrity, friendship, and generosity. I would like to cite two personal experiences to illustrate his unique attributes.

In April 1979 I was a Visiting Professor at the Ecole Polytechnique at Palaiseau and went over one morning to Gif-sur-Yvette to catch up with Pierre's latest research. I was of course especially interested when he said he had a new rearrangement. However, I was totally dumbfounded when he said that it involved migration from one end of a gaseous steroid to the other, an order of magnitude farther than any previous rearrangement. He smiled at my incredulity, and patiently took me through every step of the experimentation and spectral evidence. I was still arguing vehemently when he took me to lunch, and it was only at the end of the afternoon that his beautiful logic, as well as perfect patience, wore me down. Of course in the following months I trumpeted this great discovery to everyone who would listen, receiving many remarks that the person had talked to Pierre personally without his even mentioning it.

Another experience was in 1994 when I sent a long paper about rearrangements in very low energy ketones, research triggered by unusual observations of Bob Murphy, to Pierre for his comments. Back came a very politely worded letter that in essence said all of your data are very interesting, but you have the mechanism wrong. We embarrassed co-authors looked at his arguments carefully, even though the paper had already been submitted. Luckily none of the referees noticed how wrong we were, and approved publication of the original paper. We are very proud of the revised final manuscript: I. Vidavsky, R.A. Chorush, P. Longevialle, F.W. McLafferty, Functional group migration in ionized long-chain compounds, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 116 (1994) 5865–5872.

Appreciation of Pierre's science will surely grow with the years, as he was never one to publicize his own research in the past. He has shown us that great science can be combined with great patience, character, and friendship.

Fred W. McLafferty  
*Baker Chemistry Laboratory, Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853-1301, USA*