

Raymond Kern (1928, Schiltigheim – 2014, Marseille)



- 1953: He obtains the Doctorate in Physics, in Strasbourg
- 1958-1966: Professor of Physics at the University of Nancy, sets up, for the first time in France, the course of «Troisième Cycle en Cristallographie» and creates, in his Lab, the first team of Crystal Growth
- 1966-1987: Named Professor at the University of Aix-Marseille III, he founded the «Laboratoire de Recherche sur les Mécanismes de la Croissance Cristalline» at the Faculty of Sciences in Saint-Jérôme, that becomes a Research Centre of CNRS in 1975, with the name of CRMC2. Its present name is «Centre Interdisciplinaire de Nanoscience de Marseille – CINaM»

In Marseille, Raymond Kern did not settle to transfer the research topics developed in his Nancy Lab (crystal growth in solution, crystal morphology), but also addressed new fields of research such as: the protein crystallography and the epitaxy of metals in ultra-vacuum on insulating crystals and semi-conductors. His researches were mainly devoted to fundamentals, but peculiar attention was paid as well to industrial crystallization, just think of nucleation and growth of paraffins, strategic subjects of the oil industry.

Became Emeritus Professor in 1996, he continued working in advanced research subjects, such as the role exerted by the elasticity in the growth of crystals, publishing his last paper on 2013, with his pupil and friend Pierre Muller.

As concerns his activity in International bodies and boards:

1965: Colloque International du CNRS, Nancy “Adsorption et Croissance Cristalline”

1971: Third International Conference on Crystal Growth (ICCG3) – Marseille Luminy

1976: NATO International School, Erice, “Crystal Growth”

1982: NATO International School, Erice, “Interfacial Reactions and Phase Transitions”

1966-1972: President of the Crystal Growth Commission of the “International Union of Crystallography” - UNESCO.

1968-1975: Member of the Executive Committee of the “International Organization of Crystal Growth” (IOCG)

1970-2010: Editor of “Journal of Crystal Growth” - North Holland Co.

1983-1989: President of the IOCG

1975-2014: Member of the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

1993-1995: Member of the Feasibility Panel of the EUROCRYST Centre (Austria)

The most important collaborations with the «Italian Crystal Growth – AIC »

1986: International School on «Technology, Characterization and Properties of Epitaxial Electronic Materials», Miramare (Trieste)

1996: “A short course on Crystal Growth in Earth Sciences”, Santa Vittoria d’Alba

2010: International School on «Adsorption, Absorption and Crystal Growth», Gargnano

Finally, many Italian crystal growers and crystallographers feel personally indebted to Raymond Kern and proud to have attended the Kern’s School for the fruitful collaboration that began in the seventies and still lasts today.