

Tribute

Tribute to Dr. Nathalie Ubrich



Nathalie Ubrich was only 48 years old when she passed away on 24 April 2007. She died in the middle of her young research career without being able to achieve all she wanted to do.

After obtaining her Ph.D. at the University of Nancy in 1994, she joined my laboratory in 1996 as a free-lance researcher and was later appointed officially to a research position in the INSERM (French medical research organization). Throughout this period, she worked for the success of the laboratory and

the students she was supervising (graduate students and trainees from all over Europe through Erasmus exchanges). Many publications reflect the tremendous amount of work that our small team (one professor and two assistant professors) was able to achieve while she was part of it. As well as working hard and teaching the students in the laboratory, she was always looking for new challenges and ideas by carefully reading and analysing the scientific literature.

Nathalie showed perfect team spirit. She could not think of research without thinking of collaboration to expand our network or to share experience and fruit of the results with all those involved, without forgetting the technicians and students.

She was like this before her illness was discovered 2.5 years ago. Afterwards, she continued to behave in same way but more intensely and taking on more responsibility. She used to tell me that she has so many things to finish before it was too late. She never complained about her illness. On the contrary, she did not want to talk about it. She wanted to prove that she could defeat this invisible enemy. Many people in the Faculty did not know that she was ill and would never have been able to guess. She never missed a working day except when her treatment lasted for a whole day and then she was there the next morning, pushing and encouraging everybody.

More than anything, she wanted us to continue and to have a fruitful research activity.

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