



It is with great sadness that the family of Prof Derek Pheby announces his passing, which happened suddenly, in early November 2022.

Prof Derek Francis Henry Pheby, BSc, MB, BS, LLM, MPhil, FFPH, was a Visiting Professor of Epidemiology, Buckinghamshire New University, Wycombe, England, United Kingdom. With degrees in Medicine (University College of London) and in Law (University College Cardiff), Derek furthered his education by completing master's degrees in social policy (MPhil) and in law (LLM). He had held a Membership of The Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS), a Fellowship of the Faculty of Public Health (FFPH), and a Member of the Institute of Healthcare Management (MIHM).

Derek was part of a group of academics in the UK, who has worked tirelessly to improve research on myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), including epidemiologic studies in the UK, in collaboration with colleagues at the LSHTM. He was also the co-creator of an initiative to bring together ME/CFS researchers and health professionals from the UK and Europe, the EUROMENE network. In the most recent EUROMENE project, he headed the Socioeconomics working group, that aimed to assess the burden of ME/CFS to society and provide long-term trend estimates for societal impact related to ME/CFS.

Derek will be sorely missed by his colleagues worldwide. He will be remembered not only for his camaraderie, cleverness, eagerness to help, and witty sense of humour; but also, by his determination for evidencing the devastating effects of ME/CFS on the lives of those affected by this disease. He will always be present in our minds.

Our thoughts are also with his family members at this painful time, and we offer our sincere condolences.

His family stated that he was a wonderful and loving man, husband, dad, and grandpa. He is survived by his wife, Anita, three children and three grandchildren.

The funeral service will take place in December 2022.

Dr Eliana Mattos Lacerda

MD, PhD EUROMENE vice Chair

Clinical Assistant Professor

CureME Group, Clinical Research Department

Faculty of Infectious & Tropical Diseases

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

I would like to express my deepest condolences to Derek's family. What has happened is very unexpected and a great loss for all of us. Derek was a friend of many Latvian researchers, always responsive and open to cooperation. He has really helped us a lot, as evidenced by countless joint publications. Derek was actually the initiator of the EUROMENE project and the Leader of one of the working groups. Derek and Anita are good friends of mine and we have spent nice moments together. God bless Derek!

Dr Modra Murovska

MD, PhD EUROMENE Chair

Associate Professor, Lead Researcher,

Institute of Microbiology and Virology, Riga Stradiņš University, Riga, Latvia

I will always remember Derek as a great person, friend and professional. Derek was the first ME/CFS researcher I have met in the UK, following our family move to London. He taught me a lot and has always encouraged our work and that of many others. His humble and committed self were unique, as he has always put people and patients first. I feel very sad but privileged for having had the opportunity to have met him and worked with him. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.

Dr Luis Nacul

MD, PhD, Clinical Associate Professor

CureME Group Director, Clinical Research Department

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK

Medical Director Complex Chronic Diseases Program at BC Women's Hospital

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

May God rest him!!

Prof Carmen Adella Sirbu

Professor of Neurology

Carmen Adella Sirbu, MD, PhD, MPH, Habil.

Central Military Emergency University Hospital Bucharest, Romania

This was sad news. He will be missed.

Dr Elin B Strand

PhD, Psychologist

Head of research at the CFS/ME Centre

Advisor at National Advisory Unit for CFS/ME, Oslo Norway



Xia Wang-Steverding

Health Economist

Senior Public Health Researcher

Warwick Medical School

University of Warwick

My condolences to all family and friends. I met Derek a couple of times in the EUROMENE meetings, and he was always very kind to me. We also shared some jokes and laughs. I will miss him!

Dr Nuno Sepúlveda

PhD, Biostatistician

CEAUL—Centro de Estatística e Aplicações da Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal

Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Visiting Professor Warsaw University of Technology

My condolences

"If you live out of your memory, you live out of your personal history, then what once was, always will be. If you live out of your imagination, then you live out of your potential, and what can be...will be" (Convey, 1996)

Dr Giorgos K. Sakkas

PhD, GQHP-GHR / BSCAH Accredited

Ass. Professor in Clinical Exercise, University of Thessaly, Greece

Prof. Lifestyle Medicine Cardiff Metropolitan University UK

... and for a moment my world stands still in sorrow.

