André Berthelot, former director of Saclay’s Department of Elementary Particle Physics, died on 30 March at the age of 74.

He was the initiator of fundamental physics research in the French Atomic Energy Commission and in 1947 set up its nuclear physics branch, becoming its head. In 1958 he established what was to become the Department of Elementary Particle Physics, of which he remained head until 1975. Under his leadership, Saclay became one of Europe's leading centres for particle physics.

Professor Berthelot was a scientific pioneer who left his mark on the development of French and European physics.