

Bart van Tiggelen - 1965-2025

Bart van Tiggelen passed away on December 20, 2025, leaving us stunned by the void his untimely departure left behind.

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Bart was an outstanding theorist whose scientific contributions have left their mark on Modern Physics. He was a builder who did not shy away from taking on important collective responsibilities. He also made a major contribution to the evolution of scientific publications by defending the values of quality and integrity. Bart had strong convictions and defended them with determination, never with malice and always with sharp humor. Those who worked alongside him at the CNRS remember his boundless energy. His frequent bursts of laughter and rare outbursts made the walls shake.

Born in the Netherlands in 1965, Bart defended his doctoral thesis in Amsterdam in 1992 on multiple scattering and the localization of light in disordered media. He joined the CNRS in 1996. His major scientific contributions include the introduction of the concept of wave transport velocity in disordered media, the theory of multiple scattering of seismic waves, the theory of multiple scattering of light in anisotropic media and in the presence of an external magnetic field, and the generalization of the self-coherent theory of localization to media of finite size. These scientific achievements have been recognized with numerous awards and distinctions, including the Anatole and Suzanne Abragam Prize (2002) awarded by the French Academy of Sciences and the Paul Langevin Prize (2004) awarded by the French Physical Society.

Bart has also been heavily involved in important collective responsibilities. He was director of the Laboratory of Physics and Modeling of Condensed Matter (2007-2012); director of the Research Group entitled “Waves in Complex Media: Propagation in Soft Matter and Granular Media” from (2003-2008); member of the “Comité National de la Recherche Scientifique” from (2004-2008); and



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deputy scientific director of the CNRS Institute of Physics (2012-2018), in charge of theoretical and numerical physics, interdisciplinarity, training, and scientific publishing.

Bart was a great advocate of summer schools. Schools lasting more than three days were an incomprehensible model for the CNRS administration. Thanks to Bart, summer schools lasting several weeks still exist today in Les Houches or Cargèse.

Bart was also very active at French Physics Society (SFP), as member of its board, and then of its executive committee. He chaired the SFP's publications committee for many years. As a strong advocate for the free dissemination of scientific information, Bart has been involved in promoting “open science.” Thanks to his teachings, we gave a strong impetus to the CNRS's policy in this area, modifying significantly recruitment and evaluation practices. This is bearing fruit today, and it is thanks to Bart.

Bart has long collaborated with “Europhysic Letter”, serving as member of the editorial board (2012-2017), and then as editor-in-chief (2018-2021). Beyond his daily work as editor-in-chief, he made a real contribution to issues such as impact factors and the ever-increasing demands placed on reviewers. Bart has also been an advocate for an ecosystem that supports the most original and high-quality science, rather than more incremental contributions.

To those who have had the good fortune to work alongside you, you have taught them boldness, curiosity, and generosity. You have taught them to accept neither hypocrisy nor compromise. You have challenged us, made us think, and reminded us that science is, above all, a human adventure. ■

■ **Alain Schuhl**,
*Previous director of CNRS
Physics Institute*