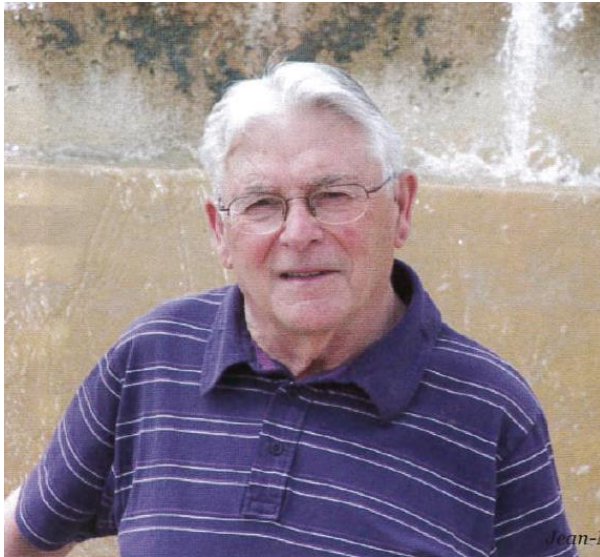


Jean-Marie Quiot – from insect cell lines to a choir festival

Autobiographical sketch / June 2019

Adapted and translated from French by Amos Bairoch / May 2021



I was born on the 1st of February 1938 at the home of my maternal grandparents in Aigues-Vives, a village of the department of the Gard in the South of France. Very quickly I came to live in Jonquières-St Vincent also in the Gard, at my parents' home, my father being a winemaker. After my elementary school years I continued my education at the Assumption College in Nîmes. In 1958, after having graduated with a classical (Latin, Greek and Philosophy)

degree, I chose to integrate the University of Sciences and Techniques of Languedoc in Montpellier to study Natural Sciences. During my studies I was married to Monique in 1962 and in 1963 carried out my military service with the 22nd Alpine Chasseurs battalion.

My research career started in late 1965 after an interview with Professor Constantin Vago. He was then the director of the Cytopathology Research Station at St Christol-lez-Alès which is affiliated to both the French National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA) and the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). I joined Vago's group as a junior scientist and I was entrusted with the continuation of the work he had initiated on insect cultures and pathology. After successfully passing the CNRS entrance examination I definitively joined this research center on January 1st, 1967, obtained my PhD in 1975 and continued working there until my retirement in 1998 as a research director.

In the late 1960s, many viruses, bacteria and fungi that infect insects had already been discovered and isolated, and the need to study the modes of action of these organisms at a cellular level was becoming increasingly important. Thus my research interests progressed in two directions.

The first was the establishment of cell cultures from different orders of insects. The highly heterogeneous nature of insects, of their tissues and stages of developments made this work quite challenging as one needed to carefully choose the appropriate tissue and culture media. The second research direction was to apply insect cell cultures to the analysis of the action of entomopathogenic organisms at the cellular level. We managed to infect insect cultures with different viruses, rickettsiae and mycoplasmae and studied the mode and mechanism of intracellular action of these organisms. We also developed in vitro techniques for the mass production of cells so as to produce insect viruses potentially useful for pest control or genetically modified for the production of specific proteins.

In July 1975 I left France for Canada in a one year stint as a visiting professor at the University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières. During that period my research activities dealt with the isolation of pathogenic viruses from plant pests and in particular on those affecting tobacco plants. We were successful in isolating several of these viruses. In parallel, I initiated another collaborative research activity around the issue of mosquito-control, which is a quite acute problem in Quebec. Together with my Canadian colleagues, we isolated a substance from a fungus taken from a dead mosquito. This substance has proven to be very effective in killing mosquitoes. Unfortunately, this research, which I pursued after I came back to France, was interrupted by my retirement concomitant to those of my fellow Quebecers.

After my retirement, in 1998, I was promoted to become president of a music festival: “*Les Fous Chantants d'Alès*”. This festival which was created in 1998 by Michel Swingrouber takes place every year, in the last week of July. It honors one or more living or dead French-speaking song writers by organizing a large choral concert (up to 1000 choir singers!) that interprets their most famous musical creations. This festival is an emanation of a choir “*Le Grand Choeur St Christolen*” to which I participated for many years. I stepped down from the festival presidency in 2013 but continue to participate as one of the numerous volunteers involved in the preparation and the smooth operation of the festival.

Cell lines established by Jean-Marie Quiot

A.t. GRIP-1 (CVCL Z265)	A.t. GRIP-2 (CVCL Z266)	A.t. GRIP-3 (CVCL Z267)
LPC-Aa98-19 (CVCL Z322)	LPC-Aa98-20 (CVCL Z323)	SPC-BM-36 (CVCL Z327)
SPC-Gl-13 (CVCL Z326)	SPC-Gm-17 (CVCL A8KG)	SPC-Ld-135 (CVCL Z262)
SPC-Mb-92 (CVCL VT61)	SPC-PL-40 (CVCL Z324)	SPC-PL-65 (CVCL Z325)
SPC-Sl-48 (CVCL Z263)	SPC-Sl-52 (CVCL Z264)	IAFEs-1 (CVCL Z261)