OBITUARIES

Aris Angelis 1954–2003

On 5 February, our colleague and dear friend Aris Angelis left us at a moment when we all believed he could win the battle for his life.

Aris graduated from the University of Athens in 1975. He went on to Oxford University where he received his doctorate in 1984. During this period he suffered his first attack of the illness that was eventually to claim his life, which he saw off through a combination of aggressive treatment and the determination that was so much a part of his character. As a result of the treatment at the time, his doctors told him that he would not be able to take part in competitive sport again. However, he went on to represent Oxford at karate in the varsity match against old-rivals Cambridge, and was a regular performer in mountain marathons around Switzerland.

Aris worked on several experiments at CERN, starting at the ISR. He developed a taste for heavy-ion physics through the experiments NA34, WA93/98, SIGAPO, ALICE and finally CMS. He had a nomadic career, holding positions at University College London, McGill University, the University of Geneva and CERN. Since 1997 he had been attached to the University of Athens.

Aris left his mark on CERN’s heavy-ion programme from the early days at the SPS to the very end, preparing for the future at the LHC within ALICE and CMS. Those of us who knew and worked with Aris appreciated him both as an enthusiastic colleague and as a warm and helpful friend. Younger colleagues thought of him as their mentor during their crucial and difficult first steps in science. Others looked forward to working with him at the LHC.

Aris was also an effective communicator. Very aware of the need for the public communication of our field, he became a CERN guide in 1999 and was consistently voted one of CERN’s best. His explanations of the science in English, French, Italian and Greek were greatly appreciated and the CERN visits service received many complimentary letters following his tours. He also took part in many special events, such as CERN open days and the Oracle of Delphi theatrical event staged in an experimental hall, and always with the same enthusiasm, dedication and competence. Aris was also an active and enthusiastic member of the European Particle Physics Outreach Group, where he represented ALICE, and he acted as secretary of the LHC Outreach Group.

Aris’s dogged determination, his sense of right and wrong, and his stubborn persistency left no-one indifferent. These characteristics earned him respect and made him a reliable friend, who was always ready and willing to help. His untimely and unjust departure came as a shock to us all – Aris was not the kind to give in. To suffer a life-threatening illness once is cruel, twice is a tragedy. On both occasions, however, Aris faced his illness with a courage and dignity that set an example for us all.

Apostolos D Panagiotou, University of Athens, and James Gillies, CERN.