



Alain Michel BOUDET

Alain Boudet, born in 1940 holds a doctorate in science and has been a professor at Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse in 1975 then Professor at the Institut Universitaire de France 1997-2008 (chair of biochemistry and plant molecular physiology). He has spent considerable periods of time in England, Germany, the USA and Belgium. He is a corresponding member of the French Academy of Science and a member of the French Academy of Technology. The main themes of his research concern the metabolism of phenolic compounds in plants and particularly of lignins with a view to enhancing the value of plant biomass. In this context, he was the coordinator of two large European projects working on the question (OPLIGE and TIMBER) between 1990 and 2000.

He has successively held the positions of Director of the Life and Earth Sciences department of Paul Sabatier University from 1976 to 1978, vice-president of the University's Scientific Council from 1978 to 1982, Director of CNRS unit 1941 "Cell Signals and Messages in Plants" from 1982 to 1994, and Director of the Federal Research Institute "Cell Signalling and Plant Biotechnology" from 1996 to 2003. On two occasions, he has been appointed a member of the French National Council of Universities (CNU) and has been elected three times to sit at the CNRS National Committee. He has also led the European EUROSILVA network, coordinated the ERASMUS biology programme from 1988 to 1994, and directed the operations of the AGROMIP network from 2001 to 2002. He was recently president of the scientific council of the Genopole Toulouse Midi-Pyrénées and member of the scientific council of the National Fondation Innabiosanté and of the CNRS ethics committee (COMETS).

He was at the origin of the new interdisciplinary research Institute called ITAV (Institut des Technologies Avancées en sciences du Vivant) recently built on the Oncopole Campus in Toulouse aiming to promote cross talks and collaborations between scientific fields around biology.

During the last years he has also launched two important European INTERREG projects Interbio and Transbio including partners of the SUDOE area in Spain and Portugal. He is presently director of the Academy of Sciences of Toulouse and member of the National High committee for very big infrastructures and equipments in Research.

Alain's teaching activities have included supervision of doctoral research in "Plant Cell and Molecular Biology" until 1999; postgraduate teaching in Plant Biology and Biotechnologies, participation in the "Université de tous les savoirs" scientific conferences for the general public in 2000; creation and responsibility for "The Agrofood Chain", a master's degree taught in English by a network of establishments in Toulouse.

His scientific publications include over 180 articles in peer-reviewed journals such as the Annual Review of Plant physiology, PNAS, Biochemistry, Plant Journal, and Biochemical Journal, and several books. He holds 5 patents, has organized numerous international conferences, and is (or has been) a member of the editorial board and editor of several scientific journals (J. of Plant Physiology, Plant Cell Reports, Phytochemistry, etc.)

He has received an award from the Von Humboldt Foundation (1982), the TATE and LYLE AWARD from the Phytochemical Society of Europe (1987), and the ERASMUS prize from the Commission of the European Communities (1990).