Jacques Descotes passed away on August 16th 2021. He was a medical doctor and professor of pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Lyon for many years. He was also the head of the poison control centre and pharmacovigilance department of the Lyon University Hospital until his retirement in 2013. Since 2014, he was an independent consultant in Immunotoxicology.

Jacques was known all over the world for his activity in the field of Immunotoxicology. Very early on, he understood the importance of the interaction of chemicals and drugs with the immune system, and the consequences on human health. In 1986, he first published the book that became for many years the “reference” of immunotoxicology: “Immunotoxicology of Drugs and Chemicals”. At that time, immunotoxicology was in its infancy and the book had a tremendous impact, summarising all the literature related to experimental and clinical effects of drugs and chemicals on the immune system.

In 1992 he founded the “Summer School in Immunotoxicology”, one of the most highly regarded meetings in drug safety where every year scientists from industry, academia and regulatory bodies could interact in a very friendly environment and share their experience related to the immunological safety of pharmaceuticals. As a medical doctor he constantly insisted on how important it was to understand immunotoxic effects on humans, a long time before translational disciplines became commonplace.

Jacques was a great professional, an accomplished poison centre professional and toxicology expert as well as a world-renowned immunotoxicologist. We will miss him; a great loss for the toxicology community.

Prof. Marc Pallardy
Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at Université Paris-Saclay