

Francis Brunelle

Professor Francis Brunelle was born on May 29th, 1949. His parents were professors of philosophy, and of Greek, Latin, and French. He graduated from Cochin Medical School in Paris in 1972, and served as a volunteer military surgeon in Togo (Africa), establishing the first nursing school in Togo during his stay. He trained as a paediatrician, neonatologist, and then branched into diagnostic radiology during his residency, whilst acquiring a master's degree in biochemistry. He went on to spend a year as a visiting fellow in Alex Margulis' department, University of California, San Francisco, where he trained with Harry Genant, Roy Filly, Hans Newton and David Norman in neuroradiology.



On his return to France, he became an Associate Professor of radiology in Dr. Chaumont's department, Bicetre Hospital, Paris. Professor Daniel Alagille, a world specialist in paediatric liver, inspired him to develop diagnostic and interventional radiology in this domain. Most of today's abdominal interventional techniques were developed during this period.

In 1981, he spent 4 months in Derek Harwood-Nash's department, HSC Toronto, where he trained in paediatric neuroradiology, writing a seminal paper entitled, "Brain vascular malformations in children." In 1985, Prof Brunelle became a Professor of Radiology at Necker Enfants-Malades Hospital, which proved to be the turning point of his career. Professor Hirsch, a pioneer of paediatric neurosurgery, and Doctor Jean Aicardi, one of the leading figures in paediatric neurology, inspired him to develop diagnostic and interventional neuroradiology techniques in children. He established the first paediatric neuroradiology course in France, which rapidly became the European Course of Paediatric Neuroradiology, now held in conjunction with the European Society of Paediatric Radiology and the European Society of Neuroradiology. In addition, he developed the syllabus for and organised the first European Course of Paediatric Radiology in 1992.

His research interests developed within the field of neurogenetic diseases in children and autism. Later, he was (as always) at the forefront of research involving new techniques the department was a pioneer in MRI foetal imaging, the first foetal MRI was performed in 1987. Prof. Brunelle's brilliance and pioneering spirit has enabled an extra ordinary academic career. He has written 322 peer-reviewed papers and 3 books, amongst them *Imaging Children* (with Carty, Stringer and Kao).

He is a former President of the Medical Board in Necker;

Editor of *Paediatric Radiology*; Secretary of the French

College of Radiologists (CERF); and Counsellor of the

Minister of Health (2004–2007).

He served as President (co-president Janet Strife) of the

International Paediatric Radiology (IPR) meeting in Paris

in 2001, and Director and Chairman of the Imaging Department

at Necker.

He continues his inspirational career as one of the founders of a renovation plan for Necker Hospital, due for official opening in July 2012. Prof. Brunelle is one of the three authors behind the drafting of Necker Hospital's medical strategy. He is also one of the two founders of a university diploma, "Management for Doctors" and a coach in "Management of Change". Amongst his many civic and medical honours, Prof Brunelle has been made a Knight of the Legion of Honour, and a City counsellor of Sceaux.

Prof. Brunelle has 6 children and is much beloved by them and his wife Anne, an architect.

MA, CMO