

Dominique Huas (opposite)

Department of General Medicine UFR Tours

huasdom@orange.fr

and **Denis Pouchain** (below)

Founder and former editor

in chief of the magazine *exercer*

denis.pouchain@free.fr

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Paul Wallace, citizen and general practitioner of the world

"I'm talking about a time that people under twenty"

Charles Aznavour

A British general practitioner with multiple academic qualifications, Professor of General Practice at University College London (UCL)¹ and of the Humanities, he practised for twenty years in a London practice of the National Health Service (NHS) practice. He was passionate about everything: care, teaching and research. It was at a European event devoted to research that the Collège national des généralistes enseignants (CNGE) met him via the first author of this editorial, a pioneer in the field of this editorial, a pioneer of research in general medicine, at his first EGPRW congress (now the European General Practice Research Network [EGPRN]) in Nottingham in 1992. This meeting convinced him that the universitarisation of the discipline of general practice required the development of specific and methodologically sound disciplinary.

Paul has made a name for himself with his landmark research into the identification and management of patients with alcohol problems. It was thanks to this shared interest that we got in touch, and his support has never wavered.

After reading his publications, and knowing that he spoke very good French (and Spanish, and German, and Italian, etc.), he was invited as an expert to several CNGE congresses. In addition, he often took part in local research days. In 2006, he attended the first French Association of Young Researchers in General (French Association of Young Researchers in General Practice), which became the Fayr GP pre-conference in Fayr GP pre-conference in 2008. Attending presentations of work by beginners, his positive and particularly constructive criticism and particularly constructive criticism helped the young researchers. Paul was acutely aware that the academic relevance of general practice depended on the development and structuring of research. He was very approachable, and our many meetings provided an opportunity to exchange ideas on research methods at a time when research was becoming increasingly important.

Always available to help, he also lent his skills to writing and publishing in English. As early as 1993, he was one of the first to take an interest in telemedicine, anticipating its rise. He has scientifically its medical and social relevance. The many conferences and research studies the impact he has had on the development and acceptance of telemedicine.

A citizen of the world, Paul was also a citizen of the world in his investment in the development of general practice in Europe (President of EGPRW, the International Council of General Practice and WONCA Europe²) and worldwide through his work at the World Health Organisation, and in his creation of and investment in the Foundation for Family Doctors in Palestine.

He has contributed to the development of research in France. Many of us have benefited of his help, his availability, his skills and his kindness.

Paul was not only a friend but also a mentor to all those who wanted to develop research in general medicine. He will be sorely missed.

References

- 1. University College of London.** UCL Research Department of Primary Care and Population Health. London : UCL, 2014. Disponible sur : <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/epidemiology-health-care/research/pcph/research/e-health-unit/people/paul-wallace>
- 2. Ljubljana : WONCA Europe, 2024.** Disponible sur : <https://www.woncaeurope.org/page/about-wonca-europe> [consulté le 3 avril 2024].