Orthopaedic surgery has lost one of its greatest ambassadors, Philippe Hardy.

He became a full Professor in 2000 at the Ambroise-Paré University Hospital (Boulogne-Billancourt, France), where he succeeded professor Lortat-Jacob as chief of the orthopaedic surgery department in 2008.

Philippe brightened every encounter by his impressive physical stature, his straightforward gaze, and his broad welcoming smile. His simplicity and the joy found in communicating with him made him a much-liked man.

He was a charismatic chief of department who was kind to all, knew everyone, enquired about the personal preoccupations of each, and was both extremely respectful and highly respected by everybody. His memory was prodigious and he used first names to welcome his students at their arrival in the department, thus helping them feel at home within the surgical team. Philippe consistently placed positive pressure on his students by giving them responsibilities, while maintaining an attitude of consideration that allowed them to grow and to work under the best possible conditions. He was unequalled in his propensity to entrust them with missions, patients, communications at meetings, scientific projects and events to organise. This trust was crucial to him. We felt responsible and confident, drawing on his force and energy to work even more, even better, and even longer.

Philippe was an outstanding surgeon who consistently set the example in the operating theatre both by his behaviour and by the enduring passion with which he performed and taught the many techniques he excelled in. He taught surgery and arthroscopy as an art, with constant attention to elegance in the surgical choreography. New technologies appealed to him, and he lived on the cusp of progress in orthopaedic surgery and arthroscopy, thus nurturing the evolution of surgical techniques. The operating theatre at the Ambroise-Paré hospital was in a constant state of effervescence and movement towards ever more progress. Philippe enjoyed encouraging young students to try new minimally invasive or arthroscopic techniques. He was a skilled listener who readily challenged his own practice and experimented with new techniques and surgical approaches.

Philippe Hardy was a great professor of the kind the university, hospital, and students could only dream of keeping forever. He transformed the department he loved so dearly into a major centre for teaching and interchange in all fields of orthopaedic surgery and arthroscopy. He was adamant that clinical research, publications, interchanges with surgeons of all pursuits, and involvement in numerous national and international scientific societies were the keys to emulation and excellence.

Philippe published in abundance and encouraged us all to publish and communicate far beyond what we thought was possible. He was skilled in supporting and guiding students towards approaching each scientific topic in the most original and innovative manner. He placed quality over quantity, recommending to "do little but do well", and managed his teams with discernment. Philippe created a modern scientific research unit within his department then energised it over the years through a steadily growing number of publications, communications, participations in meetings, and research projects.

Philippe travelled extensively and encouraged us all to do the same. From this openness to the world, he continually brought new perspectives into the department, regarding not only scientific developments and surgical techniques, but also interpersonal relationships and the future. He gave many of us unique and extraordinary opportunities to exchange with others throughout the world, communicating to us a yearning for constantly looking elsewhere, travelling, giving free rein to our curiosity, and challenging ourselves. Philippe was in very high demand, yet consistently responded with strong enthusiasm to requests, whether they came...

1877-0568/
from his hospital or from the other end of the world. He encouraged his team to participate in his projects and proposals. He was so proud to promote his team. And we were proud also.

Philippe was a subtle clinician, and his clinics overflowed with patients, students, and surgeons, attracted by this hub of interaction and learning. Philippe loved to teach semiology, to encourage residents to think, to induce fellows to debate, and to explain the various diagnoses. He was an unrivalled teacher who showed inexhaustible enthusiasm for communicating his knowledge, examining ideas within a group, and developing in us the rigor and honesty required by our profession.

He created a true School of Orthopaedic Surgery that gained international recognition as a hub that welcomed discussions about any topic, conducted in complete freedom. Philippe constantly challenged the evidence to move us forward in our thinking and our strategies for patient care. He had the experience of the mature clinician, the know-how of the great surgeon he was, and the cutting-edge scientific knowledge conferred by reading and editing numerous journals for many years. As a result, he was a teacher of the highest value who was constantly called upon by the young and not so young. Who among us never needed his advice about a patient? Philippe was there for everyone at all times and could always be depended upon despite his overfull schedule. He loved this role and never missed an opportunity to talk about surgery, about life, about everything.

He was a visionary who had a profound understanding of human nature. Both in his work and in the rest of his life, he surrounded himself with people he trusted and who derived a deep enjoyment from working with him, sharing his projects, or savouring life. In his department, he was the driving force, striving towards a genuine vision of the future, while remaining close to his staff and patients.

Philippe was surrounded by many colleagues whom he had trained and assisted in their careers. All of them had become his friends, with varying degrees of intimacy and sharing. He loved to create breathing times in his department to relax with his staff, students, colleagues, and friends. This combination of rigor, professional excellence, and enjoyment that he orchestrated with virtuosity made him a person of uncommon kindness.

Each of us has lost a master, a chief, an eminent professor, a mentor, a father, a friend, and far more.

T. Bauer* A. Hardy
Service de chirurgie orthopédique, hôpital Ambroise-Paré, AP–HP, Boulogne, France

*Corresponding author.
E-mail address: thomas.bauer@aphp.fr (T. Bauer)