



Andre Stahl

Professor Andre Stahl studied medicine and natural sciences at Marseille University. He received his MD in 1948 and completed his PhD in 1956. By 1962, he was Professor of Embryology and Histology and went on to become Professor of Genetics in 1983. Between 1965 and 1997, he was director of the Department of Cytogenetics and Biology of Reproduction at the University Hospital of Marseille.

He was elected member of the Comité national de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS, 1972-1997) and he was director of a research unit associated to the CNRS until 1995.

For more than 30 years he taught embryology, introducing the teaching of genetics and cytogenetics at the Marseille medical faculty. In 1993, he was elected corresponding member of the Austrian Academy of Science.

His fields of research were human acrocentric chromosomes and the related ribosomal genes. After a stay at Columbia University, he introduced the technique of in situ hybridisation into France. His application of this technique to human acrocentric chromosomes led to the first French publication using this method in 1975.

Through collaboration with J.M. Luciani, A.M. Capodano, and M. Hartung, his research activities concentrated on chromosomes containing ribosomal genes in spermatocytes and oocytes in man and mouse. Using cytogenetic, cytological, cytochemical and ultrastructural techniques, he investigated spacial relationships in human meiosis occurring in Robertsonian translocations and non-disjunction of acrocentric chromosomes.

Together with A.M. Capodano he described in 1982 nucleolar budding and the formation of nucleolar bodies in cultured porcine thyroid cells.

From 1988 onwards, A. Stahl developed a successful collaboration with the Institute of Anatomy at Vienna. With H.G. Schwarzacher and F. Wachtler, he localized the ribosomal genes and their activity inside the nucleolus in germinal and somatic cells.

He had scientific contacts with J. Lejeune, J. de Grouchy, J. Ford (Oxford), A. Schmikel (Philadelphia), P. Jean (Montréal), and S. Henderson (Columbia).

The scientific and teaching activities of A. Stahl made him one of the founders of cytogenetics in France.