



Born in Algiers in 1940, Michel Combarous was a graduate of Ecole Polytechnique and obtained his PhD in Science from Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Pétroles et Moteurs (higher national school of oil and engines). He later spent most of his teaching and research career at the University of Bordeaux. A specialist in fluid mechanics and heat and mass transfer, he founded the laboratory of energetic and transport phenomena (LEPT) in 1983, which is nowadays part of an important institute of mechanical engineering in Bordeaux (I2M). He has authored and coauthored numerous scientific and technological works and won several prizes, before becoming interested in environmental and energy issues in the second part of his scientific career.

In parallel with his university career, Michel Combarous has greatly contributed to the organisation of French research in the field of Engineering Sciences. He notably headed the related CNRS department, was Director of Research at Ecole Nationale des Arts et Métiers (high school from the ParisTech Group), then was the first President of the University of Bordeaux 1. More particularly, in the domain of heat transfer, Michel Combarous's aura went far beyond the French borders. He has long served on international committees such as ICHMT or AIHTC and Eurotherm was partly created under his leadership.

At the age of retirement, he had chosen to maintain strong links with the academic and scientific world, by remaining a professor emeritus and continuing his action within the French Academy of Sciences - of which he had been a member since 1978 - and the Academy of Technology - of which he had been a founding member in 2000.

Michel Combarous had a brilliant mind, and we will miss his pedagogical skills, humour, humility and wisdom.