Meyer Michel Samama was born in Tunisia in 1927. He passed away Aug 27, 2014, a few weeks before his 87th birthday. Despite serious medical problems during the last years and the sudden death of his wife Simone in 2013, which affected him a lot, he remained interested in haemostasis as long as he could. Actually he had been active in the field long after his retirement from his academic position. He was truly passionate and described himself as a workaholic, but he still could spend some time to discuss about various topics, take you visit his beloved Tunis and its surroundings, or tell you often funny stories about people and meetings – he knew so many and attended a lot respectively.

Meyer-Michel Samama founded in 1968 the Haematology Laboratory in Hôtel-Dieu University Hospital in Paris. He was nominated as professor of haematology. Professor Samama qualified as a pharmacist-pathologist, then as a medical doctor.

Prof. Samama has been recognised without any doubt among the most excellent professional and scientist in the specialty of Haemostasis and Thrombosis in the Mediterranean countries and throughout the world. His research findings have been decisive for the training of new generations of specialists in the three Continents edging the Mediterranean Sea.

Before the sixties, frequency and mortality by thromboembolic diseases were unknown and M Samama endeavoured his efforts and multidisciplinary clinical studies in the research of knowledge of these diseases in order to clarify and prevent their frequency and mortality by prophylaxis and treatment.

In 1967 took place the first Spanish-French Symposium in which Prof Samama was leading the French team and was the seed of the birth in 1969 of the Mediterranean League against the Thromboembolic Diseases (MLTD) of which he was one of the founders and has remained always as the soul and key stone along its 45 years of activity.

He had always been working building bridges between clinical practice and the laboratory, from the bedside to the bench and vice versa, to get deep knowledge of risk factors, diagnosis, prophylaxis and treatment of thromboembolic diseases in collaboration with researchers and members of MLTD for a wide diffusion of this field.

The success of the MLTD Congresses was so outstanding that its Executive board at Prof Samama instance decided to register MLTD as scientific society in Spain. After XXIII biennial International Congresses on Thrombosis were promoted counting always with his will and enthusiasm. The MLTD Executive Board and Prof Samama with Prof Hemker’s help accepted Haemostasis Journal (later on called Pathophysiology of Haemostasis and Thrombosis) as the official Journal of MLTD.

His study on venous thromboembolism prophylaxis in medical and chirurgical patients (MEDONOX study) was selected to be presented at the Presidential Symposium of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis in 1999 and is a very frequently quoted work since published in the New England Journal of Medicine. Professor Samama was elected corresponding member of the National Academy of Pharmacy in 2001.

Professor Samama’s research interests centred on the haemostasis and pathogenesis of venous thromboembolism. In the 60s and 70s much of his interest was mainly on fibrinogen, fibrinolysis and plasminogen activators as fibrinolytic drugs. He studied in depth the first one, streptokinase, and promoted clinical trials in France with cardiologists. Fields of focus included thereafter the diagnosis and treatment of hereditary thrombophilia and the pharmacology of antithrombotic drugs, including low-molecular-weight heparins, fondaparinux, and new antithrombotic agents. He has published more than 400 original articles in more than 30 international journals and has co-edited a number of books on clinical haemostasis and thrombosis, and hypercoagulable states, as the last one published on 2011 “Hémorragies et thromboses : Du diagnostic aux traitements”.

In fact he was unable to restrict himself on a particular topic, which was both an enormous advantage but also for which there was a (high) price to pay, first and foremost in terms of time. He said many times that we had to provide reliable answers to clinical questions (and he and his team were frequently asked to give advice, in Paris, France and abroad). At that time pubmed and on line services were not available. He
was always reluctant to speak about something without having thoroughly checked the literature, and
despite his tremendous capacity to memorize papers, talks and his personal experience, this meant a lot
of effort for him and his collaborators). It was a good way to learn on many topics and above all to be
rigorous, and not superficial. He was very dedicated to deliver reliable results of lab tests as well and was
used to say that we should not wait for something odd or discordant with the clinical data to check the lab
results you had to supervise.

Professor Samama received a Distinguished Career Award for his contributions to haemostasis from the
International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis Forum. He also received awards from the
International Society of Fibrinolysis and Thrombolysis and the Venous Thrombosis Forum for his work in
the field.

He was a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis and a member of
the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) Consensus Conference on Antithrombotic Therapy. He
sat on the review board of several journals and was a member of many professional societies.

His family (he leaves two sons, one of which – Marc - is professor in anaesthesiology and very active in
the field of haemorrhage and thrombosis in surgical and critically ill patients), collaborators, friends and
members of MLTD will never forget his gentleship and love for medicine and patients and his devotion to
promote MLTD society.

Jasone Monasterio – Thomas Lecompte