Derek was a wonderful person. I think it is in his sense, when I share his last sentences he wrote to me a few months ago:

"What a dreadful world we're living in! I never thought I'd live to see another war, and another refugee crisis, in Europe. At least we have a united Europe again. It underlines the madness of Brexit (but even that was as nothing compared to the madness of Putin), and we have not been very welcoming to refugees. One can't but be impressed by the courage, resolve, and also dignity of the Ukrainian people and their government. These are clearly great people, and we're lucky to have them as European neighbours. We wondered what we as individuals could do to help, and my son worked out that, while we cannot, for example, support Ukrainian artists and craftsmen by purchasing their goods because the postal services aren't working, we could buy digital downloads. I'm trying to put the word around and persuade others, through the churches and other organisations, to do the same, so I've prepared a flyer which I'm attaching herewith, which I've been disseminating here, and which I hope will be helpful to people who want to take similar action themselves. Incidentally, my son has now found some little children in Ukraine who are offering pictures for sale as downloads; it's heartwarming to see that even they are trying to do their bit to help their families, their neighbours, their communities and their country."

Prof Carmen Sheibenbogen

Professor of Immunology

Institute for Medical Immunology

Charité University Medicine (Germany)

What sad news. It feels like losing a family member (our EUROMENE family).

Dr Olli Polo

MD, PhD, Finnish pulmonologist, sleep specialist, physiology physician and CFS/ME expert

Bragee ME center, Stockholm, Sweden

Dear all, what a deep cut, what a really sad news! Derek was an amazing man, a brilliant scientist and “Brain”! I felt lucky to have the opportunity to meet him at the EUROMENE Meetings, and his Human Engagement in this terrible war speaks for himself. Thank you, Carmen for sharing. We should all take a Moment to hold our breaths.

Dr Patricia Grabowski

PD Dr med.

*Research Associate in the immunodeficiency outpatient department,
Charité University, Germany*

My condolences, he will be missed!

Dr Ingrid B. Helland

Overlege dr med

Barneavd for nevrofag

Rikshospitalet, Oslo University (OUS)

Very sad news.

My condolences to his family. I met Derek in EUROMENE meetings, and I greatly appreciated his great scientific qualities as his immense culture. We will miss him.

Dr François Jérôme Authier

MD, PhD

Faculty of Medicine Créteil - Paris Est, France

Dear All, so sad to hear this. A great loss indeed.

Our thoughts goes to his family and friends.

With best regards,

Professor Jonas Bergquist

Uppsala University, Sweden

I remember Derek as a humble yet amazing person. We will all miss him in various ways.

My heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

Dr Bhupesh Prusty

Group Leader in the Department of Microbiology

Julius Maximilian University of Wuerzburg, Germany

Really sad news. He certainly will be missed, such a kind and helpful man.

Hopefully, Eliana can bring our condolences from the EUROMENE group to his family.

Prof Anne Marit Mengshoel

Professor of Rehabilitation Sciences

University of Oslo, Norway

John Cullinan and I will fondly remember our time spent with Derek in Berlin. Unfortunately, whilst we were all having a drink, Derek shoulder bag was stolen (along with his passport) and, as you may all (less fondly) recall, the next day I covered for Derek talk (if I'm honest, the words “winging it” come to mind). But, through that experience, and others, Derek and I got to know each other well. Derek will be missed dearly. Please pass on my condolences and thoughts to the family.

Dr Dominic Trepél

PhD, Assistant Professor of Economics

Trinity Institute of Neurosciences (TCIN), The University of Dublin, Ireland

The Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI)

Very sad

He was fine, real gentlemen

My condolences to his family

Dr Slobodan Sekulic

MD Department of Neurology in Faculty of Medicine

University Novi Sad in Novi Sad, Serbia

It's the enormous loss...

