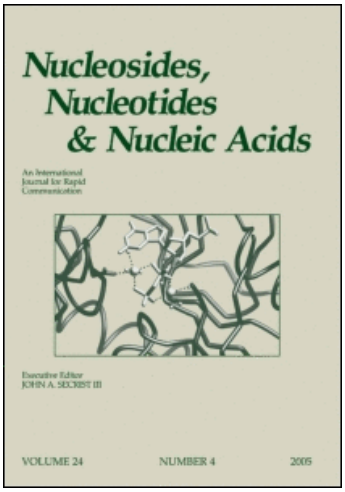

Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids
Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713597286

Dedication to Francoise Roch-Ramel

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Online publication date: 27 October 2004

To cite this Article Simmonds, H. A.(2004) 'Dedication to Francoise Roch-Ramel', Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids, 23: 8, 1081 — 1082
To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1081/NCN-200027357
URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1081/NCN-200027357

NUCLEOSIDES, NUCLEOTIDES & NUCLEIC ACIDS
Vol. 23, Nos. 8 & 9, pp. 1081–1082, 2004

Dedication to Francoise Roch-Ramel

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Francoise Roch-Ramel was an inspiration to everyone who knew her well. Her scientific career began in the early 1960's at the Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, of the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, in the Unit of Professor George Peters. She published her first paper on uric acid in 1974 with him as senior author. .eventually herself, through her many publications and international repute, rising to the rank of Professor.

From the start her field of scientific interest was the renal transport of organic anions and cations, especially uric acid, in the kidney. She developed micropuncture techniques as a tool in renal pharmacology and studied ion transport in many different mammalian species: humans: cebus monkeys, pigs, rats, cats, rabbits, mongrel and Dalmatian dogs A particular focus was the renal excretion of drugs and other xenobiotics which included studies of factors determining the action of methotrexate, salicylates and the haemodynamics and natiuretic effects of frusemide. These studies included drug interactions and other clinical aspects of renal organic ion transport of cardiac glycosides, antibiotics as well as antineoplastic drugs. She published extensively in this area as well as being an invited contributor to chapters in many major texts such as *Diseases of the Kidney*.

Francoise always paid scrupulous attention to methodology realising the problems attached to the measurement of compounds such as uric acid and the importance of this for the validity of any studies. Perhaps her greatest contribution to those of us in the field of purine metabolism was to establish and at the same time simplify the

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DOI: 10.1081/NCN-200027357
1525-7770 (Print); 1532-2335 (Online)

complicated and energy-expensive mechanisms previously proposed to explain the crazy way the human kidney reabsorbs up to 92% of this extremely insoluble metabolic waste. Francoise was very cooperative with colleagues all over the world. She happily exchanged views and ideas and shared her outstanding and rich experience concerning the renal handling of uric acid.

Francoise was as dedicated to sport as she was to working hard. Living on the shores of Lake Geneva, with a family farm in Chateaux d'oex, enabled her to enjoy her two favourite relaxations—wind-surfing and skiing. Francoise was a dare-devil who in addition loved white water canoeing, and para-gliding (winter and summer), taking broken legs, arms, collar-bones—the inevitable consequence of the zest she put into all these activities—in her stride. Her work took her to Congresses in every corner of the globe where she would seize the opportunity during breaks to enjoy whichever of these activities was locally available This spirit to never give up was most evident in her long but eventually sadly unsuccessful fight against malignancy.

Francoise participated actively in every International Symposium on Purine Metabolism in Man held three yearly from the very first in Tel Aviv in 1973. Realising the cost as well as the difficulty for young investigators in Europe when successive International meetings were held outside Europe she was a co-founder of the European Society for the Study of Purine and Pyrimidine Metabolism in Man. In the spirit of which this society was founded—to choose venues outside big cities to keep costs low and within the student budget—she hosted the first European Society meeting in her lovely Chateau d'oex in 1987. Her friends, pupils and colleagues throughout the world salute a brilliant investigator who contributed so much to medicine and science.