



ESB Newsletter March 25, 2022 - Obituary Professor Em. Etienne Schacht

Dear ESB members

Very sad news has reached us on the passing of not only a great biomaterials scientist but also a very active member of our society, Professor Em. Etienne Schacht.

Besides all his scientific contributions to the polymer chemistry and biomaterials fields, Professor Schacht has always been a great ambassador of our Society. He has served on the ESB council between 2002 and 2011, being ESB Vice-President between 2009-2011. During his time at the ESB council, he was responsible for establishing the Julia Polak European Doctorate Award scheme, which promotes research excellence, interdisciplinarity and collaboration in our field in the context of our young biomaterials scientists' training.

His contributions to the field and our society were also recognized by his election as a Fellow of the International Union of Societies for Biomaterials Science and Engineering.

We lost a valuable mentor and a dear friend.

We offer Professor Schacht's family, friends, and colleagues our sincere condolences on their loss.

ESB Council



ESB Council, Barcelona, 2002
Tanner, Ambrosio, Planell, Kirkpatrick, Bonfield, Planck,
Baquey, **Schacht**, Merolli, Revell, de Bruijn

Etienne Schacht
1946-2022



Etienne Schacht (born on October 18th 1946) was a polymer chemist “pur sang”. He was the pioneer in positioning Ghent University and Belgium on the international map in the field of polymeric biomaterials science. His scientific home at Ghent University was the Department of Organic and Macromolecular Chemistry within the Faculty of Sciences, where he founded the Polymer Chemistry & Biomaterials Group. Since his appointment at Ghent University, he has supervised over 30 PhD students on topics covering various aspects of biomaterials science and a plethora of applications, ranging from cardiovascular over drug delivery to orthopaedic and ocular, to name only a few. His never-ending energy, hard work and devotion made him a role model and inspiration for many scientists in the field. In addition to his scientific achievements, his service to the scientific community was very extended including board membership of the European Society for Biomaterials for many years and a role as President of the Belgian Polymer Group for many years. Within the European Society for Biomaterials (ESB), he was actively involved in laying the foundation of the ESB strategy concerning the career development of young biomaterials scientists. He was the first in proposing the ESB doctorate encouraging young scientists to perform research activities in different European laboratories. Finally, his passion for teaching new talent was evident from the many years and the various courses he has been teaching dealing with polymer science and polymers for biomedical applications. In 2009, he retired after a long and successful career. As a loving husband, father and grandfather, he left behind his wife, two children and four grandchildren on March 17th 2022. The field of biomaterials science will miss his dedication to science, friendships emerging from scientific collaborations and his endless contributions to the field.

Passing on your condolences to the family is possible via the following link <https://vandecandelaere-spruytte.be/remembrances/etienne-schacht/condolences/new>