I feel honoured by opportunity to know Derek and collaborate with him. Top class researcher and expert, but always a real human...

Here is one of his e-mail regarding situation in Europe, he never wasn't indifferent to others suffer.

"... The Ukraine situation is truly dreadful, and Poland has borne the brunt of the refugee tide. The UK has done well in supplying the Ukraine with weapons, but very badly when it comes to welcoming these poor displaced people from Ukraine, and has raised all manner of outrageous impediments to refugees coming to Britain.

For our part, we're trying to steady trickle of refugees who have arrived in Salisbury, and will go to meet some of them tomorrow morning. We've also set up and run an exhibition of children's art from Ukraine, which is both poignant and sad, but also full of hope. We've raised quite a money for our chosen Ukrainian charities, and the school which is currently hosting the exhibition proposes to offer a school twinning to the school from where our pictures came, which will help to reinforce the human-to-human contact which we are trying to develop, and is also a declaration of faith in and hope for the future..."

I express my sincere condolences to Derek's family and relatives, my pray is with them.

Prof Paweł Zalewski

Professor of Physical Exercise and Functional Anatomy

Faculty of Health Sciences

Department of Physiology of Physical Exercise and Functional Anatomy

Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland.

A very sad news that saddens me.

I join all EUROMENE colleagues in saluting Derek's competence and kindness. I have excellent memories of our collaboration within working group 3. Derek knew how to animate the debates with tact and efficiency, always available.

I will not forget his politeness and his English humour tinged with a French touch. He was very fond of France. His family had a distant French origin, and he owned a house in the southwest. As Carmen recalled, he was a convinced European.

We have lost a colleague and a friend. My deepest condolences to his wife and family.

Prof Jean-Dominique de Korwin

Professor of Internal Medicine

University of Lorraine, Nancy, France

I'm so sad hearing that...

It's important to learn from people like him.

Dr Julià Blanco

PhD, Biochemist

Leader of the Cellular Virology and Immunology Group at the AIDS Research Institute IrsiCaixa, Barcelona, Spain

A very sad news! He was a very kind person and a brilliant scientist. We will all miss him.

Dr Evelina Shikova

Medical Doctor at The National Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment in Haematological Diseases, Bulgaria

Dear colleagues,

I agree with you that it is a great sadness to hear this news, I met Derek twenty years ago in London at the St Barth hospital when we began our friendship and collaboration, It is a great human and professional loss.

Dr Lorenzo Lorusso

*Director of the Neurology and Stroke Unit
Department of Neuroscience
A.S.S.T.-Lecco, Morate Hospital; Italy*

This is a very sad news.

I had the opportunity of getting to know him over time and to appreciate his humanity, as well as his great interest in academic research.

He worked tirelessly till the very end

Thanks to Modra and Eliana for writing the obituary, and thanks to Carmen for sharing Dereck's words.

My condolences to his family.

Dr Elenka Brenna

*PhD, Assistant Professor
Department of Economics and Management,
Università degli Studi di Pavia, Italy*

Dear all,

Just to remember this amazing man.

We met long before EUROMENE, but even then, Derek was already seeking cooperation in Europe.

Dr Ruud Vermeulen

*Director of CVS/ME Medisch Centrum
Netherlands*

What a sad news! Condolences!

Prof, Dr Mira Meeús

*Vice-Chair MOVANT - Research
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Sciences
University of Antwerp, Belgium*

This is very sad news. Derek was an excellent scientist, kind and helpful person. He came to Minsk, spoke with interesting reports, the staff of our Centre remember him and express great regret with his death.

My condolences to all family and friends.

Dr Svetlana Orlova

*Republican Research & Practical Centre for Epidemiology & Microbiology (RRPCEM)
Minsk, Belarus*

I appreciate the time spent with Derek during the EUROMENE meetings.
Life is certainly more than science and his experience beyond the field of ME/CFS was (is) of great value.
My condolences to Derek's family.

Dr Francisco Westermeier

FH JOANNEUM University of Applied Sciences, Austria